



## Pembroke Center

FOR TEACHING  
AND RESEARCH  
ON WOMEN

BROWN UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 1990

### 1990 — 91 Cultural Literacies and "Difference"

Research will explore definitions of literacy and the problem of literacies. How are standards of literacy used as a tool of domination? How are reading and writing regulated now and in the past? How does access to reading and writing intersect with the formation and transmission of canons? How does literacy traditionally defined exclude the complexity of cultures and sub-cultures organized around oral and performative modes? In what ways do new technologies and new global communications systems change definitions of literacy? How is "cultural literacy" determined? What are the relationships between literacy and cultural literacy?

#### Future Themes

The research theme for 1991-92 will be "Scientific Knowledge and 'Difference'." In 1992-93 research will focus on "Orthodoxy and Institutions."

#### Post-doctoral Fellowships

Post-doctoral fellowships are available to scholars with research interests related to the annual topics. Those who are interested in the 1991-92 research year may obtain application materials beginning July 1, 1990.

#### Affiliated Scholars

Scholars interested in the annual research topics who wish to take part in the Pembroke Seminar are invited to apply for affiliation with the Center.

### Center Begins New Research Project

The Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women is beginning a new research project on 'Cultural Pluralism.' Events of the last two decades in the U.S.--from the civil rights and women's movements to institutional debates on Western civilization and the canon--have brought about changes in the discourse of pluralism: the term itself is at stake. Used very differently by different groups with varied interests, pluralism requires new critical attention. Viewed from a global perspective through the political events of 1989-90, the questions around pluralism only multiply.

In its new research cycle, the Pembroke Center will examine the question of 'Cultural Pluralism.' What are the histories of pluralism? How is the concept currently being used to effect

political and social change? What avenues are closed off by the discourse of pluralism? What issues arise when we bring the same set of questions to the term 'cultural'?

Since 1982 the Pembroke Center has studied the construction of sexual difference and its shifting relations to race, ethnicity, class, and other systems of difference. The interdisciplinary and cross-cultural work of the Pembroke Seminar has helped put into relief how 'difference' works in historically specific ways to underpin Western thought and culture and to produce the categories that define and organize knowledge. The new project aims to historicize the phenomenon of 'cultural pluralism' and to explore its complexities through a series of focussed research themes.



*Jean Franco, Columbia University, and Pembroke Center director, Karen Newman, at roundtable on 'Resistance and Revolution,' March, 1989. See page 7.*



## Pembroke Center Forges Connections with Secondary Schools

In 1984-85, Pembroke Center's founding director, Joan Scott, co-taught a six-part seminar on Women's History for area high school teachers. This seminar was ultimately thought of as a pilot program for what was inaugurated as Brown's Institute for Secondary Education in 1986-87. The Institute's inception, along with Ted Sizer's Coalition for Essential Schools, have put Brown at the forefront of educational reform in this country. Since then many of our women's studies faculty have been involved in what the Institute calls 'a partnership between Brown University and schools from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts . . . dedicated to the professional growth and renewal of teachers and administrators.' The Institute's primary activity is coordinating a series of programs, like the one led by Joan Scott, in which a Brown faculty member and an area high school teacher collaborate in teaching a two-day institute at Brown followed by a series of seminars. A few of the topics taught by women's studies faculty in past years have been 'Chant of Saints: Afro-American Literature and the High School Curriculum' (Dorothy Deniston, Associate Professor of English); 'Re-viewing Poetry: New Approaches to English and American Poetry' (Susanne Woods, Professor of English); 'Modern China and Japan: A Literary Perspective' (Meera Viswanathan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature); and

'Writing Women' (Karen Newman, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and English.)

In fact Pembroke Center Director Karen Newman's involvement in secondary education has not been confined to either the Institute, structurally, or to Rhode Island, regionally. As a result of her initial work with the Institute, Professor Newman was invited by the New England Association of Teachers of English and the Brown Education Department to present a workshop at their Fall 1988 Conference in Nashua, New Hampshire. Professor Newman was invited to return to NEATE this fall for a workshop on rereading the canon. During the past summer, Professor Newman taught a four-week 'Summer Seminar for School Teachers,' attended by high school teachers from around the country and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, entitled 'Shakespeare: New Readings of Old Plays.' During the four weeks Professor Newman's primary concern was to present the new scholarship that looks at Shakespeare's texts in their historical specificity, and that analyzes constructions of race, gender, and ethnicity as complexly interrelated and continually changing systems, rather than simply reading Shakespeare's work as exemplar of universal human values.

