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Natalie Zemon Davis Interview, Paula Fass and Christina Maslach, "Academic Pioneers: Women at Berkeley in the 1970s and 1980s."

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Natalie Zemon Davis Interview: Paula Fass and Christina Maslach, "Academic Pioneers: Women at Berkeley in the 1970s and 1980s." Interviews with Berkeley's pioneering women professors, Berkeley, CA. Conducted 2019-2023.

Christina Maslach:

So, we'll begin. And, what we'd like to do first is just your basic demographic information, your name, birth place, high school, college, you know, things before you came here to Berkeley.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

My name is Natalie Zemon Davis. I was born November 8, 1928. I am 91.

Christina Maslach:

Wow. Congratulations.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Detroit, Michigan. I went to Smith College. Indeed, I went to a girl's high school as well. And then on to Smith, which was a women's, still is a woman's college primarily now. I got married the end of my junior year, and this strengthened my determination to go on to Harvard graduate school in history because my husband was getting his PhD at Harvard, and I got my MA at Harvard and then Chandler got a job at the University of Michigan in mathematics. So, I switched and got my PhD ultimately from the University of Michigan. So, as I mentioned, I married, Chandler Davis in 1948. His full name is Horace Chandler Davis, but he always goes by the name of Chandler. And then we had our children while I was working on my doctorate at Michigan, Aaron Bancroft Davis, Hannah Penrose Davis and Simone Weil Davis. All born during the 1950s. So, do you want to know anything more about that, or shall I go on to jobs before coming to Berkeley?

Christina Maslach:

No, that's fine. Let's move on to the jobs before you came here.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

We were at the University of Michigan and, for dramatic political reasons having to do with the House Un-American Activities Committee [HUAC], we left Michigan and, my husband's post there and moved to New York. So, my first teaching was in the 1950s, while I was still working on the dissertation in absentia from Michigan using the New York libraries for my research. And, I had the good luck to get a teaching job in the School of General Studies teaching history at Columbia University. That was my baptism. I, in a way, had a real baptism by fire, and doing an introductory course in history, at night, to people, some of whom were rather sleepy from having worked all day but, it was a good start. It got me interested in thinking about how to make history interesting and accessible to a very diverse audience. The other very great bit of luck was that being at Columbia gave me the chance to know Rosalie Colie, a very outstanding scholar of 16th century literary cultural history in England. And this is-- we're now back in the fifties--this is the time that there weren't that many women important in the academic world. Her nickname was Posey. Everybody called her that, was in the Barnard faculty and probably taught some courses, as I recall at Columbia. So, we did some co-ed teaching. She was not only a brilliant scholar, excited about the new directions in research that I was trying to undertake in history, very interdisciplinary directions in the study of religion, religious history and socioeconomic history. Not only was she very supportive of that, but she was a mentor to women who entered in

the field of teaching. And, so during my first time of teaching, I had Posey giving me tips. I was also having children, as I mentioned, and Posey was completely comfortable with that. She was interested, she would always ask me about how the children were doing. I got pregnant with my third child during that time. And, she always said that was fine. It was just so different from my experience at the University of Michigan where I was already a little bit looked at as suspicious because of my husband's relationship to the House Un-American Activities Committee. I was thought of as a very good student at the University of Michigan and had won big fellowship awards, but I had been warned about having children, that it didn't look very promising. Indeed, thinking back, I had gone to see my wonderful Smith College senior thesis advisor, Leona Gable, great specialist in Renaissance philosophy, and she too had said (she was already worried when I got married), if you have children, you'll never be able to continue, let alone do all your research and your scholarship. So that was a challenge of the fifties. We were very busy as parents and as scholars, my husband in math and I in history, not to mention worries about his political case.... The importance of Posey as a mentor, during that period I would want to stress, especially since we will go on to talk about women at Berkeley, and I had with her the kind of model that would stand me in good stead, when I went on. We left New York. And Chan got a job in Providence, Rhode Island, which was...

Paula Fass:
Was it Brown?

