Our Mission

When it was founded in 1974, the Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research was the first of its kind. In the 50 years since, the Institute has been on the cutting edge of gender research across academic disciplines. At the Clayman Institute, we conduct, but also support and disseminate intersectional research about pressing contemporary issues. The Institute empowers students and early career scholars in three key ways. We conduct and invest in intersectional gender research; mentor students through fellowships and internships; and inspire, translate, and amplify gender scholarship.

Programs

FELLOWSHIPS: Each year, fellows from across academic disciplines receive Institute funding and come together in an interdisciplinary community to build connections and conduct research. These programs include faculty research fellows, who meet bi-weekly; graduate dissertation fellows, or Stanford doctoral students completing their PhDs; and postdoctoral fellows. In addition, undergraduate students conduct their own research projects each summer as Susan Heck Interns.

EVENTS: From our flagship Jing Lyman Lecture to our 10-and-counting Clayman Conversations events, the Institute engages with broad audiences to address a diverse array of contemporary topics. Other events include Attneave at Noon, featuring lunch discussions with gender scholars; Celebrating Clayman Institute Authors, a series of book talks; and the Artist’s Salon.

OUTREACH: To disseminate gender research, the Clayman Institute offers numerous communication channels. These include two podcasts, The Feminist Present and In Bed with the Right; our Gender News e-newsletter; the annual upRising magazine; as well as our website and social media.

ADVISORY COUNCIL: Made up of gifted leaders in their professional careers who are committed to supporting gender research, the group offers mentorship, guidance, constructive feedback, and strategic connections.

My year as a graduate dissertation fellow at the Clayman Institute has been the most productive and successful of my graduate school career. I taught a course of my own design, applied for (and won) a research award, worked on two chapters of my dissertation, and finished a journal article.

- A recent Clayman Institute graduate dissertation fellow
Our Research

The Institute focuses research and programming efforts around a theme chosen by the current Barbara D. Finberg Director, leveraging each director’s expertise and disciplinary networks. The Institute’s current research agenda under Director Adrian Daub primarily focuses on gender-based violence and the persistence of gender and interrelated inequalities.

Current projects in progress include:

- Researching how non-disclosure agreements related to workplace harassment shape individuals’ emotional well-being, workplace experiences, and career outcomes
- Investigating how COVID-19 changed experiences of intimate partner violence and how care providers shifted their services in response
- Analyzing the social media response to sexual violence cases, and how different types of technology influenced viewer experiences and interpretations of the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard trial
- Interrogating #MeToo and historical memory by creating a large archive of letters sent to prominent public figures who have shared experiences of sexual harassment or violence

Making an Impact

Fellows and scholars from the Clayman Institute have gone on to make contributions in academia, publishing, public policy, and private industry:

- Multiple past directors have established new Stanford research centers following their time at the Clayman Institute: Laura Carstensen founded the Center on Longevity; Londa Schiebinger is founding director of the Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment Project; and Shelley Correll established the VMWare Women’s Leadership Innovation Lab
- Clayman Institute scholars have published books on diverse topics in recent years, with many returning to the Institute for book talks. Recent titles include Hedged Out: Inequality and Insecurity on Wall Street by Megan Tobias Neely; The Trouble with Passion: How Searching for Fulfillment at Work Fosters Inequality by Erin Cech; Are You Two Sisters? The Story of a Lesbian Couple by Susan Krieger; and Crunch Time: How Married Couples Confront Unemployment by Aliya Hamid Rao. Director Adrian Daub’s many titles include What the Ballad Knows: The Ballad Genre, Memory Culture, and German Nationalism and What Tech Calls Thinking: An Inquiry Into the Intellectual Bedrock of Silicon Valley
- Research efforts by recent Clayman Institute postdoctoral fellows who are now tenure-track scholars include Melissa C. Brown (Santa Clara University) on Black feminist thought and digital sociology; Michela Musto (Brown University) on gender, race, education, and sport; and Fatima Suarez (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) on gender, families, Latina/o/x sociology, and Latino fatherhood

Anita Hill kicks off the 50th anniversary year in 2024 with the Jing Lyman Lecture

Kimberlé Crenshaw at the Jing Lyman Lecture, 2016

Photos by Paige Parsons Photography