All of this activity has prompted the Pembroke Center to plan collaborative efforts between its own research component and secondary school educators. In the upcoming 1990-91 year, the topic of the Pembroke Center Research Seminar is 'Cultural Literacies and 'Difference'.' We hope to provide both visiting secondary school teacher sabbaticals and post-

doctoral fellowships in order to bring together pedagogical experience and theoretical questions on the problem of literacies. The unique strength of this project is the forum it will provide for university and high school teachers to work collaboratively and to learn from one another--a precedent for which has already been set at Brown.

Karen Newman is the new Director of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women. Professor Newman has taught at Brown since 1978 and has been associated with the Center since its founding. With a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley, Newman is widely published in the literature of the early modern period and has written a book on *Shakespeare's Rhetoric of Comic Character: Dramatic Convention in Classical and Renaissance Comedy* (Methuen, 1985). The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for 1989-90, Newman is currently completing a work on gender, representation, and social history, entitled 'Fashioning Femininity and English Renaissance Drama.'

*Under Karen Newman's outstanding leadership we look forward to an exciting new research project on 'Cultural Pluralism' and a period of enrichment and growth for the Center.*



Participants in Karen Newman's 1989 NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers. Left to Right: Maryann Christie, Valley Stream South High School, Valley Stream, NY; David Lewis, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY; Bonnie Newcomer, Beloit Junior-Senior High School, Beloit, KS; Dorothy Anderson, North Shore Regional Vo-Tech High School, Beverly, MA; Joel Ohren, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco, CA; Diane Kanzler, Southeast High School, Bradenton, FL; Peter Trenouth, Silver Lake Regional High School, Kingston, MA; Jane Murphy, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI; Barbara Crabb, Miller Junior High School, West Helena, AK; Alexandra Roszkewycz, Cathedral High School, Chicago, IL; Paulette Riesling, Douglas County High School, Castle Rock, CO; Gabriel deMoura, Smithfield High School, Esmond, RI.



## differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies

**differences** focuses on how concepts and categories of difference--notably but not exclusively gender--operate within culture. Affiliated with the Pembroke Center, it is published three times a year and is edited by Naomi Schor of Duke University and Elizabeth Weed of Brown. Upcoming special issues include *Sexuality in Greek and Roman Society*; *The Institution: Feminism and the Production of Knowledge*; and *Post-modernity and Feminist Political Theory*.

Send two copies of submissions for open issues to Box 1958, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

For subscriptions (\$20 for individuals, \$40 for institutions): Indiana University Press, 10th & Morton Streets, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

### Volume 1, Number 1

LIFE AND DEATH IN SEXUALITY:  
REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND AIDS

DONNA HARAWAY  
LINDA SINGER  
JANICE DOANE & DEVON HODGES  
SIMON WATNEY  
ANA MARIA ALONSO & MARIA TERESA KORECK  
AVITAL RONELL  
ROSI BRAIDOTTI

### Volume 1, Number 2

THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE: ANOTHER LOOK AT  
ESSENTIALISM

TERESA DE LAURETIS  
NAOMI SCHOR  
LUCE IRIGARAY  
ROBERT SCHOLES  
DIANA FUSS  
LESLIE WAHL RABINE  
GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK WITH  
ELLEN ROONEY

### Volume 1, Number 3

MALE SUBJECTIVITY

Kaja Silverman  
Christopher Newfield  
Paul Smith  
George T. Cunningham  
Marjorie Garber  
Carole-Anne Tyler

## Coming to Terms: Feminism/Theory/ Politics

A Project of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University, published by Routledge, 1989.

The essays collected in this volume were written between 1985 and 1988 by some of the most prominent critical thinkers in feminist studies. All are related to the activities of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University. Some of the essays are well known, others are published for the first time, as are the provocative commentaries that follow; all address feminism's relationships to theory and politics at the level of the criticism and production of knowledge.