Natalie Zemon Davis:
At the math society, the American Math Society associated with Brown University. And we moved there with the three children. We'd had a year at the Institute for Advanced Study [Princeton] where he had a fellowship. We moved there with the three children and I found first rather limited employ, as a kind of lecturer at Brown University and then became an Assistant Professor there. Well, he continued working for the American Math Society and so now I was really teaching my own courses for the first time in Reformation history, rather Renaissance/ Reformation, a little bit of French history, and participating in the introductory courses to historical methods of historical thought, which I found very exciting and was able to do a little bit of designing. We were not numerous, we women faculty member members, and indeed, I think I was the only one in the History Department, in the all- male History Department. But once again, the comradeship of a woman, played a very important role. In this case it was Barbara Lewalski. Barbara was just finishing up her degree in English literature with an outstanding dissertation on John Milton. Indeed, she went on to become one of our great Milton scholars. She passed away a couple of years ago, but became one of our great Milton scholars, both at Brown and then later at Harvard where she finished her own career. But the point is that it was nice to have Barbara as a dear friend, as a scholarly comrade, as well as her husband was an historian teaching at another university. That meant a lot during my time at Brown.

Paula Fass:
Natalie, if I may, I'd like to just interject and ask a question. Now, both of these women had tenure track jobs, both Lewalski at Brown and Posey at Barnard?

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Yes.

Paula Fass:
Yes, okay.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Posey at Barnard. I'm not sure when she got tenure, but she did. And Barbara, I don't know whether she simply moved to Harvard and got tenure there or had the tenure at Brown already, but at the time I knew them, Barbara was pre-tenured. She was about my generation. And I mean she was my academic generation, and yes they were. And Posey, I just can't remember whether she had tenure or not, but she was already, by the time I got to know her well established at Barnard, probably I think probably badly treated by her colleagues at Columbia, and some who were huge fans. But people were probably jealous of her; the field of English literature is such a competitive field.

Paula Fass:

Well, Barnard did have women, regular faculty, so that was not that unusual, but I'm wondering about the experience at Brown. You say you were the only, woman Assistant Professor in the History Department. So you were unique at that point at Brown and the History Department?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah. And Barbara was, I'm sure the only one in the English Department.

Paula Fass:

Well, one of the reasons I'm asking is one of the things that Christina and I are doing is looking at the seventies and eighties as an unusual cohort where more women were beginning to come in. And so, seeing the past, meaning the 1950s and 1960s is very important as a context for what we're doing. Yes?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Well we were not numerous, but we found each other. And there were also some male colleagues who could be supportive of women and receptive, and some who were not. But that friendship, that scholarly friendship was critically important in moving us through that somewhat pioneering period.

Christina Maslach:

Yeah. I'm very glad to hear about that because I think some of this is the sort of thing that never gets recorded or mentioned. It's kind of like behind the scenes in some sense when people are writing. But this is really great to hear.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

So, the Brown University period ended, when Chandler, who had been dealing with a very important constitutional court test case regarding the house committee -- I won't elaborate on it except to say that he had taken the First Amendment during the HUAC hearings on purpose. We had agreed on this to try to bring the committee before the courts had declared unconstitutional in its investigations. He and two other people who did the same thing lost at the Supreme Court level, although some Supreme Court members would have liked to have supported them, and he

therefore did have to serve his prison term for a six month term. He served for five and Brown University, and his own math society associated with the university were very supportive. I continued to teach during that time. And when Chan returned from prison, he was greeted approvingly by the *Providence Journal* [Rhode Island], the newspaper, the *Providence Journal*, I think it was called the newspaper, gave a beautiful picture of him at home lifting up our daughters, Simone, who was I think about three -- lifting her in the air with joy. And, he did continue for a time there, but it was clear that he had, even though he had continued to produce important mathematical articles, some of them even written while he was in prison, it was clear that he could not get a job, we are now in 1960/1961 in the early sixties, in an American university. He would get offers from math departments, but the FBI or the State Department would intervene and they [the offers] would be revoked. So, he turned to Canada, which was delighted. The minute they found out that he was available, he got an offer from the University of Toronto. So, we moved in 19, was it '62 to Toronto, and that finished my years, I didn't feel bad about then even though I liked teaching at Brown, that completed my time there and I had to remake my career in Canada. And so then I taught at Toronto. I still wanted to get to Berkeley. So, I won't go through the details. It took some doing, Chan was doing fine in the Math Department. He was immediately promoted to Full Professor and he stayed there for the rest of his life. He's now a professor, retired from Toronto. And so that was his trajectory. In my case, I had to first get a job in order to do any teaching. I won't go into all the details, but it'll just make a long story short, I taught in the Department of Political Economy. History had no opening and would not hire me, wouldn't find a place for me. So I taught economic history, teaching in that department and in fact I had no regrets about doing that because it allowed me for the first time, in a serious way, to bring women into my course.

