Dear Reader,

This year, we have been heartened to see colleagues and supporters join us in affirming the value of gender research. At a time when reproductive choice, the trans community, diversity efforts, and the very dissemination of gender research face many attacks, the Clayman Institute retains a focus on our core activities of research, mentorship, and reaching broad audiences. Of course we also always strive to include new platforms and new voices in the effort.

A diverse group of gender scholars visiting Stanford this year created the opportunity to bring students, faculty, and guests together for a new series, Attneave at Noon. We welcomed six guests for lunch and informal talks about work in progress. The group included two former postdoctoral fellows, Veena Dubal and Christin Munsch, past event speaker Moira Weigel, and the brilliant scholar of trans history and philosophy Susan Stryker.

This spring we welcome leading feminist writer and critic Moira Donegan, who is joining the Institute as a writer in residence. In her column for *The Guardian* and other writing, Donegan combines close attention to emerging political issues, a grounding in gender theory, and an unswerving commitment to feminist ideals. She will teach, mentor, lead our Artist’s Salon series, and participate in the intellectual life of the Institute, while continuing her own writing.

But the heart of the Clayman Institute remains our undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and faculty researchers. They are the ones keeping our current research projects alive. From our study of non-disclosure agreements and workplace sexual harassment, via our research into the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on domestic violence, to the way media old and new respond to well-publicized sexual violence cases: our studies pair established scholars with the established scholars of tomorrow, who gain invaluable experience in designing and conducting research projects, while lending us their creativity and expertise in social media and technology.

Thank you to the many supporters who follow our work and contribute to our diverse community of gender scholars. Together, we continue the rich tradition of gender scholarship at Stanford while expanding into new projects and research.

All best,

Adrian Daub
Barbara D. Finberg Director

THE CLAYMAN INSTITUTE STAFF, MAY 2022

PHOTOS: (ABOVE LEFT) LINDA A. CICERO / STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

Cover artist: From the beginning, Roslyn Banish was drawn to photographing people. Over time she realized that she wanted to include what her subjects had to say, along with the photographs. She created the book *Focus on Abortion: Americans Share Their Stories* and an associated traveling art exhibit (see p. 6).

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Abortion providers detail mounting external difficulties, profound rewards of serving patients in post-Roe America

By Angelica Ferrara
Postdoctoral Fellow

For some patients and providers, ideologically and politically motivated restrictions on abortion have long been the status quo. But in the months since the Dobbs decision in June 2022, the situation has become fraught with new legal and logistical uncertainties. At this year's Jing Lyman Lecture, the Stanford community heard from those most intimately acquainted with the status of reproductive justice after Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision: what has changed in the post-Roe world, and what has stayed the same?

Three physicians and abortion providers, Bria Peacock, Katherine Brown, and Colleen McNicholas, joined the Clayman Institute and the wider Stanford University community in November 2022 to talk about their work on the front lines of abortion care in an event titled "From the Front Lines: Abortion Post-Roe." Their conversation was the latest contribution to the Institute's Jing Lyman Lecture series, an event featuring leading feminist visionaries and commemorating the life and contributions of Jing Lyman, a key ally in the Institute's founding. The session was moderated by Moira Donegan, a writer covering the intersection of gender, politics, and the law who is currently a columnist at The Guardian covering gender in America.

For BRIA PEACOCK, it is pre-existing structural barriers to abortion care which are front and center in Georgia, where she grew up and attended medical school. "Half of the counties in Georgia don't even have an ob/gyn, let alone an abortion clinic," she explained. To address gaps in patient advocacy and care, she founded SIHLE Augusta (Sisters Informing, Healing, Living, Empowering) to bring reproductive education to Black adolescent girls in Augusta whose autonomy in choosing to end or continue pregnancies is often denied. "For adolescents, the barriers to reproductive justice and reproductive healthcare were already there pre-Dobbs," she said. The decision to overturn Roe is only one of the challenges facing Black women and girls in Georgia.

COLLEEN MCNICHOLAS, chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, spoke of the "post-Roe reality" that her patients were already living prior to June. The Supreme Court's decision has made abortion care in the Midwest even more logistically and legally prohibitive, causing patients to overwhelm clinics in areas where abortion is still legal. McNicholas practices in southern Illinois and Missouri and has previously provided abortions in Kansas and Oklahoma. When abortion became illegal in several of the states surrounding Illinois, she and her colleagues were prepared for an influx of patients at their door. The clinic used to care for roughly 350 abortion patients per month. The number of monthly patients is now 1,000.