Contributors: Leila Ahmed, Evelyn Brooks, Rey Chow, Christina Crosby, Mary Ann Doane, Margaret Ferguson, Heather Findlay, Donna Haraway, Barbara Harlow, Nancy K. Miller, Denise Riley, Ellen Rooney, Jacqueline Rose, Naomi Schor, Joan W. Scott, Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

*Edited by Elizabeth Weed.*

## Women's Studies

The Pembroke Center houses Brown's Women's Studies program. Instituted in 1971, the program is thriving. Most of the courses (cross-listed and departmentally-based) are so much in demand that students are regularly--and unfortunately--turned away. The undergraduate concentration graduates some fifteen to twenty students a year, and students receiving an AB in Women's Studies with Honors have produced a series of outstanding theses. The Joan Wallach Scott prize for an exceptional undergraduate thesis in Women's Studies was awarded in 1987 to Nina Perales for 'Poor Widows and Helpless Wives: The Politics of Aid to Families with Dependent Children'; in 1988 to Rinku Sen for 'Race, Class and Sexuality in the Formation of Communities: An Examination of Silko's *Ceremony* and Erdrich's *Love Machine*'; and in 1989 to Alys Eve Weinbaum for 'Rethinking Reproductive Technologies: Reimagining Reproduction'.

## The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives

The Pembroke Center and the University Library are pleased to announce the publication of the *Research Guide to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives*. This 500-page volume, compiled by Farnham archivist Karen Lamoree, has over 1,000 entries providing comprehensive descriptions of women's material in Special Collections at Brown. The nationally significant holdings for women's studies are strongest in the areas of clubs and philanthropies, education, employment, literary works, reform movements, religion, and Rhode Island history. Papers of individuals range from those of Elizabeth Buffum Chase, suffragist, abolitionist, and reformer, to those of Alison Palmer, the first person to file an EEO sex discrimination grievance against the State Department. Organizations and institutions represented include the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women for a Non-Nuclear Future, and Pembroke College in Brown University. Periodic supplements will be published as materials continue to come to Brown. The Guide is available for \$35.00 from: Farnham Archives, John Hay Library, Box A, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

## Pembroke Center Associates

This organization of alumnae / i helps support the work of the Center. Members receive newsletters and invitations to all Center events, including commencement activities. Alumnae can also participate in alumnae forums, tape oral histories, or donate papers and memorabilia to the archives. The annual membership drive topped 500 members in 1988-89.

## Endowment Drive

The Pembroke Center has undertaken an endowment campaign of \$3,000,000. We are happy to announce that under the leadership of Marie Langlois, member of the Brown Corporation, we have recently reached the first million dollar mark and are working energetically to raise the remaining funds.

The kind of research the Pembroke Center has produced over the last seven years has helped change the way we think about cultural constructions of gender. We must continue to support the work of scholars in the field and develop women's studies curricula for the future. Our endowment will insure that we can continue to do so. If you are interested in contributing to the endowment fund, please contact Barbara Anton at the Pembroke Center, Box 1958, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912



# A Look Back At Cultural Const

## 1988-89: 'Gender, States, and Political Identities'

### POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



**Christine Gailey**  
Anthropology  
Project: 'Changing Concepts of Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction in State Formation'

This book project examines changing gender ideologies and cultural constructions of reproduction and sexuality in state formation. As states and class relations emerge out of kinship societies, gender hierarchy is institutionalized. But the forms and extent of gender hierarchy are variable, depending on: the gender and kinship dynamics of the political elite; the integration of the prestate division of labor by gender into the civil sphere of tribute and labor extraction; and resistance by producing communities to civil redefinitions of gender roles, sexual conduct, and attempts to determine reproductive practices and rituals.

*Christine Gailey is on the anthropology faculty of Northeastern University. Her book, 'Gender and Sexuality in State Formation,' is forthcoming from Rutgers University Press.*



**Kirstie McClure**  
Political Theory  
Project: *Post-Modernity and the Subject of Rights: 'Feminist and Communitarian Critiques of the Liberal Self'*

Framed as a contribution to feminist political theory, this project sees recent feminist articulations of the divided or 'multiple' subject as challenges to both traditional liberal understandings of political identity and to the alternative constructions offered by contemporary communitarian critics of the liberal self. By focussing not upon the subject as such, but upon the 'subject of rights' within liberal theory and practice, the project considers the implications of such divided identities for understandings of both political community and political agency within the culturally and historically specific context of the liberal state.

