

Call for proposals to lead the Pembroke Center Research Seminar

Each year, the Pembroke Center hosts the Pembroke Seminar, an advanced research seminar comprising an intergenerational group of scholars — undergraduate and graduate student fellows, postdoctoral fellows, faculty fellows, visiting scholars, and guests — who together pursue a set of critical questions in weekly meetings over the course of a year. The theme and research focus changes annually, as does the faculty seminar leader.

The Pembroke Center invites applications from tenured faculty members to lead future Pembroke Seminars, including the 2026-27 seminar. Research topics should in some way involve questions having to do with a critical approach to gender, sexuality, and other categories of difference and how they intersect. In recent years, seminars have focused on how the tumultuous present can be understood by looking back and forward to queer and feminist liberationist movements and theories of the recent past (1960 to 2000); conceptualizing ruin and disaster along with modalities of survival and resistance; how structures of knowledge and power are ordered by color; and debt as a condition, mode of governance, and narrative. Proposed topics should engage scholars from a range of disciplines. Participants from as many as 20 disciplines are often represented in the seminar.

The seminar leader, who bears the title of Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow, receives course release from two courses. The leader also has the exceptional opportunity to design and conduct an interdisciplinary advanced research seminar on a topic of their choice with colleagues, distinguished visitors, and selected students. Seminar leaders participate in the selection of the postdoctoral fellows, as well as in the selection of other seminar members. During the course of the year, they invite 3-4 distinguished scholars to campus to give public lectures and conduct a seminar. They also work with the postdoctoral fellows to develop a roundtable event in the spring to which several additional scholars are invited.

The following faculty members have recently led Pembroke Seminars:

2024-25: Macarena Gómez-Barris, Modern Culture and Media (“Unwriting the Anthropocene”)

2023-24: Patricia Ybarra, Theater and Performance Studies (“De-Colonial Retro-Speculation”)

2022-23: Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, American Studies and English (“In the Afterlives and Aftermaths of Ruin”)

2021-22: Leslie Bostrom, Visual Art; and Evelyn Lincoln, History of Art and Architecture and Italian Studies (“Color”)

2020-21: Peter Szendy, Comparative Literature (“Narrating Debt”)

The leader of the 2025-26 seminar will be Juliet Hooker, Political Science (“The Civic Work of Monuments”)

Applications for seminar leadership should include a three-page proposed research topic, a brief discussion of the relationship of the proposed topic to your work, and a cv. If you are applying for a particular academic year, please indicate. Please submit applications by **Friday, February 7, 2025** to:

Pembroke_Center@Brown.edu

For full descriptions of past and future seminar themes, see the [Pembroke Center website](http://pembrokecenter.org) (pembrokecenter.org) and click on Research. Please direct questions to Pembroke Center director, Leela Gandhi, by email.