Paula Fass:

That's what I was going to ask. Natalie, that's what I was going to ask you when you started looking at women, so it was through political economy. How fascinating.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah. Well it was there; they don't call it that anymore. That book, that wonderful 19th century name. And I probably have found some ways to do a little bit with women a little bit. Maybe earlier, but I don't think so. But here at least I had introduced a section on women's work. How can you do economic history without it?

Christina Maslach:

That's wonderful.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

So, though I liked that job and I had an interesting group of colleagues doing economic history, it was clear that I had no future for graduate teaching given the direction that economics and economic history was going in that time, which was highly mathematical. It was just the time in the sixties when the field was switching, across the board, including economic history. And though I could get undergraduate teaching going and maybe do senior theses, there was no real future. So, Berkeley played a very important role. I saw I'm publishing different things. I'm publishing articles on Reformation, I'm publishing articles on trade unions, whatever. A very important article was the first early evidence of trade union, the details of trade union activity

that we have, it was from the early 16th century and that we knew that trade unions existed among the artisans in Europe. We didn't know much about how they were run and about their secret rituals. I had found an important cache of documents that revealed all this; publishing a lot and winning prizes for my essays and, the History Department at Toronto still wouldn't hire me. They wouldn't bring me in, and here Chan's got a job, and we have three children.

So, I saw Bill Bouwsma, wonderful Bill Bouwsma, the great Renaissance, Italy specialist and the specialist on Renaissance historiography. I saw him at the American Historical Association meeting and he discovered that I would be willing to come at least for a visit and invited me [to Berkeley], and indeed in 1969, which was a very exciting time. I spent a term, teaching in the History Department at Berkeley and I'll say more about the department when I come to talk about my longer time there. Well, you know, I went in '69 to the History Department. I had a wonderful several months and I must have, I must have taught Reformation history, because that's what, what Bill's specialty was. And he was on leave or something. And most of my time there, we had a little place on East Elm Street, as I recall, and that led to the History Department of Toronto to think that I must be okay if Berkeley had hired me. And so, they then did hire me, and when I returned, I taught from '69 through 1971 in the History Department. And I enjoyed that very much. Again, I did social economic history. I did some early modern French history and especially exciting, with Jill Kerr Conway, pioneered in establishing one of the first women's history courses. I think the first in Canada and one of the earliest ones, we teamed up together and I did the early modern section and she did the American section and it was just, it was a huge event with 200 students, faculty, people coming in. You know, it was right at the beginning of all this, that was just wonderful. And I can say, you know more about that, but I want to get to Berkeley now.

Berkeley was getting back to me about wanting to maybe come out there on a more permanent basis than I had after I'd been a visitor, and they did and asked me if I would join the department. I guess this must've been 1971, like the date of hire at Berkeley. And I will, I'll just, before we go on to talking more systematically about Berkeley, I'll just finish up with the decision to accept that post. So, Chandler and I, so what to do about this? When I went out in 1969, I went out with our son Aaron, our oldest, for the first, for the first month. And it was the spring term. Aaron went to, I guess high school there, to Berkeley High. And then Chandler joined me with our daughters for the last month of my time. But this was not a temporary, five, six-month appointment that I was being invited to now. This was a job, but what were we going to do?