*Kirstie McClure is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Arizona State University. Her book in progress is on 'Post Modernity and the Subject of Rights: Feminist and Communitarian Critiques of the Liberal Self.'*



**Valentine Moghadam**  
Sociology  
Project: 'Revolution, the State, and Women: Iran and Afghanistan'

Valentine Moghadam's project examines the impact of revolutionary and political change on women's lives, focussing on experiences in Iran and Afghanistan. The Iranian Revolution and the Afghan 'Saur Revolution' are examined in terms of their impact on women, and of women's responses to legal, political, and discursive changes. Moghadam includes interviews with women exiles to determine their attitudes toward the regimes and the gender conflicts they may experience in a Western cultural setting. The study includes a theoretical discussion of the validity of the concept of gender in analyses of Islamic societies and communities.

*In May 1990 Valentine Moghadam is assuming a new position as Fellow of the World Institute for Development Economics Research (United Nations University) in Helsinki, Finland. She will also be working for the United Nations on a project entitled 'National Development, Identity Politics, and Concepts of Feminism.'*



**Afsaneh Najmabadi**  
Sociology  
Project: 'Women, State, and Ideology in Contemporary Muslim Middle East'

Afsaneh Najmabadi's project is a comparative study of 'the woman question' in the Muslim Middle East, focussing on Iran. She examines the complex interrelationships among a number of elements: the emergence of modern states, such as Republican Turkey, Pahlavi Iran, and post-independence Egypt; modern ideologies--nationalism, socialism, communism, statism;

modern social classes and movements; and 'the woman question.' Najmabadi argues that from the mid-19th-century at least 'the woman question' is integral to the very definition, formation, and ideological development of nationalism, socialism, modern states, and the new Islamic movements.

*Afsaneh Najmabadi is currently on the sociology faculty of Wellesley College and the faculty of the Harvard Divinity School. She is working on a book entitled 'Unveiling 'The Woman Question': Politics of Modernity and Morality in Contemporary Iran.'*

### VISITING SCHOLARS

**Fatima Mernissi**  
Institut Universitaire de Recherches Scientifiques, Morocco  
Lecture: 'The Magic of Political Islam: Who Interprets What for Whom? The Learned Man and the Silent Woman or Power as a Stage Play'

**Martha Minow**  
Harvard Law School  
Lecture: 'Making All the Difference: Race, Religion and Gender'

**Chantal Mouffe**  
Collège International de Philosophie, Paris  
Lecture: 'Citizenship and Modern Democracy: A Post-modern Feminist Approach'

**Joan Wallach Scott**  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Lecture: 'Women and the French Revolution'

### AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

**Regina Cortina**  
Latin American Studies  
Brown University

**Eleanor Doumato**  
History  
Columbia University

**Sheila ffolliott**  
Art History  
George Mason University

**Joanna Gillespie**  
History

**Lucia Helena**  
Literature  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Mary Moran**  
Anthropology  
Colgate University

**Leni Silverstein**  
Anthropology  
(now University of Rhode Island)



# Instructions of Gender 1986-89

## 1987-88: 'Gender, Race, and Ethnicity'

### POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



#### **Ana Maria Alonso**

Anthropology  
Project: 'Gender, Ethnicity, Race and the Constitution of Subjects: State and Community in Northern Mexico, 1778-1986'

How did processes of colonialization, state formation, and capitalist development implement diverse forms of subjectivity on Mexico's northern frontier from the 18th to the early 20th centuries? Why did subaltern groups and classes reproduce certain forms of subjectivity and struggle against others? In what ways was power gendered in Northern Mexico? How did discourses of resistance simultaneously challenge and perpetuate effects of power inscribed in 'blood and sex'? Ana Alonso's study examines these questions through an anthropological history of the *serranos* or 'people of the mountains' of western Chihuahua.

Ana Alonso is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas-Austin and is completing a study entitled 'Engendering Subjects: Accommodation and Resistance on the Chihuahuan Frontier.'