In California, where reproductive rights are often touted as exceptionally good by state politicians, professor KATHERINE BROWN sees a more complicated picture. In her work teaching obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California San Francisco, Brown emphasized how lack of abortion access exacerbates existing racial and economic inequalities in the state and beyond. "There have always been access issues," she said. "Even in California, I have patients who travel five to six hours to come to get their abortion. They take time away from their job, they have to have people take care of their kids, they have to pay to stay at a hotel in the Bay Area." These access issues have worsened in recent months, as abortion care in other parts of the United States has become less accessible. Since Dobbs, Brown has seen patients travel to California from places as far away as Oklahoma and Tennessee. "The care piece is easy," said McNicholas, who has testified in Congress and challenged several state and federal regulations to continue providing reproductive healthcare to her patients.
“Ninety-nine percent of the difficulty is external to the actual work we do.”

The enforced focus on additional, externally imposed difficulties sometimes overshadows the deep sense of meaning that abortion providers derive from their work. “There’s such a richness in what we do,” said Brown, describing the life-changing power that abortion often has on her patients. Peacock and McNicholas agreed. “It is such rewarding work with each and every individual patient,” said McNicholas. “It’s such simple care from a healthcare standpoint, but makes such a profound impact on each one [of our patient’s] lives.”

Donegan asked panelists to speak to the “low bar” of limited abortion rights that Roe previously had protected. Simply returning to the legal dispensation in place for half a century before the Dobbs decision reveals only a sliver of the broader vision that Brown, McNicholas, and Peacock share for the future of reproductive care in the United States. Brown hopes to see a wider range of professionals and clinics able to provide abortion, including nurse practitioners and physicians’ assistants. Peacock envisions a world where abortion carries no stigma or shame. “Every person should be able to decide when and if they want to reproduce,” she told the audience. Despite the challenges, the devotion of Peacock, Brown, and McNicholas to their vision for the future of abortion care has only increased since the Supreme Court’s decision.

As the event drew to a close, Donegan read out a question card that had been submitted by an anonymous audience member. “I’m not sure I even have a question,” it read. “I just want to say thank you. Thank you. Thank you.”

In her research on current state abortion laws, some the result of trigger laws and some newly passed, Mello found that 26 states have total or near-total bans, eight of which are temporarily on hold through the court system. Only four allow exceptions for health or life of the mother (if such an exception exists). In these cases, the abortion law and EMTALA are in conflict. Mello said, “For providers, the question is not whether they should violate the law, but which law should they violate?” She cites two recent lawsuits in Texas and Idaho involving similar situations. It can take years for courts to establish through case rulings whether a provider could be prosecuted and held liable for withholding care if a patient were harmed or killed because an abortion was denied.

While these difficulties stem from legal rather than medical matters, Mello said, most doctors are not getting adequate support from their legal counsel. Some hospitals are recommending that emergency medicine doctors seek legal consultations before administering treatment, an approach she terms “not helpful.”

Not enough institutions are signaling support to their doctors, she said. “It’s a really big ask for front-line physicians to take that kind of risk” in a system where most abortion bans target the provider with penalties rather than the patient. Most penalties are civil, but some are criminal. She related a conversation with a colleague who is an OB-GYN in a state with a new abortion ban. This doctor, who trained for almost 10 years and has a young family, shared her fear of losing her livelihood as well as risking years in prison if she acted contrary to the ban. She shared her “moral distress” at not being able to help a patient. Mello said, “It’s really unfair there’s not more support for physicians to navigate this space.”

In her research on current state abortion laws, some the result of trigger laws and some newly passed, Mello found that 26 states have total or near-total bans, eight of which are temporarily on hold through the court system. Only four allow exceptions for victims of rape or incest, and only nine protect the patient’s health in non-life-threatening circumstances. She noted that the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision ruled on a Mississippi abortion ban that does allow some exceptions, so the court has not ruled on the constitutionality of stricter bans.

Mello’s recent research also includes the legal approaches used in the Roe and Dobbs decisions, which she terms “radically different” in their reasoning. She is working with a student to study the disparate impact of abortion restrictions on women of color compared with others. Mello also recently wrote about evolving legal and ethical issues in emergency room care and abortion in JAMA Health Forum.

Focus on Abortion: Americans Share Their Stories

In its ongoing commitment to explore feminist themes in the arts, the Clayman Institute hosted as part of the Jing Lyman Lecture an exhibit by San Francisco photographer and author ROSLYN BANISH called “Focus on Abortion: Americans Share Their Stories.” The storyellers in her project come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, geographic regions, and generations, providing a human and poignant picture of abortion in our country. Banish’s book of the same name comprises 62 portraits and in-depth personal narratives from across the country. The exhibit featured 19 of these storyellers.

Many attendees explored the exhibit before or after the lecture. Her work is also the basis for the cover of this issue of JAMA Health Forum. For more information, visit focusonabortion.org.