So, we sat down and thought about it, and decided that we would try, we would try it, we would see, we would try it for five years. He would try to get a leave. I would get a leave at some point during the five years and then we would work out some system of commute and we would see, the older children would stay, I think the way we decided in Toronto should say we're now getting near the end of, Hannah may have gone off to university for a time in France, and Simone the younger one would do school with me in Berkeley. So again, I won't, unless you want me to elaborate on this later, I'll just say just now is where we're going to think about how I decided to accept, what we decided was we would do it for five years and if it didn't work we would stop. We built a five-year plan and, on that basis, I decided to accept and I think it was January 1st, 1972 I got on a plane and went to Berkeley.

Paula Fass:

And you got on the plane with Simone, you got on the plane with Simone at that point?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Well, I can't...trying to remember, I guess so. Or whether she came out a little bit later, maybe because she has the school or maybe Chan brought her out a little bit later.

Paula Fass:

Had you bought the house, had you bought the house on Hillegass at that point? Or did you buy that later?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Well, I think, I'm trying to remember again, Chan is not here at the moment and he wasn't sure either. We stayed for a time maybe while we were waiting for that house to be finished at the beautiful home of Reggie and Elaine Zelnick.

Paula Fass:

Oh yes.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

And I think that that was what we were waiting for that house, the Hillegass house, to be redone and we had a new door made for it. One thing or another. But I did then finally move into Hillegass, right across from the school yard. A wonderful, redwood house....

Paula Fass:

Yeah. Beautiful. Well, I think we can actually skip the first part of the questions that we had about professional because we really talked about that. I mean, the offer from Berkeley came to you...

Natalie Zemon Davis:

I didn't apply for it either.

Paula Fass:

But you didn't apply and they came back to you with a full professorship offer. You came here as a full professor.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah. And I guess I don't remember doing, I'm not very good at negotiation. I'm very good at fighting for other people, other people's fights and this has to do, I suppose the way I was brought up or something about my personality. But, at least, especially, I'm better now, but I'm not so good at going in and demanding one thing or other for myself. But anyway...

Paula Fass:

Because women don't do that. Nice women don't do that. That that was how I was raised too. So I fully understand that.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
I think you and I might've talked about that, Paula.

Paula Fass:
We may well have. But you did come as a full professor and at the time you were the only woman in the department and certainly the only full professor in the history department.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Yes. There had been...

Paula Fass:
Adrienne Koch...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
There was a woman before me. I wonder.

Paula Fass:
Yes, there was. Adrienne Koch was here in the fifties...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
We did not overlap as I recall.

Paula Fass:
No, you did not. My understanding is that you didn't.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
One of the things that I'm going to want to maybe leave and come in, describe your interactions with colleagues. I do have some things to say there that have to do with the hiring.

Paula Fass:
Okay. Yes. That'll be a little later. Yes. Because you were very influenced, you were...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Maybe before I move into the History Department is, just in transition, say that because it might be worth knowing before I talk about the department. That, as at Brown and as at Barnard or at Columbia earlier, I very soon established contact with the small number of women who were teaching there in other departments and oh dear due to old age, I'm forgetting that name of my wonderful friend who was teaching linguistics, who oh dear, a graduate of Vassar.

Paula Fass:
Was Anne Middleton here in the English department?

Natalie Zemon Davis:
No, not, I don't remember yet. I'm sorry that I should have collected those names. We, we would actually meet, I'm sure. We would actually meet for lunch occasionally, but, and I'm sorry that this is very embarrassing and I'm not remembering the names because I've, in fact, I did the same

thing at Princeton and all the Princeton names are now rushing into my mind. But, I looked them up as soon as I could, and we were a very few in number I think as a whole university. I think we found it was just a few of us, but the woman in the linguistics department...

Paula Fass:
Susan Ervin-Tripp?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yes. Sue Ervin-Tripp. She was interested in language psychology. And Sue, who in fact I had even met before going to Berkeley, I immediately looked up, and the few others of us that were there, and we would meet and talk about the situation and so on. There was an important support circle in the department. On the one hand there were wonderful colleagues, so I felt, who were completely welcoming. Especially in the early modern world. Bill Bouwsma, whom I mentioned already, Gene Brucker, and then Randy Starn came later, I brought him in. And then Richard [Herr], and then people like Reggie Zelnick, and Larry Levine and the other wonderful Americanist, Leon Litwack. And that was our sort of group that that we could -- I'm going to say when you, Paula, came in and Lynn [Hunt] -- but that was the group that I felt I could count on. And Bill and Bob Brentano as well became the chair -- a group who were liberal-minded on many things, and certainly welcoming to the presence of women. And in addition, new kinds of teaching. They were just, that was the key, what was so nice about Berkeley anyway. And one of the reasons I was happy to come there from Toronto, was all that I was trying to do, things in anthropology and I had developed new methods -- new approaches in history. And it was, the Berkeley department was much more open to that kind of thing than even if they weren't doing it themselves, they sort of applauded. There were people in the department, a few who were unfriendly and, one, I should have looked up the names in the Berkeley department, but you'll know who, he was a very smart man who taught Italian history.