#### **Katherine Platt**

Anthropology  
Project: 'Muslim and Jewish Women of North Africa: Gender, Ethnicity, and Immigration'

Katherine Platt studies the construction and manipulation of cultural identity among Muslim and Jewish groups who have immigrated from North Africa to France and Israel. She investigates the interplay of gender issues with ethnic and racial identity constructs, looking specifically at the processes by which identity is symbolized and how those symbolic forms are variously filled with or emptied of gender content in different historical, political, and geographical circumstances. Platt pays particular attention to representations of place and place of origin, and aims, through the project, to contribute to the larger understanding of the global

phenomenon of Third World immigration.

Katherine Platt is Assistant Professor of Social Science at Boston University and a Harvard Visiting Professor of Anthropology.



#### **Jennifer Sharpe**

Comparative Literature  
Project: 'Race and Gender in the Remaking of a Colonial Past'

Jennifer Sharpe examines the production of sexual difference as a dominant trope in British narratives of the East-West encounter, particularly those addressing decolonialization in India (*A Passage to India; A Raj Quartet*). Sharpe looks at how problems of British imperialism are staged through narratives of sexual violence, narratives which operate both within and against historical representations of the 1857-58 Indian uprisings as the savage attack of innocent white women and children by black barbarians. In doing so she sees the British woman emerge as an important cultural signifier articulating an increasingly racist representation of a colonial Other.

Jennifer Sharpe is Assistant Professor of English at Boston College. She is completing a book manuscript on 'Masterplots of Empire: Feminism, Imperialism, and the Category of 'Woman.''



#### **Kathleen Chiu Jaen Zane**

Comparative Literature  
Project: 'The Geography of the Other's Body: Constructing the Other in Travel Literature'

Kathleen Zane's project looks at women's travel narratives, comparing them with anthropological accounts which evidence such 'female' characteristics as an emphasis on the quotidian and on cultural details. Zane looks at the relationships among Otherness, the female, and the lost home, and examines the travellers' deployment of transvestism and disguise in the crossing of cultures. The objects of her study range from the female

Oriental Other, to the Virgin of Guadalupe and La Malinche, to images of the Native American body as constructed by its colonizers; her texts include British, French, and Spanish travel accounts.

Kathleen Zane is currently a Fulbright American Scholar in Spain.

### VISITING SCHOLARS

#### **Houston Baker**

University of Pennsylvania  
Lecture: 'The Changing Instant: Ntozake Shange and the Writing of Black Women's Time'

#### **Leith Mullings**

CUNY Medical School, City College  
Lecture: 'Rationalizing Inequality: Symbols, Ideology, and Women of Color'

#### **Renato Rosaldo**

Stanford University  
Lecture: 'Fables of the Fallen Guy'

#### **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**

University of Pittsburgh  
Lecture: 'Negotiating with Structures of Violence: 'The Kill' by Mahasweta Devi'

### AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

#### **Regina Cortina**

Latin American Studies  
Brown University

#### **Joanna Gillespie**

History

#### **Joel Kuipers**

Anthropology  
Seton Hall University

#### **Daniel Nugent**

Anthropology  
University of California, San Diego  
(now University of Texas, Austin)



# 1986-87: 'Gender in Popular Culture and Popular Religion'

## POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



### Rey Chow

Modern Thought and Literature  
Project: *'Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies: Popular Feminine Stories from Early Twentieth-Century China'*

Rey Chow is interested in how Chinese literature becomes 'modern' in a non-European, non-American context. The 'official story' of Chinese modernism begins with the 'May fourth' period where a nationalistic consciousness is coupled with an unprecedented sense of disenchantment with China's own past culture. Against this background, Chow sees other 'stories of Chinese modernism' that should be told, including those of popular fiction and 'femininity,' which employ sentimental, didactic, and often conflicting narrative structures that become melodramatic stagings of 'modernity' as incompatible realities.

Rey Chow is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota. Her book, *'The Stories of Chinese Modernism,'* is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.



### Shahla Haeri

Social Anthropology  
Project: *'Ambivalence toward Women in Islamic Law'*

Islamic marriage is a legal contract: in return for granting the right of sexual union, a woman is entitled to a certain amount of money or valuables. Concentrating on the concept of contract, Shahla Haeri demonstrates that contracts are not simply a dominant feature of interpersonal obligations and commercial transactions in a Muslim society; they are also a model for male-female interpersonal relationships. Haeri argues that the concept of contract leads to a vigorous re-interpretation of relations between men and women and sees Islamic law and ideology as more complex and ambivalent with regard to women and female sexuality than traditional interpretations indicate.

