

Pembroke Center

FOR TEACHING
AND RESEARCH
ON WOMEN

BROWN UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1994

The Question of Violence

The Pembroke Seminar is focusing this year on "The Question of Violence." It is looking at the history of violence as a social and discursive category and at expanding discourses of violence in contemporary United States. Deborah McDowell, English, University of Virginia, was this year's first visiting scholar. She gave a public lecture on "Los Angeles: An Anniversary Post-Mortem" and led a session of the seminar. Other visiting scholars include Elaine Scarry, English, Harvard University, and Patricia Williams, Columbia School of Law.



Deborah McDowell

Affiliated Scholars Program

The Center's affiliated scholars program is offering affiliation and office space in 1995-96 to three scholars working in the area of feminist theory. Affiliated scholars will have use of Pembroke Center and Brown University facilities and will participate in a year-long series of seminars on feminist theory held in conjunction with lectures by a group of distinguished visiting scholars. The position carries no stipend.

To apply, send a curriculum vitae and a four-page abstract (plus bibli-

ography) of work to be undertaken in 1995-96. Deadline for applications: February 15, 1995.

Post-doctoral Fellowships

For information on 1996-97 Pembroke Center post-doctoral fellowships, contact the Center after August 1, 1995.

1993–94 “Law, Letters, and ‘Difference’”



Laura Hanft Korobkin

*Artemis A. W. and Martha S. Joukowsky
Pembroke Fellow*

Project: *Criminal Conversations: Gendering Evidence in Nineteenth-Century American Adultery Litigation Narratives*

Korobkin’s project investigates how the narrative process of litigation silenced, fictionalized, but ultimately, if problematically, empowered women in nineteenth-century America. Using the tort of criminal conversation (civil adultery litigation) as a paradigm, it looks at how courtroom speakers, in transforming the ambiguous data of subjective experience into coherent,

persuasive narratives, inevitably draw on their culture’s repertoire of powerful and familiar stories. The study focuses first on Henry Ward Beecher’s notorious 1875 trial for adultery, then on a group of cases in which late 19th-century American women, newly “liberated” by the Married Women’s Property Acts, became themselves criminal conversation plaintiffs in cases against their husbands’ mistresses.

Laura Korobkin is a Lecturer in the Department of History and Literature at Harvard University and a Fellow at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College.



Janaki Nair

Carol G. Lederer Pembroke Fellow

Project: *Modernity, Patriarchy, and Law: Mysore, 1850–1940*

Janaki Nair came to the Pembroke Center after a year in Bangalore, India, where she collaborated with the National Law School of India University in an attempt to devise texts for law students on the historical relationship between law and gender in colonial India. Her project at the Pembroke Center examines the relationship between law and modernity in the colonial Indian context with reference to a series of legal initiatives of the princely state of Mysore between 1890 and 1940. She looks at how the relationship foregrounded the position of women within and outside families and enabled the development of new forms of female subjectivity. This work forms a part of a larger project of tracing

the relationship between state power, nationalist modernity, and subaltern consciousness in modern India.

Janaki Nair is a Research Fellow at the Madras Institute of Development Studies in India.



Sylvia Schafer

Project: *Children in Moral Danger: Governing the Family in Third Republic France*

Through an examination of how the new categories of “moral abandonment” and the “child in moral danger” were codified in law in 1889, Schafer’s project explores the articulation of family law and its field of operation in later nineteenth century France. Schafer argues that the 1889 law was the object of continual and contestatory interpretation, which drew upon and reinscribed an array of highly gendered and historically specific normative definitions of the dangerous parent, the endangered child, and the protective state. In tracing the dynamics of reading and encoding at many levels of the early Third Republic’s juridical regime, Schafer shows how the “deviant” family was constructed as an appropriate object of state regulation under the new political order.

Sylvia Schafer teaches in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Visiting Scholars:

