

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM: HOW ERA, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL NORMS INFLUENCED TWO VERY DIFFERENT WOMEN, HEDY LAMARR AND CAROLINE SEELIG

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ABSTRACT

This is a reflection upon the life and contributions of two women who never met: Hedy Lamarr and Dr. Caroline Seelig. Born in different countries and generations, their combined life's work has coalesced into a system of innovation that has changed the landscape of communication technology and education, giving rise to positive global change; inevitably, bringing them together for this celebration. A candid sentiment of the influential factors of culture, era, and social norms influencing these women becomes apparent via this presentation of of the milestones of each woman's life and career in parallel with the social and political influences of their geographical space and time. Reflecting on major equality timeline markers in both the United States and New Zealand, the two primary career locations influencing each woman, we witness how each woman's experience unfolded differently. Upon revisiting the unique social and cultural mores influencing two very similar, progressive, and brilliant women, we take special care in revering their accomplishments in their truest context as a reminder of the importance to our continued efforts to identify and remove barriers.

Keywords: Education, technology, communication, innovation, LMS, women, role models, Caroline Seelig, Hedy Lamarr