Shahla Haeri is a Research Associate at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard and a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London. Her book, *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'i Iran,* is from Syracuse University Press and I.B. Tauris Publishers in London.



### Kari Weil

Comparative Literature  
Project: *'Male/Female in the Saint-Simonian Couple: Flirting with Feminism'*

Kari Weil is studying Saint-Simonianism, a utopian-socialist movement and self-proclaimed religion of the 1830s in France. She is interested in the way in which the 'woman question' becomes a central component of this religion, though one which in its conception by the Father Enfantin, had little to do with a feminist or class struggle. She looks both at the doctrinal promotion of the 'feminine' and at the responses of the Saint-Simonian women. In the latter she finds associations with contemporary feminism in an often contradictory need both to combat essentializing definitions of 'the woman' and to assert a feminine and feminist difference.

Kari Weil is Assistant Professor of French at Wake Forest University. She is completing a book on *'The Aesthetics of Romantic Androgyny.'*



### Mimi White

Film and Television  
Project: *'Confession/Therapy/Analysis: The Shared Discourse of Religious and Popular Television'*

Mimi White's research deals with therapy, confession, and the family in contemporary American television. The injunction to speak--to confess--one's personal problems to a third party offers the means of securing one's social identity, and as this process is repeated through a range of television genres and programs, 'the therapeutic' emerges as a crucial configuration in mass culture.

White analyzes a variety of programs to illustrate the ways in which the apparent 'freedom of expression' offered by therapy becomes extricated in the patterns of consumption--of both programs and products--at the heart of television.

Mimi White is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Radio, TV, and Film at Northwestern University. Her book, *'Tele-Advising: Therapeutic Strategies of Discourse in Contemporary American Television'* is forthcoming from the University of North Carolina Press.

## VISITING SCHOLARS

### Homi Bhabha

University of Sussex, England  
Lecture: *'Meaning, Melancholia and Masculinity: Post-Modernity and the Post-Colonial Text'*

### Donna Haraway

University of California, Santa Cruz  
Colloquium: *'A Manifesto for Cyborgs': Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980's'*

## AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

### Mae Henderson

African-American Studies  
Rutgers University  
(now University of Iowa)

### Reva Greenburg

History  
University of California  
(now University of Rhode Island)

### Deborah van Broekhoven

American Studies  
(now Ohio Wesleyan)

### Eva Stehle

Classics  
Wheaton College  
(now University of Maryland)

### Elizabeth Grossman

Art and Architectural History  
Rhode Island School of Design



## Pembroke Center Roundtables

The Roundtables bring visiting scholars to Brown to join Pembroke Seminar participants and interested Brown faculty in two days of critical exchange. The following offers just an indication of these exciting programs.

### 'Resistance and Revolution' 1988-1989

Framing the discussion were general questions about the relation of gender to forms of everyday resistance and to revolutions. How do we conceptualize and represent revolutions? How does gender come into play in the various critical discourses dealing with revolutionary moments and state formation? Have some revolutions brought about more coercive state apparatuses, particularly with regard to gender and if so, why?

#### Outside Invited Participants

<b>Slavenka Drakulic</b> U of Iowa	<b>Peter Stallybrass</b> U of Pennsylvania
<b>Jean Franco</b> Columbia	<b>Marilyn Young</b> NYU
<b>Barbara Harlow</b> U of Texas, Austin	<b>Stephanie Jed</b> UC San Diego
<b>Maxine Molyneux</b> Essex	<b>Bonnie Honig</b> Harvard

### 'Displaying Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Marketplace' 1987-88

Under the directorship of Barbara Babcock, the Roundtable looked at the politically and economically motivated organizations of difference in such in-

stitutions and discourses as tourism, World's Fairs, and travel literature, as well as the production and representation of other cultures in museums, anthropological discourses, and a variety of other media. We asked how and when race and gender are consolidated as categories of knowledge, how the processes of domination entail objectification and aestheticization.