Providers need more support in providing emergency care under new abortion bans

By Cynthia Newberry
Communications Manager

A pplying her legal background in health policy to an examination of recent changes in state and federal abortion law in the U.S., Michelle Mello found providers are often faced with conflicting laws and inadequate guidance in making decisions. The current legal landscape “pits interests of providers against patients in a way that’s unprecedented,” she said in a recent presentation to the Clayman Institute Faculty Research Fellows.

Mello, a professor of law and also a professor of health policy, identified a contradiction between required standards of emergency care and state abortion bans. The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) of 1986 was created to prevent hospitals from refusing emergency care to patients unable to pay, and it requires that all patients must receive emergency care and stabilizing treatment. Under new state abortion laws, however, some pregnant patients who face an emergency threat to their health and require such stabilizing treatment may not receive an abortion because it’s unclear whether they meet a state ban’s exception for health or life of the mother (if such an exception exists).

In these cases, the abortion law and EMTALA are in conflict. Mello said, “For providers, the question is not whether they should violate the law, but which law should they violate?” She cites two
Constitutional scholar identifies connections among suffrage, abolition, and gender in modern U.S. election law

By Carey Wayne Patterson
Graduate Dissertation Fellow

The 14th and 19th amendments have long been central to legal scholarship on issues of gender and women’s rights. Questions about gender, politics, and the democratic process have become even more salient in the wake of the Supreme Court’s June 2022 overturning of Roe v. Wade. Shortly after arriving back at Stanford from the U.S. Department of Justice, legal scholar Pamela S. Karlan began work on a chapter on gender and election law for The Oxford Handbook of American Election Law, forthcoming 2024. Karlan shared her work as part of the Clayman Institute Faculty Research Fellows program.

Karlan explains that gender has had profound effects on U.S. election law, and in ways bound to the legacy of American slavery. Gender is mentioned twice in the 14th Amendment, which declares the vote “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” Between these two amendments, Karlan demonstrates, a complex story emerges about race and gender in the making of U.S. electoral law. Far from being a straight line toward universal suffrage, this research shows that voting access has waxed and waned across the centuries: always restricting the franchise based on popular opinion of who is fit to vote, and through a history of advocacy and litigation, always invested in a campaign for self-possession and bodily autonomy.

The genuine movement for women’s suffrage emerged from the abolitionist movement focused on the enslavement of Black people. Founding suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott first resolved to secure the vote after attending the 1840 World’s Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where as women they were barred from the convention floor. It was from this resolution that they organized the 1848 Seneca Falls convention, launching the women’s suffrage movement as a powerful allied force to the fight for abolition. Despite this close sympathy, however, the struggle over Black enfranchisement after the Civil War fractured the suffrage movement.

Shortly after the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments passed, the Supreme Court ruled on an 1874 case brought by the suffragist Virginia Minor, asserting her right to vote in the 1872 presidential election. The court’s unanimous ruling addressed “nearly every angle of constitutional analysis,” Karlan said, explaining its usefulness for her courses in the Stanford School of Law. As lower courts had previously ruled with state constitutions, originalist readings gave no indication that the men who wrote these laws intended that their power be shared with women. And as suffragists had anticipated, a structuralist reading of the 14th Amendment makes it very clear: if penalties only specifically male disenfranchisement, they imply that female disenfranchisement is to be permitted or even ensured. Virginia Minor would not be allowed to vote.

States’ ability to exclude women ended with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. In their near overlap, the Dobbs ruling and the centennial calibration of the 19th Amendment’s passage have sparked “a recent efflorescence of scholarship” on these legal histories. The relationships they illustrate between voting rights, civil rights, and the simple claim to bodily autonomy can inform continued advocacy for enfranchisement today.

Poisoning as revenge for intimate violence against enslaved women

By Fatima Soarez
Postdoctoral Fellow

In 1857, Josephine, an enslaved woman, was tried in the state of Mississippi for the poisoning of the Jones family, who became visible. If immediately after drinking a tea that was allegedly served and prepared by her, the family’s new cook. For Alexis Wells-Oghoghomh, this “extraordinary” capital case “illuminates the myriad forms of intimate violence characteristic of enslaved, particularly female enslaved life [and] the ways that bondwomen use religious repertoires to respond to acts of intimate violence.” Wells-Oghoghomh is an assistant professor of religious studies at Stanford and delivered the lecture as part of the Institute’s Faculty Research Fellows series.

The voices of enslaved people are largely muted in U.S. petitions or court records. Enslaved people could not testify in court at the time of Josephine’s trial. When an enslaved person was tried and found guilty in a capital crime, death was usually the outcome (although there is no record of what exactly happened to them). If exonerated, they usually remained under suspicion, often suffering what Wells-Oghoghomh calls “social death,” by being sold away from their families and friends. Despite these circumstances, a record of Josephine’s testimony exists, making this case both astonishing and rare.