1993–94

Anita Allen

*Georgetown University Law
Center*

Jodie Z. Bernstein, Vice President,
WMX Technologies, Inc.
and

Nancy L. Buc

Buc Levitt and Beardsley

Drucilla Cornell

Cardozo Law School

Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer

Susan Hirsch, *Anthropology,*
Wesleyan University

Barbara Johnson

English, Harvard University

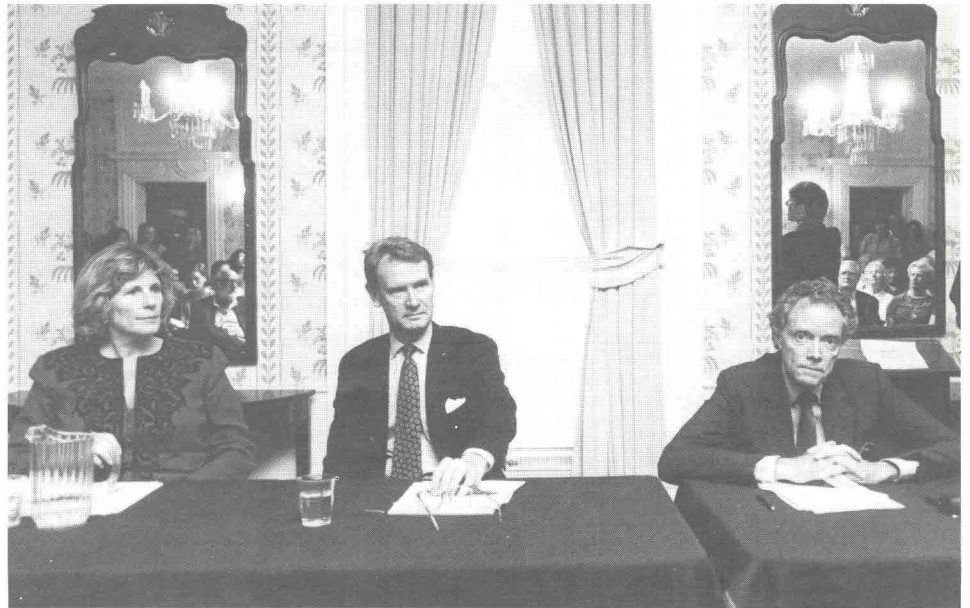
Susan Ball Lecturer

Richard Wasserman

*Philosophy, University of
California, Santa Cruz.*

Other Events of 1993-94

As a coda to its year of research on "Art in the Age of Difference," the Center presented a panel discussion on "Art Institutions in the Twenty-first Century." Panelists were: **J. Carter Brown**, former director of the National Gallery; **Agnes Gund**, president of the Museum of Modern Art; and **Roger Mandel**, president of the Rhode Island School of Design. J. Carter Brown has been a member of the Brown Corporation since 1992; Agnes Gund since 1990.



Art Institutions in the Twenty-first Century panelists: 1-1 Agnes Gund, Roger Mandel, J. Carter Brown

Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor

Nancy Armstrong, Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor, gave an inaugural lecture, "Why Daughters Die: The Cultural Logic of American Sentimentalism." Professor Armstrong, who came to the chair in 1993, is a member of the departments of Comparative Literature and English, and of the Center in Modern Culture and Media. Her books include *Desire and Domestic Fiction: A Political History of the Novel* and, with Leonard Tennenhouse, *The Imaginary Puritan: Literature, Intellectual Labor, and the Origins of Personal Life*.



Nancy Armstrong

The Future of Women's Studies

A panel of faculty from Brown and Wesleyan Universities discussed "The Future of Women's Studies Nationally and Internationally." Wesleyan faculty participants were **Ann du Cille**, English and Afro-American Studies; and **Brigitte Young**, Government; Brown faculty were **Nancy Armstrong**, English, Comparative Literature, Modern Culture and Media; **Anne Fausto-Sterling**, Biology and Medicine; and **Lynne Davidman**, Sociology and Judaic Studies.

1993-94 Roundtable: March 18-19, 1994

Marks of Gender and the Crisis of Legal Forms

Invited participants:

Marie Ashe
Suffolk Law School

Marianne Constable
Department of Rhetoric,
UC Berkeley

Wai Chee Dimock
Department of English,
Brandeis University

Martha Albertson Fineman
Columbia University School of
Law

Prabhu Mohapatra
Program of Agrarian Studies,
Yale University

Janaki Nair
History,
Pembroke Center

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**differences:
A Journal of Feminist
Cultural Studies**

Naomi Schor, *Duke University*
Elizabeth Weed
Editors

Steven Evans
Assistant Editor

John Marx
Editorial Assistant

differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies, affiliated with the Pembroke Center, is published three times a year by Indiana University Press.

Volume 6, Numbers 2-3
*More Gender Trouble:
Feminism Meets Queer Theory*

Interviews
Judith Butler
Against Proper Objects

Rosi Braidotti with Judith Butler
Feminism By Any Other Name

Gayle Rubin with Judith Butler
Sexual Traffic

Biddy Martin
*Extraordinary Homosexuals and the
Fear of Being Ordinary*

Evelynn Hammonds
*Black (W)holes and the Geometry of
Black Female Sexuality*

Kim Michasiw
Camp, Masculinity, Masquerade

Trevor Hope
*Melancholic Modernity: The
Hom(m)osexual Symptom
and the Homosocial Corpse*

Responses
Rosi Braidotti
Revisiting Male Thanatica

Trevor Hope
*The "Returns" of Cartography:
Mapping Identity-In(-)Difference*

Carole-Anne Tyler
Passing
Elizabeth Weed
The More Things Change

Elizabeth Grosz
*The Labors of Love. Analyzing Perverse
Desire: An Interrogation of Teresa de
Lauretis's The Practice of Love*

Response
Teresa de Lauretis
Habit Changes

Volume 7, Number 1
Universalism

Ernesto Laclau
*Subject of Politics, Politics of
the Subject*

Naomi Schor
French Feminism Is a Universalism

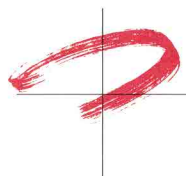
Joan Scott
*Universalism and the History of
Feminism*

Anthony Arnone, Anne Menke,
Steven Evans, and Neil Lazarus
The Necessity of Universalism

David Palumbo-Lui
Universalisms and Minority Culture

Danielle Haase-Dubosc
*The View From Here: Or Living in
the Gap Between the Different Takes
on the World*

Bruce Robbins
*The Weird Heights: On Cosmopolitan-
ism, Feeling, and Power*



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