



Pembroke Center

FOR TEACHING
AND RESEARCH
ON WOMEN

BROWN UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1998

1999–2000 Pembroke Center Research Topic:

The Culture of the Market

The theme for 1999–00 is "The Culture of the Market." The collapse of the socialist economies that offered themselves as alternatives to market economies and the advent of "globalization" as the dominant paradigm for thinking economies and societies have effectively placed the "market" at the center of contemporary discourse. The triumph of the free market is visible well beyond the precincts of economic calculation. Civic life conforms to market assumptions; the public sphere shrinks as its functions are privatized and assigned economic values; the metaphor of the marketplace is at work in every field of debate. The seminar will consider the interplay between the culture of the market and the market as culture. What forms of "culture" do market economies underwrite? How do they oppose high and low culture, commodify cultural objects and shape the uneasy relation of the public to the private? How does the market function as culture? What cultural practices does it engender? And how does culture make a market? Where does cultural difference emerge within the paradigm of the market itself?

Pembroke Seminar

The seminar is an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural research seminar that meets weekly throughout the academic year. Members include Pembroke Center post-doctoral fellows, Brown



faculty members, research affiliates, Visiting Scholars, and selected graduate and undergraduate students.

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.

Pembroke Center roundtable on "The Limits of Gender." From left, Artemis A.W. and Martha S. Joukowsky Pembroke Fellow, Charles Shepherdson; Carol G. Lederer Pembroke Fellow, Katherine Rudolph; Affiliated Scholar Jean Walton, University of Rhode Island; Nancy L. Buc Pembroke Fellow, Teresa Barnes.



From left, Joan Wallach Scott, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study; Wendy Brown, Women's Studies and Legal Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz.

1996-97 Roundtable on "The Limits of Gender"



From left, Lewis Gordon, Afro-American Studies, Religious Studies, and Modern Culture and Media, Brown; Lin Chun, Government, London School of Economics.

Visiting Scholars 1996-97

Judith Butler
Rhetoric
University of California, Berkeley
Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer

Rey Chow
Comparative Literature
University of California, Irvine
Susan Ball Lecturer

Renata Salecl
Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1996-97 Roundtable The Limits of Gender March 6-7, 1997

Invited participants:

Willy Apollon
Philosophy
Laval University; Psychoanalysis, GIFRIC.

Wendy Brown
Women's Studies and Legal Studies
University of California, Santa Cruz

Lin Chun
Government
London School of Economics

Drucilla Cornell
School of Law
Rutgers University

Henrietta Moore
Anthropology
London School of Economics

Renata Salecl
Faculty of Law, Ljubljana, Slovenia and New School for Social Research

Joan Wallach Scott
School of Social Science
Institute for Advanced Study



Teresa Ann Barnes

*Ph.D. in African economic history,
University of Zimbabwe
Nancy L. Buc Pembroke Fellow*

Project: *Changing Ideological
Constructions of Parental Behavior in
20th-Century Southern Africa*

Barnes's project combines her training as an historian of the culture and economics of southern Africa with her interest in feminist theory. In her work on the changing roles of mothers and fathers, she looks at what makes a father different from a mother in southern African cultures; at what the different responsibilities, freedoms, and rights of mothers and fathers have been historically; and at the way roles change or remain the same in times of economic and social crisis. By analyzing the consistencies and fluctuations in various political, geographic, and economic situations, Barnes is able to consider the part that gender plays in relation to other factors in the lives of men and women in southern Africa.

Teresa Barnes teaches in the History Department at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa.



Charles Shepherdson

*Ph.D. in English, Vanderbilt University
Artemis A.W. and
Martha S. Joukowsky Fellow*

Project: *Vital Signs: Nature and Culture
in Psychoanalysis*

Charles Shepherdson's study of contemporary French psychoanalysis, "Vital Signs: Nature and Culture in Psychoanalysis," has three basic aims. It argues that the major concepts of psychoanalysis become distorted when they are interpreted through the nature/nurture debate (which has been the principal framework for the American reception of the "French Freud"); it seeks to introduce some clinical material into the discussion of psychoanalysis within the humanities; and it widens the canon by discussing, in addition to familiar figures (Freud, Lacan, Kristeva), the work of some analysts who are less well known in this country (Lemoine-Luccioni, Montrelay, Millot). The book is under contract for publication with Routledge (New York).

In 1998–99, Charles Shepherdson is a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.