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Orleans in February 1857, two weeks before the alleged poisoning. Previously, Josephine was last known to have been in Kentucky. Josephine was a nurse who may have taken care of small children, which helps explain her literacy, but not why she possessed a lot of jewelry. For Wells-Oghoghomh, “this is where we get to the questions of intimate violence.”

T he jewelry suggests that Josephine was a very highly favored enslaved servant, yet gifts of jewelry from a mistress were not very common. “What is more likely is that she was someone who had been coerced into serving as a sexual consort.” Wells-Oghoghomh argues that bondwomen are “using things like poison” in “response to the intimate forms of violence they are being subjected to as a condition of their enslavement.” “Being in the household,” Wells-Oghoghomh notes, “was not a mercy for enslaved people,” a common myth she challenges. When enslaved people were in the household, “they were subject to just more consistent forms of violence, because they’re very, very close” to slavewomen, placing women into “closer proximity to sexual violence perpetrated by mistresses and masters.”

U sapphire’s story contains many layers of intimate violence, per court records. Lafayette Jones, who was Josephine’s slaveholder, and his engagement with bondwoman [...] and further context for Josephine’s motivations.” Josephine was purchased by Jones in New Orleans in February 1857, two weeks before the alleged poisoning. Previously, Josephine was last known to have been in Kentucky. Josephine was a nurse who may have taken care of small children, which helps explain her literacy, but not why she possessed a lot of jewelry. For Wells-Oghoghomh, “this is where we get to the questions of intimate violence.”

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YOUR CURRENT BOOK

Childhood is an incredibly rich developmental period for understanding friendships. It is unique both in that children commonly defy gender norms with their friends, but also in the intensity of social learning about relationships that takes place during childhood. This learning stretches from the development of mental models about what we can expect from others, to skill building in areas like listening, asking questions about another person, and showing affection and support for the people we love. Nowhere is this clearer than in the work of Judy Chu and Nohe Way. Contrary to the impoverished opinion that boys don’t need or desire friends, their research shows the opposite. Although Chu and Way highlight how masculine norms can sometimes get in the way of boys’ close friendships, they also reveal the incredibly deep and interdependent bonds that are ordinary parts of boys’ development. In my book, I argue that adult men have much to learn from the giggle wonderfully unstrained, and mutually dependent friendships of boys.

What are some of your early findings from your interviews?

One section of my book examines the socially sanctioned “practices” or “containers” that allow heterosexual men to experience emotional intimacy and support from other men. In other words, what are the conditions that allow men to experience vulnerability without betraying norms of masculinity? I find that certain contexts facilitate intimate disclosure between men, such as experiences of shared traumas (e.g., exposure to war and violence), vast quantities of time (e.g., being childhood friends), or via excessive use of substances (e.g., consuming large quantities of alcohol on a night out together).

And as others have noted, the socially “normative” places where men once bonded are disappearing. The consequences of men’s thinning social support networks are far reaching and damaging, especially for women. However, some of my interviewers form nourishing friendships through defying the constraints of masculine norms.

Q

A

Your current book focuses on boys’ and men’s friendships in different cultures. Why do you include both boys and men in this project?

As a teenager, I got involved in advocacy work at a local domestic abuse and rape crisis center. During this time, I had become entirely consumed by a growing awareness of how sexual and gender-based violence structured and shaped the world around me. I had witnessed the toll that domestic abuse and sexual violence had taken on the lives of those closest to me, and watched as this violence was condemned and perpetrated by social institutions, friends, and family.

I soon found my way to works by Black, Indigenous, and women of color feminists that affirmed these knowledges and helped me to understand sexual and gender-based violence in contextual relation with (and in part of) other processes of power and oppression. They also helped me to recognize that I was experiencing an unraveling of the world as I had previously known it – a world structured through sexual and gender systems. This has especially entailed the unrelenting deployment of violence against the bodies of Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirits, as well as queer and trans Indigenous peoples.

To return Indigenous lands is not simply to materially transfer ownership of property from one set of hands to another, rather, the return of Indigenous lands to Indigenous stewardship is about restoring sacred relationships and the very possibility for otherwise ways of life beyong colonial capitalism.
Students are integral to Institute research

By Theresa Rosinger-Zifko
Research Associate

A mong the Clayman Institute’s main goals is mentoring the next generation of gender scholars. Undergraduate and graduate students participate directly in the Institute’s many research projects, creating the opportunity to develop skills, build community, and further the overall research goals of the Institute. This academic year, 10 undergraduate and graduate students enriched in-house studies by working as research assistants. These students are responsible for literature reviews, data analysis, interviews, or recruitment of study participants, just to name a few of their tasks.

As the regular academic year winds to a close, four Stanford undergraduates joined the Clayman Institute as part of the Susan Heck Interns program. Heck was passionate about providing training and mentorship to undergraduates as well as focusing research on underserved populations. As part of the 10-week, full-time program, each intern works on a project of their choosing, complete with individual mentorship from a PhD with expertise in gender research. Following are excerpts from the reflections of recent interns.