Paula Fass:
Oh, yes I know who you mean.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Yes.

Paula Fass:
He must have been much of a problem.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
I used to wear high heels then, and now I wear lower shoes, and he, one day would actually, I couldn't even imagine what he was doing. He started mocking me for my walking. Can you imagine?

Paula Fass:
Oh my God. Oh my God.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
So that was just trivial. I paid no attention to him. And then he later married a wonderful woman

who I think turned him around, and his subsequent marriage. The other was the man from Germany.

Paula Fass:
Oh yes.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
[WS]. Do you know, and you may know the story about him, I mean these are the only negative things that I really have to say. The rest would be all quite positive. But we had a huge fight about him, which you may already have heard about from other colleagues. Well, the first part was when he was having a relationship with one of his students.

Paula Fass:
Oh, I didn't know that.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
He was being seductive toward one of his students and, he was indeed, just a final irony, and maybe this is connected with it, she was a daughter of Holocaust survivors, and this man [WS] had been in the German army. I'm not saying he was a Nazi, but he'd been in the German army. So that symbolically it was a very all-around, very frightening thing.

Paula Fass:
Natalie, did you know that he asked me out on dates, and I am also the daughter of Holocaust survivors?

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Pardon? The young woman was.

Paula Fass:
Yeah. But so am I, as you know, and [WS], when I came to the department, as soon as I arrived in the department, he asked me out a couple of times.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
No...

Paula Fass:
Yes, yes. So there's clearly...Something in him.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Yeah. He's a very bizarre, well, I'll tell you, that is extra bizarre. I had an actual folder that I saved, called Paula Fass, about this whole case, that I decided that I wasn't stupidly, that I was not going to be ever needing it again anyway, well that is, that adds to the bizarreness. Anyway, we, it became publicly, this, this episode became serious enough that other faculty members knew about it. We heard about it when we tried to get people to do something about it, and I begged Bob Brentano to tell him, tell him to stop. And Gerry Feldman was his one supporter and he said he'd take care of it, but he didn't want us to do anything about it. At any rate. It never was

handled in a way that I thought was appropriate. WS became paranoid, I think, because at the same time, quite I think independently of his bad behavior, the university set around a not very helpfully couched statement to all departments. It was read aloud at faculty meetings to let such and such an officer know, if there were any issues of harassment, whatever words they use in the department. I thought it was, I had, even at the time it was so clumsily stated, and I had thought at the time it was almost intending to sabotage for the person who had drawn it up, didn't want it to succeed. It was not said in a way that that made it an easy solution to department in regards to harassment. At any rate, at the meeting, where that, resolution or that came up that we were supposed to react to it. You perhaps already know about this. WS was enraged and he said that if such a thing happened, he would never vote again for any woman to be in the department.

Paula Fass:
I did not know that.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
We had you and Lynn, in our minds. And, I remember that meeting and that's why I say Reggie Zelnick and, Oh gosh, why am I blocking on the name of...

Paula Fass:
Larry?

Natalie Zemon Davis:
And Larry, why am I blanking on her?

Paula Fass:
Because we all do, Natalie, because we all do.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
I have too much on my mind because I'm also trying to write at the same time. But anyway, they were wrong supporters. So, when did, I mean maybe I get our dates wrong, but was Lynn already in the department?

Paula Fass:
No, she was not because she was still at the University of Michigan Society of Fellows on her postdoc...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Later you, we were...