Katherine Ulrike Annette Rudolph

*Ph.D. in Philosophy,
Johns Hopkins University
Carol G. Lederer Fellow*

Project: *This Body of My Dreams:
Descartes on Language and the Body*

This project considers the ways much contemporary feminist theory is paradoxically indebted to the seventeenth-century philosopher, Rene Descartes. In an effort to dislodge long-held notions of essential femininity – biology as destiny – feminists have given much attention to the "constructedness" of the body, vigorously underlining the arbitrary relationship between cultural meanings and the "body itself." This, Rudolph argues, is where such theories owe a debt to Descartes, who sees no natural relationship of any kind between "expression" (language and thought) and the body. In examining the tensions and not-fully rational elements in Descartes's work, this study poses fundamental questions about Western criticism's continued reliance on the Cartesian model. In pointing to Descartes's contribution to postmodern interest in linguistic constructivism, Rudolph also points to the discursive limits of the "body."

Katherine Rudolph is teaching in the Philosophy Department at SUNY, Stonybrook.

1997-98
**"Not in My Department:
 Disciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity, and Value"**



From left, Philip Gould, English Department, Brown; Amy Kaplan, English Department, Mount Holyoke College; Elizabeth Bryan, English Department, Brown; Philip Rosen, Modern Culture and Media, Brown.



Carol Clover, Department of Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley.



From left, Renea Henry, Ph.D. candidate in American Civilization, Brown; Pembroke Fellow Geraldine Heng.

**Visiting Scholars
 1997-98**

Joy James
Ethnic Studies
University of Colorado, Boulder
Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer

Henry Abelow
English
Wesleyan University
Susan Ball Lecturer

Lorraine Daston
*Director, Max Planck Institute for
 the History of Science in Berlin*
Pembroke Center Visiting Scholar

1997-98 Roundtable:
**Not in My Department:
 Disciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity,
 and Value**
March 27-28, 1998

Invited participants:

Carol Clover
Rhetoric
University of California, Berkeley
 Ruth Gilmore
Geography
University of California, Berkeley

Amy Kaplan
English
Mount Holyoke College

Saskia Sassen
*School of Architecture/
 Planning and Preservation*
Columbia University

David Wallace
English
University of Pennsylvania

James Scott
Agrarian Studies
Yale University



Geraldine Heng

*Ph.D. in English, Cornell University
Artemis A.W. and Martha S. Joukowsky
Pembroke Fellow*

Project: *Empire of Magic: Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy*

Heng's study offers an alternative genesis and genealogy for the 900-year-old literary genre of medieval romance. In contrast to received scholarship, Heng argues that the genre erupted in 12th-century England to negotiate the traumas of cannibalism committed by Latin crusaders in Syria in 1098 during the First Crusade – the transnational European military enterprise that resulted in the crusader colonies of the Levant. She reads the invention of the literary legend of King Arthur, in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* in 1130–9, as performing a cultural rescue to attenuate Latin Christian fears of self-pollution and monstrous self-conception, in a doctrinal era of sacred, Eucharistic cannibalism. At its inception, romance as cultural fantasy installs a vocabulary of gender and sexuality that is able to perform the real as the fantastical, and the fantastical as the real, – a vocabulary and syntax that serve the genre well through the Middle Ages and beyond.

Geraldine Heng is Assistant Professor of English, Medieval, and Women Studies at the University of Texas, Austin.



Jody S. Lester

*Ph.D. in American Studies,
Yale University
Carol G. Lederer Fellow*

Project: *The Social Production of Interdisciplinary Knowledge: A Theoretical Reading of Black Studies and Women's Studies as Cultural Texts*

Lester's study of interdisciplinarity draws on a range of works in Black cultural studies, feminist theory, postcolonial literary criticism, and cultural theory. She argues that academic programs in Black and Women's studies arose in part as a response to the demands of the civil rights and women's liberation movements, and that such programs were popular cultural "texts" used as the symbolic and actual conduits for passionate cultural utopian ideals of a more "liberated" society. The project then addresses the ways in which interdisciplinarity becomes enmeshed with these social visions and apprehensions, and contends that the cultural text of interdisciplinarity helped to manage mass social anxieties about race and gender in both "real" and metaphysical ways.

Jody Lester is currently an independent scholar in New York City.



Alys Eve Weinbaum

*Ph.D. in English, Columbia University
Nancy L. Buc Pembroke Fellow*

Project: *Genealogies of Race and Reproduction in Trans-Atlantic Modern Thought*

This study is concerned with reproduction as a highly condensed sign that performs ideological work in an array of epistemological systems – feminism, Marxism, evolutionary theory, and psychoanalysis – that have been considered central to the articulation of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century modernism. Through an analysis of the lineaments of the struggles waged over the meaning of reproduction, it contends that reproductive thinking is constitutive of forms of social domination that are founded on the idea that "racial purity" can be reproduced and on attendant ideas of "racial superiority," on the one hand, and "racial degeneration," on the other. It further argues that the complicity of race and reproduction in trans-Atlantic modern thought remains a foundational aspect of current knowledge production, including various types of contemporary feminism. Without a clear assessment of what might be called the "race/reproduction bind," anti-racist feminist theory and practice can only remain illusory.