Undergraduate interns conduct research in economics, healthcare, film, and more

During summer 2022, four Stanford undergraduates joined the Clayman Institute as part of the Susan Heck Interns program. Heck was passionate about providing training and mentorship to undergraduates as well as focusing research on underserved populations. As part of the 10-week, full-time program, each intern works on a project of their choosing, complete with individual mentorship from a PhD with expertise in gender research. Following are excerpts from the reflections of recent interns.

SOMMER ALEX
Intern Sommer Alex focused her research on security and surveillance practices, applying theoretical frameworks from feminist studies, queer studies, media, and performance studies, and more. Her paper says: “Airport security is one important site for examination of the normative effect of surveillance practices and its consequences for individuals marginalized by race, class, and gender hierarchies. The determination of physical differences and categorizations of the ‘othered’ individual is made necessary through national efforts ostensibly responsible for ensuring the safety of American citizens.”

“By examining the experiences of marginalized people in airports, my research investigates how notions of public safety and national security are constructed and challenged.” She further considers the role of background checks, credit score systems, and numerous government databases, as well as biometric approaches to surveillance.

CARO DE SÁ
As a queer and trans Latina person interested in healthcare, I am passionate about the intersection between biology and queer studies. This summer, my research explored the ways in which introductory-level college biology textbooks frame reproduction within a cisgender and heteropatriarchal lens. I originally thought of this research question while taking the core introductory-level biology courses required for the pre-medical track.

With the guidance of my research mentor, I performed a thematic analysis and a content analysis of three commonly used biology textbooks. My main findings from the thematic analysis were that gendered language based on anatomical differences was used throughout the reproduction chapters of all three textbooks and queer reproductive experiences were consistently erased, framing reproduction within the cisgender heteropatriarchal relationship model.

EMILY MOLINS
Entering college, I knew I wanted to study economics—it’s a field I had fallen in love with in high school for its pervasive relevance and one that I eagerly looked forward to pursuing at Stanford. Reflecting on my past three years at Stanford, it is impossible to ignore the fact that not a single economics class I have taken has been taught by a woman. Many of my classes have seemed dominated by male peers, not only in composition but in voice. Why does a field that supposedly studies how “people allocate scarce resources” only attend to the voices of a select few “people” all the while feeling disconnected from the humanness at its core?

This summer at the Clayman Institute, I had the opportunity to unravel this theme of representation in economics. Noting that underrepresentation of women and minorities in the field begins at the very start, I chose to focus on the population most accessible to me: undergraduate students.

TOBI BANKOLE
The Susan Heck internship has been invaluable. I was able to formally engage in gender research for the first time, I learned under the mentorship of so many accomplished people who cared about me and my work, and I produced a completely self-directed project that combined my interests in film, writing, and history.

My research this summer centered around representations of gender in revenge cinema, and what can be gleaned by observing the patterns in male- and female-led films. I used feminist film theory, particularly the concepts of the male gaze and phallocentrism, to analyze the 22 films that I watched over 10 weeks. By analyzing three types of cinematic “gazes,” film aesthetics, realism and narration, the presence of violence, and cultural context, I found that male-led revenge films utilize the male gaze and typically reflect male anxieties relating to a loss of control or emasculation. Female-led films can empower the male gaze by having a woman confront its inherent violence and tell grounded stories of female rage and resilience, which is a relatively new phenomenon.

SUSAN HECK INTERNS

Undergraduate interns conduct research in economics, healthcare, film, and more

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With the guidance of my research mentor, I performed a thematic analysis and a content analysis of three commonly used biology textbooks. My main findings from the thematic analysis were that gendered language based on anatomical differences was used throughout the reproduction chapters of all three textbooks and queer reproductive experiences were consistently erased, framing reproduction within the cisgender heteropatriarchal relationship model.

EMILY MOLINS
Entering college, I knew I wanted to study economics—it’s a field I had fallen in love with in high school for its pervasive relevance and one that I eagerly looked forward to pursuing at Stanford. Reflecting on my past three years at Stanford, it is impossible to ignore the fact that not a single economics class I have taken has been taught by a woman. Many of my classes have seemed dominated by male peers, not only in composition but in voice. Why does a field that supposedly studies how “people allocate scarce resources” only attend to the voices of a select few “people” all the while feeling disconnected from the humanness at its core?

This summer at the Clayman Institute, I had the opportunity to unravel this theme of representation in economics. Noting that underrepresentation of women and minorities in the field begins at the very start, I chose to focus on the population most accessible to me: undergraduate students.

TOBI BANKOLE
The Susan Heck internship has been invaluable. I was able to formally engage in gender research for the first time, I learned under the mentorship of so many accomplished people who cared about me and my work, and I produced a completely self-directed project that combined my interests in film, writing, and history.