Paula Fass:
I came in two years before her even...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
...we were fighting with this man about, and I don't know how much support he had, but that is the one really bad memory I have, but, but we won. I mean, I just wish the department had been completely united. I felt that, but that was the one time I felt that that one year I felt a division

within the department. Usually, I felt that our department, I felt very comfortable in it. And I mean even if there was some people, whatever, I didn't, I felt that we pulled together. We were proud of what we were doing as a department. And I felt, and one of your next questions has to do with research. I feel that it was the kind of setting, which allowed me to go in new directions and both in teaching and in research, so I would say as a whole, that we got through it. We got through it.

Paula Fass:

Yes. I remember because I came not long after that as you know, because you were influential in hiring me. So, I do remember there was a tremendous sense of esprit de corps in the department, and that was true for all the colleagues. WS was always considered a problem. And the other was just nutty.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah, and he was an unhappy man.

Paula Fass:

Very.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Probably not very nice to his male colleagues either.

Paula Fass:

No, he was not, I mean there were almost the, after you had left, there were almost fisticuffs between him and Larry Levine at one at one faculty meeting. Yes. So that was something that went on for quite a while. Just so that you know. But we do want to talk a little bit about your research because certainly when you got here, when I got here, I knew you were teaching a course that was a phenomenon, that people gathered from everywhere, to come to take your course. And I assume it was the Women's History course, but I don't remember. Do you remember what?

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah, the anthropology-type courses that I was teaching were more graduate courses, and I did get a good turnout for my Early Modern France as well. And I did try to do some new things with that, but I think it was the Women's History class. It was the big one. And I did try to make that interdisciplinary. And I told people in the course, I saw it as not just a woman's history course, I shouldn't use the word "just," but I saw it as early modern course as a way to approach early modern European history. And we did have a very good time in that course. I would always repair to a coffee house on the North campus with whatever number of students wanted to come. And so we often would stay on, I think usually taught at 10, and we would often stay on and have lunch there. But it was partly a way to introduce sections. I don't remember that we had sections regularly and that...

Paula Fass:

There were some, but they were not uniform in all the classes.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

And I think that was one of the ways that I tried to introduce... but I just loved teaching that, and I also love the interdisciplinary state of things, and I had good connections with people in the folklore department and in anthropology, which meant a great deal to me. And, we're responsible for the new directions that my work had started to go. I had gotten, I was working on festivity, on the charivari, things that have had quite an impact in my field and...

Paula Fass:

And on people like me. You know that your charivari article had a huge impact on me.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yeah, so people, people found it helpful. And then the other, the other one I did that was associated with that. This was fairly early in my time because it appeared in the seventies. The first period of '72 was my article on violence. So, rights...

Paula Fass:

Yes. The Rights of Violence.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Yes. Which was probably connected with the idea of thinking about festivity and ritual organization.

Paula Fass:

Okay. So, Natalie, we would like you to just tell us anything more you would like to add at this point.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Well, just looking at your questionnaire, I think we've talked a little about contact with graduate undergrads and with graduate students, and I don't know that I have anything. I don't know about how my load compared to that, my male colleagues, I don't know. I'm sure they were the same. I think maybe some comments about personal and family life.

Paula Fass:

Great.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

Some of the questions that you have asked, there are interesting questions here. Is it more difficult to have a family as a woman in your department? Well, that's just as true all the way through because the, it may not be today with the increased commitment of young men and some of whom I know to family life. This may not be the case, but certainly for many decades it was much harder for a woman. You dashed home, and I only had one Simone at the time, but say, you dashed home and want to make sure everybody was there and so on. And, one of the things I did at Berkeley is I tried to do always live near the university sufficiently that I could dash home quite easily. And the house in Hillegass was not far at all, I could just bike there if need be and be back. So, I do think it was, given the gender responsibilities, division responsibilities plus probably more, more difficult in terms of time. In terms of, what were the issues I faced in terms