Alys Eve Weinbaum is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Washington.

Women's Studies Lecture

In September, Carolyn Dean, Professor of History at Brown University, gave the second annual Women's Studies Lecture for the 1996-97 year. Her talk, "Politics of Pornography in Historical Perspective: France 1918-1940", is part of a forthcoming book focusing on the changing meanings of pornography in France from the mid-nineteenth century through 1940.

The 1997-98 Women's Studies Lecture was "On Growing Up Motherless" by Associate Professor of Sociology Lynn Davidman. Davidman's book, *Lives Interrupted: Growing Up Motherless*, is forthcoming from the University of California Press.

Graduate Student Conference

The second interdisciplinary graduate student conference was held at Brown February 28 through March 2, 1997. The focus was "Feminist Work" and included video screenings, art exhibits, and readings, as well as panels. Funded by the Pembroke Center, the conference was planned and run by an interdisciplinary group of Brown graduate students. Participating graduate students came from Columbia University, Rutgers University, New York University, Boston College, University of Alberta, York University, University of California-Berkeley, and Oxford University.



Left to right: Jennifer Fleissner, 1998 recipient of the Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the area of women's studies; Dana Edell, 1998 recipient of the Helen Terry MacLeod Prize, awarded annually for an outstanding honors thesis from any department on issues related to women and gender; and Katherine Cook, 1998 recipient of the Joan Wallach Scott Prize, awarded annually for an outstanding honors thesis in Women's Studies.

Marcia Brennan (right) with Professor Carolyn Dean of the History Department. Brennan was the 1997 recipient of the Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize. The Joan Wallach Scott Prize for 1997 was awarded to Rose-Ellen Lessy, and the Helen Terry MacLeod Prize to Emma Wasserman.





Guests at the 1998 reception for women's studies graduates, honors recipients, and prize winners.

differences:

*A Journal of Feminist
Cultural Studies*

Naomi Schor, Yale University
Elizabeth Weed
Ellen Rooney
Editors

Lloyd Pratt
Managing Editor

differences, affiliated with the
Pembroke Center, is published three
times a year by Indiana University Press.
differences welcomes submis-
sions for its open issues. Please send
two copies of manuscript to:
differences
Box 1958
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

For subscriptions, contact:
Journals Division
Indiana University Press
601 N. Morton
Bloomington, IN 47404

Current Issues:

Women's Studies on the Edge (9.3)

Joan Wallach Scott, Guest Editor
Women's Studies on the Edge.
Introduction

Leora Auslander
*Do Women's + Feminist + Men's +
Lesbian and Gay + Queer Studies =
Gender Studies?*

Beverly Guy-Sheftall with
Evelynn M. Hammonds
Whither Black Women's Studies.
Interview

Shirley J. Yee
The "Women" in Women's Studies
Afsaneh Najmabadi
*Teaching and Research in Unavailable
Intersections*

Wendy Brown
The Impossibility of Women's Studies
Biddy Martin
Success and Its Failures

Kathryn Cook and Renea Henry
with Joan Wallach Scott
The Edge. Interview

Eating and Disorder (10.1)

Erin Soros
Giving Death

Tina Chanter
*Tragic Dislocations: Antigone's
Modern Theatrics*

Geraldine Heng
*Cannibalism, the First Crusade, and
the Genesis of Medieval Romance*

Stephanie Smith
Suckers

Ona Nierenberg
*A Hunger for Science: Psychoanalysis
and the "Gay Gene"*

Charles Shepherdson
The Gift of Love and the Debt of Desire

Pembroke Center Advisory Board

National

Joan Wallach Scott
Institute for Advanced Study

Judith Butler
University of California, Berkeley

Hazel Carby
Yale University

Ruth Ekstrom
Educational Testing Service

Brown

Mari Jo Buhle
American Civilization

Carolyn Dean
History

Mary Ann Doane
Modern Culture and Media

Ann Fausto-Sterling
Biology and Medicine

Paget Henry
Sociology

Robert Scholes
English

Pembroke Center

Ellen Rooney
Director

Elizabeth Weed
Associate Director

Barbara Anton
Coordinator of Alumnae Affairs

Elizabeth Barboza
Coordinating Secretary



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