My research this summer centered around representations of gender in revenge cinema, and what can be gleaned by observing the patterns in male- and female-led films. I used feminist film theory, particularly the concepts of the male gaze and phallocentrism, to analyze the 22 films that I watched over 10 weeks. By analyzing three types of cinematic “gazes,” film aesthetics, realism and narration, the presence of violence, and cultural context, I found that male-led revenge films utilize the male gaze and typically reflect male anxieties relating to a loss of control or emasculation. Female-led films can empower the male gaze by having a woman confront its inherent violence and tell grounded stories of female rage and resilience, which is a relatively new phenomenon.
Looking back: Visiting and affiliated scholars

By Cynthia Newberry
Communications Manager

A

nost 50 years ago, when students Beth Garfield, Susan Heck, and Cynthia Russell, along with Professor Myra Strober, founded Stanford’s Center for Research on Women (CROW), they were not only making history but reclaiming it. Founded in 1974, CROW was one of the first academic centers for research on women. Clayman Institute Senior Scholars Edith Gelles and Karen Offen recall what it was like to engage in early gender research and shift their academic field, history, to focus on the lives of women.

“There was so little written about women,” Gelles says. “We had to go into the archives and dig it out.” Gelles spent years of meticulous research, sifting microfilm of the unpublished and not yet transcribed correspondence of Abigail Adams; today’s researchers have many searchable online archives at their disposal. “It was work, it was luck, it was a calling—it was just wonderful to be working on a project that was creating a new field,” Gelles says.

What would the emerging field of gender research look like? It was an open question. From the start, CROW embarked on an interdisciplinary approach. “I cannot emphasize sufficiently how important and unique it was to be ‘interdisciplinary’ in that era,” Gelles explains. “Since the beginning of the 20th century, disciplines had been narrowing and separating and defining themselves distinctively.”

Central to these efforts was the Visiting and Affiliated Scholars program, which created a home and a community for research on women in academia. In addition to convening faculty, staging events, offering lecture series, and other activities, CROW assembled a diverse group of researchers for the scholars program. It offered a “lifeline” and “an innovative, interdisciplinary scholarly community” for newly minted women PhDs, still vastly underrepresented in the academy, according to Offen. Visiting scholars, from a wide variety of institutions both in the U.S. and abroad, joined forces to learn as much as they could about the lives of women in history and across borders.

Among their first publications was Victorian Women: A Documentary Account of Women’s Lives in Nineteenth-Century England, France, and the United States, the collaborative effort of a six-person team. Offen describes it as “foundational” for courses taught at many universities as scholarship on women expanded. “The history of marriage, or child-raising, those weren’t on the map. Offen says. “To put those on the map was a revolution.”

Into the early 2000s, Offen said, “affiliated and visiting scholars produced major scholarship in women’s history, women’s studies, and more broadly, and some of us continue to do so.” Gelles met Susan Faludi and brought her to the Institute, where she served as a visiting scholar while working on her ground-breaking book Backlash. Marilyn Yalom and Susan Groag Bell led an effort to produce biographies of women, which often were workshopped within the scholars program. While the Clayman Insti-ute offered a Visiting Scholars program through the early 2000s, various administrative changes meant the program was discontinued. Some researchers who wanted to continue their affiliation became Senior Scholars, including Offen and Gelles.

Karen Offen publishes on the history of Modern Europe, especially France and its global influence, Western thought and politics with reference to family, gender, and the relative status of women; historiogra-phy: women’s history; national, regional and global histories of feminism; comparative history; and the sexual politics of knowledge. She has been affiliated with the Clayman Institute since 1977. Edith Gelles is a histo-rian of early America and women’s history who has been affiliated with the Clayman Institute since 1983. She chaired the bi-weekly meetings of the Visiting and Affiliated Scholars for more than 20 years. She has writ-ten biographies of Abigail Adams and, most recently, edited the Library of America’s Letters of Abigail Adams.
HONORING OUR FOUNDERS

Recognizing Beth Garfield and Cynthia Russell

Reflecting on the tumultuous and exciting era when they arrived on campus as undergraduates in the 1970s, student founders Elizabeth Garfield and Cynthia Russell shared memories of inspiration, transgression, and persistence in their campaign to establish at Stanford a Center for Research on Women (CROW).

IN MAY 2022, the Clayman Institute hosted a reception welcoming many of the friends, scholars, and staff members who shepherded CROW into existence, as well as those who have sustained and grown it in the almost 50 years since. Central to the origin story of the Clayman Institute, which opened as CROW in 1974, are Russell and Garfield, who together at the time presented memories and photos of their role as founders.