of balance between academic life as a person? I've never felt any issues there at all. I've always felt that they contributed to each other. I, maybe there were time issues, but in terms of life understanding of family life and all the connected things that it brought usually gave me more insight into forms of human behavior that helped fuel the questions I might ask of historical past, AB ideas. And I sometimes got ideas from history too, so that particular thing has never been an issue for me. I've always thought to...except for maybe time to time is something we have issues with time in regard to our research and our teaching and our administrative responsibilities. So I wouldn't single that out. In terms of social relations with colleagues and families, that was, I'd say something of an issue because I was alone much of the time, but when Chandler was there when he was on leave, that would be different. But, I was alone with him, I think the main reason I finally decided to move to Berkeley was that even though we were trying, we had a very regular schedule of commuting-- leave Berkeley for Princeton-- I didn't want to have so many, I didn't want to be away from Chan for such long periods of time. And I was lonesome, even though I had friends and colleagues and had them to dinner with occasionally, I wasn't always invited over.

Paula Fass:

You had the greatest parties, Natalie had the greatest parties.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

I did find it, at that time, even, I did find that a challenge. And as I say that, I think that was the basic reason that I left, that I really wanted to have a more sustained time with my husband.

Paula Fass:

Natalie, that is what you told me when you took me to lunch to tell me that you were leaving. That was exactly what you said at the time.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

My memory today fits with what I told you at the time.

Paula Fass:

Totally.

Natalie Zemon Davis:

That was true. And, perhaps if we had been living as we were in Princeton? Well, I think if it were, we would see each other every weekend and sometimes long weekends, I would've felt differently. When I advise young people or younger generations if they, who she'll sometimes you're asking me about undertaking social life. I have, maybe I told you this Paula, this is just sort of repeating myself, but I had Davis' three rules for commuting couples and one of them was to decide on a time that you felt you would be comfortable being separated and not being lonesome, not having feeling sexually deprived and not feeling emotionally lonesome, and set up a time, a schedule that fit that, and stick to it. And, as I say for us, I think that the schedule that we had at Berkeley was just too rich, too attenuated, but that was one of my three rules. The other, just while we're chatting about it, the other was to call each other every day, no matter what, even if you thought you had nothing to say, to just keep in touch or to call each other, on a regular basis, and the third was when you are together during the commute, never leave with an

argument unfinished or an important issue unfinished, saying to yourself, Oh, well, I'll worry about this when I get back home because that conceptualizes your other place as home. You should always conceptualize both places as home and never leave things unfinished, with that notion in mind, but you've got a real place that you're going to, and this doesn't count. So those were Davis' rules, and I think we did, we carried it off, but I was glad when we finally decided to have an easier commute.

Christina Maslach:
Okay.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Even though I loved my years at Berkeley.

Christina Maslach:
Yeah.

Paula Fass:
Yes. And we, of course, loved having you here, you left an indelible mark and memory that's, I'm just speaking the truth.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
But anyway, so yeah, I think that would be all that I, if I think of anything further, I'll email you.

Christina Maslach:
Great. That would be perfect.

Paula Fass:
I'm going to sign off. I'll call you this weekend. Christina's going to...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
And it was very nice to talk to you over the phone, Christina. And I hope that we'll meet some time.

Christina Maslach:
I would love that. That would really be great.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Have you ever come to Toronto?

Christina Maslach:
Not recently, but I probably am overdue, and I'll keep that in mind.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Well if you come this way let us know and we'll hope to see you.

Christina Maslach:

I might also mention that one of the things that's happening at Berkeley this year, and Cathy Gallagher is heading this up for Carol Christ, who's the Chancellor, is celebrating 150 years of women at Berkeley.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
Oh, wonderful.

Christina Maslach:
Because that was when the regents said yes, women can come in. So all of the interviews...

Natalie Zemon Davis:
That was in 18-... I wonder if Chandler's great, great, great uncle wasn't one of the regents then... Horace, his name is Horace Davis, and he was one of the important presidents of, was briefly at Berkeley, but it was more, it was also very important for Stanford. But anyway...

Paula Fass:
Yes, I will look that up.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
It could be that Chan's family had feminists in it.

Christina Maslach:
Wonderful.

Natalie Zemon Davis:
It's fairly possible that he had some input there. Okay, well, I'm glad to hear that. And if there's any way I can support that, that 150th, let me know.

Christina Maslach:
Okay. Well, thank you so much. It was really been a wonderful thing.

END.