#### Outside Invited Participants

<b>Jonathan Culler</b> Cornell
<b>Curtis Hinsley</b> Colgate (now Northern Arizona U)
<b>Ira Jacknis</b> Brooklyn Museum
<b>Ivan Karp</b> Smithsonian Institution
<b>Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett</b> NYU
<b>Harryette Mullen</b> UC, Santa Barbara (now Cornell)
<b>Susan Vogel</b> Center for African Art New York City
<b>Marta Weigle</b> U of New Mexico

### 'Gender and Religious Fundamentalism: Islamic and Christian' 1986-87

At a time when religious fundamentalism is growing internationally, can one learn anything about the various movements by looking at them cross-culturally? Do national and political differences, different historical relationships to colonialism and first world

power, and different religious traditions make such comparisons useful? How do issues of gender relate to these questions?

#### Outside Invited Participants

<b>James Boon</b> Cornell (now Princeton)	<b>Rosemary Keller</b> Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
<b>Ruth Borker</b> Anthropology	<b>Farzaneh Milani</b> U of Virginia
<b>Faye Ginsburg</b> New School for Social Research	<b>Roy Mottahedeh</b> Harvard

### 'Gender, Melodrama, and Popular Culture' 1986-87

The Roundtable looked at the relationships of gender to the shifting boundaries of elite, popular, and mass cultures. We discussed the feminization of melodrama, historical shifts in the development and elaboration of that genre, and the relationships between melodrama and mass media. Although we focussed largely on Western European and U.S. cultures, we also looked at problems of cultural domination, particularly through mass technology.

#### Outside Invited Participants

<b>Michael Denning</b> Wesleyan (now Yale)	<b>James Schwoch</b> Marquette
<b>Laura Mulvey</b> London College of Printing	<b>Kaja Silverman</b> Simon Fraser (now U of Rochester)
<b>Philip Rosen</b> Clark (now Brown)	<b>Judith Walkowitz</b> Rutgers
<b>Kaveh Safa-Isfahani</b> Anthropology	<b>Ellen Widmer</b> Wesleyan
	<b>Linda Williams</b> U of Illinois

Participants in May, 1989 conference on "Gender and Popular Culture."

Left to right: Janice Radway, Duke University, Valerie Smith, UCLA, and Nancy Vickers, USC.



### Gender and Popular Culture Conference

Chaired by Marianne Hirsch, a committee of the Pembroke Center Associates (Laura Corwin, Rebekah Eckstein, Jean Howard, and Teresa Mellone) organized a May 1989 conference on Gender and Popular Culture. The program was an unusual opportunity for practitioners and critics of popular culture to interact, bringing together academic scholars and romance novelists. The novelists: Sylvia Rosen Baumgarten (who writes as Eva Halliday and Louisa Rawlings); Barbara Hazard; and Barbara Keiler (Judith Arnold and Ariel Berk); the critics: Mary Ann Doane (Brown); Lynne Joyrich (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee); Valerie Smith (Princeton, now UCLA); Janice Radway (Duke University); Nancy Vickers (University of Southern California).

## Pembroke Center Advisory Board

### National

**Joan Wallach Scott**, Chair  
Institute for Advanced Study

**Judith Butler**  
John Hopkins University

**Hazel Carby**  
Yale University

**Ruth Ekstrom**  
Educational Testing Service

**Susan Harding**  
University of California, Santa Cruz

### Brown

**Mari Jo Buhle**  
American Civilization

**Mary Ann Doane**  
Modern Culture and Media

**Ann Fausto-Sterling**  
Biology and Medicine

**Lina Fruzzetti**  
Anthropology

**David Konstan**  
Classics

**Robert Scholes**  
English

**Hilary Silver**  
Sociology

## Pembroke Center

**Karen Newman**  
Director

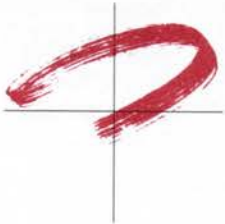
**Elizabeth Weed**  
Associate Director

**Barbara Anton**  
Coordinator of Alumnae Affairs

**Elizabeth Barboza**  
Coordinating Secretary

## Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives

**Karen Lamoree**  
Archivist



**Pembroke Center**  
for Teaching and Research on Women  
Brown University / Box 1958  
Providence, RI 02912

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Providence, RI  
Permit No. 202