Garfield recalled the moment she arrived on campus amid demonstrations against the Vietnam war, following events on campus that left evidence of destruction. She remembered damaged windows covered over with boards. “Students felt empowered to take action and effect change, but there were no clear models on how change could be made.”

There was an energy to the student activism that was exciting, and Garfield sought ways to harness that in support of women. The need was evident. While the number of women students was growing, it was only about 35 percent. Russell said, “What I remember most vividly is how few women professors there were.” In 1970 only 15 percent of faculty were women, and most were assistant professors and untenured.

As an undergraduate, Russell became involved with coordinating a weekly series of community lectures focusing on research and teaching about women. The popularity of the program made clear that the campus community responded to the topic.

The women described one particularly memorable lecture, in which Herbert Marcuse, a well-known political theorist who was a professor at UC San Diego, spoke on feminism and Marxism. “I will never forget that day,” Garfield said. As people began arriving, it became clear very quickly that the usual meeting space wasn’t going to be big enough to accommodate everyone. At the last moment, they managed to move the event to Memorial Auditorium and, incredibly, about 1,500 people attended.

In the 70s, Garfield said, “Feminism was struggling to be acknowledged as a legitimate political movement.” So when Marcuse said: “Feminism is the most important and potentially most radical movement that we have,” Garfield recalled: “The chattering was deafening.”

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“If I remember correctly, I think all we had was three women professors in the humanities, and the most we ever had was five or six. There were more women in the social sciences, but even those numbers were low,” Garfield said. “Women were really pioneering in the social sciences, but not in the other disciplines.”

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HONORING OUR FOUNDERS:  
RECOGNIZING BETH GARFIELD AND CYNTHIA RUSSELL

New research associate THESA ROSINGER-ZIFKO joins the Institute staff.

Thank you to WENDY SKIDMORE and NATALIE P. MASON for their many contributions as long-time staff members.

Four undergraduates begin summer research as SUSAN HECK INTERNS.

CELEBRATING CLAYMAN INSTITUTE AUTHORS
Erin Cech on The Trouble with Passion

CELEBRATING CLAYMAN INSTITUTE AUTHORS
Megan Tobias Neely on Hedged Out
Ruby E. “Lillie” Reed receives the 2022 MARJORIE LOZZOFF PRIZE
Joan O’Bryan wins the 2022 MARILYN YALOM PRIZE
Cynthia Laura Vialle Giancotti wins the 2022 MYRA STROBER PRIZE

CLAIRED URBANSKI and ANGELICA FERRARA join as postdoctoral fellows
10 FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS join the Institute
CAROLYN ZOLA, CASEY WAYNE PATTERSON, and BETHANY NICHOLS join as graduate dissertation fellows

THE FEMINIST PRESENT podcast continues with guests Judith Butler, Michael Hobbes, Liat Kaplan, and more

JING LYMAN LECTURE SERIES
FROM THE FRONT LINES: ABORTION POST-ROE
LEA GOTTLIBE joins Institute as fellowship manager
Adrian Daub publishes CANCEL CULTURE TRANSFER (in German)

Money and Love: An Intelligent Roadmap for Life’s Biggest Decisions
Book talk with MYRA STROBER and ABBY DAVISSON
ATTNEAVE AT NOON series launches with talks from Veena Dubal and Nikita Dhand

DIRECTOR ADRIAN DAUB also appointed J. E. Wallace Sterling Professor of the Humanities

THE FEMINIST PRESENT podcast continues with guests Judith Butler, Michael Hobbes, Liat Kaplan, and more

ATTNEAVE AT NOON series welcomes SUSAN STRYKER
LAURA LEE GREEN joins staff as event coordinator

Leading feminist writer and critic MOIRA DONEGAN joins as writer in residence
ATTNEAVE AT NOON SERIES continues with Moira Weigel and Shira Schwartz

THE YEAR IN REVIEW
SANDORD's CLAYMAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER RESEARCH was pleased to welcome leading feminist writer and critic Moira Donegan to join the Institute in April 2023 as a writer in residence. This position, Donegan will participate in the intellectual life of the Institute, host its artist salon series, teach a class in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies, and mentor students, while continuing her own projects and writing.

"Moira is a brilliant feminist intellectual and writer with a deep understanding of gender, culture, and society, as well as an insistent ability to interpret timely and urgent topics," said Adrian Daub, Barbara D. Finberg Director of the Clayman Institute. "As a writer in residence, she will have an invaluable impact on the life of scholars and students at the Clayman Institute and the broader campus."


"The selection of Donegan for the writer in residence position comes after a national search that attracted more than 47 episodes and 120,000 unique streams across the country. She also participated in the Clayman Institute activities. Most recently, she moderated the November Jing Lyman Lecture, "From the Front Lines: Abortion Post-Roe," deftly guiding a conversation among three abortion providers from around the country. She also participated in the Clayman Conversations event, "Whisper Networks," and appeared on The Feminist Present podcast to discuss Betty Friedan’s classic The Feminine Mystique.

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Five leaders join Clayman Institute Advisory Council

HOLLY FETTER
Holly Fetter is a vice president on the asset stewardship team at State Street Global Advisors. She leads the team’s proxy voting and engagement strategy on social issues including human capital management, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Saidah Grayson Dill
Saidah Grayson Dill is the vice president and chief People and Communities (HR) team and was director of strategic M&A development for the Norwegian telecom Telenor in Southeast Asia.

DIANE STEWART
Diane Stewart is an attorney, a private company investor and advisor, and a fiduciary for a variety of organizations. As a legal professional, she serves as co-chair of PILnet, an NGO with a global network of public interest and private sector lawyers committed to the public good, and has her own legal consultancy based in London. As an investor, she’s a venture partner in early-stage VC. Ascension Ventures and is passionate about investing in women founders. In her earlier career she was a corporate finance attorney and partner with Coudert Brothers in its San Francisco, New York, Hong Kong, and Singapore offices, and was director of strategic M&A.

LAREINA YEE
Lareina Yee is a senior partner at McKinsey & Company. She is the chair of McKinsey’s technology council and brings more than 20 years of experience in advising companies on strategy, growth, and organizational health. She previously served as McKinsey’s first chief diversity and inclusion officer and member of the executive team. Yee has led research on diversity and gender for more than a decade and co-founded Women in the Workplace, a research partnership with LeanIn.org and The Wall Street Journal. She is a board member of the San Francisco Ballet and Safe & Sound, a non-profit focused on child-abuse prevention.

BEBS WEATHERMAN
Bess Weatherman is a special limited partner of Warburg Pincus LLC, a leading global private equity firm focused on growth investing. Weatherman joined Warburg Pincus in 1988, became a partner in 1996, and served as a member of the executive management group from 2001 to 2016. She led the firm’s healthcare group from 2008 to 2015. Weatherman twice has been named to Forbes’ Midas List recognizing her as one of the 100 most highly-regarded dealmakers in the venture capital industry. During her 34-year career in healthcare, Weatherman has served on the boards of 14 public companies, more than 25 private companies at every stage of development, as well as the National Venture Capital Association.

Weatherman currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Stanford University and as chair of Stanford Women on Boards. She is also a trustee of Mount Holyoke College, where she chairs the Investment Committee. She previously served on the Advisory Council of the Stanford Graduate School of Business and on the Board of Trustees of Saint Ann’s School in Brooklyn, New York.

Weatherman was a 2014 recipient of the Women of Power and Influence Award from the National Organization for Women. She has served as a mentor for WOMEN in America, an organization of senior business executives in New York City focused on mentoring young, high-potential female professionals. Weatherman received a B.A. in English from Mount Holyoke College in 1982. She earned her MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1988.

Dedicated to our Advisory Council

We dedicate this issue to our brilliant Advisory Council, made up of gifted leaders in their professional careers who are committed to supporting gender research. This group offers mentorship, guidance, research support, constructive feedback, and strategic connections to our Advisory Council members (many pictured here in May 2022), and to those who have served as advisors in the past, all of us at the Clayman Institute offer our sincere gratitude.

CURRENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Michelle R. Clayman, Chair
- Molly Anderson
- Vali Bandesh
- Sonja Brand
- Deborah Byron
- Gretchen Carlson
- Sumita Chandra
- Michelle Mercer
- Leah Middlebrook
- Cynthia L. Russell
- Eva Sage-Gavin
- Sandra Shirai
- Diane Stewart
- Myra Streber
- Bess Weatherman
- Lareina Yee

PHOTO: JENNIFER TOWNHILL
CLAYMAN INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS
May 2022– May 2023

10
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS

2
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

5,200+
SUBSCRIBERS TO GENDER NEWS

26
EVENTS
SPONSORED AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE CLAYMAN INSTITUTE

9
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES
Art & Art History
Business
Education
Emergency Medicine
Experimental Economics
German Studies
History of Science
Law
Religious Studies

22
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

47
EPISODES

20,000+
LISTENERS

265
FACULTY AFFILIATES

130,000+
STREAMS

3
GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS

164
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS

111
POSTDOCS AND GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS

SINCE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED IN 1974

5,200+
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

THE FEMINIST PRESENT PODCAST SINCE LAUNCHING IN 2020

CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Next year in 2024, the Clayman Institute will be turning 50! Please keep in touch as we prepare to celebrate 50 years of feminist scholarship and look forward to the future of gender research, mentorship, and scholarship.

CONNECT to the Clayman Institute: gender.stanford.edu
SUBSCRIBE to Gender News: gender.stanford.edu/subscribe
DONATE to the Clayman Institute: gender.stanford.edu/donate