

the pembroke center

FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

Technology and Representation

2001-02 Pembroke Center Research Topic

In 2001-02, the Pembroke Seminar will explore the ongoing saturation of culture by technologies of imaging, information, and computation. We will look at the impact technologies such as printing, photography, phonography, film, television, and digital media have on processes of representation, on ideas of presence and absence, contingency, accessibility, and cultural value. Research projects may focus on how new technologies of representation affect concepts of repetition, reproduction, originality, and authenticity and how they influence ideas of space, time, and knowledge. Technology always seems to raise the issue of the limits of the human. The seminar will ask what are the relations between technology and our conceptualization of the body; is the gendering of technology invariably associated with hypermasculinity; and how do new technologies affect our ability to image the human body. The apparent capacity of photographic and electronic media to represent anything and everything raises issues of memory, history, and the archive. How do we decide what to save, to store? Technologies of printing, photography, and so forth have been connected to the emergence of nationalism, colonialism, and



imperialism. The seminar will consider what are the technologies of ethnography and how does technology contribute to conceptualizations of the "primitive" and "underdevelopment." The seminar will also welcome research on how technology and its potential for collapse is linked to pervasive anxieties about crisis and catastrophe.

For a full description of the research topic as well as information about faculty affiliation, see the Center Web site at http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Pembroke_Center or contact the Center at 401 863-2643 or through Elizabeth_Barboza@brown.edu.

Pembroke Seminar

This interdisciplinary seminar meets weekly throughout the academic year. Participants include Pembroke Center postdoctoral fellows, Brown faculty research fellows, graduate research fellows, other selected students, and faculty research affiliates from other institutions.

Roundtable participants from left to right: Rey Chow, Comparative Literature, Modern Culture and Media, Brown University; Lingzhen Wang, East Asia Studies, Brown University; Mary Ann O'Donnell, Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Fellow; and Frances Goldscheider, Sociology, Brown University



Roundtable participants Janet Abu-Lughod, Sociology and Historical Studies, Graduate Faculty, The New School for Social Research; and Giovanni Arrighi, Sociology, The Johns Hopkins University

Roundtable, 1999-2000 No Globalization without Representation

March 10-11, 2000

The Pembroke Center Roundtable considered the topic of globalization through the prism of representation in all of its senses – as political representation, as practice of signification, as cultural form. Participants discussed such questions as: what kinds of “worlds” go “global”? Who can speak as a representation of the global, and what assumptions about political representation are at work when the figure of the global dominates discourse? What modes of representation do the theorists, champions, and critics of globalization adopt to press their analyses? What modes of cultural production – of cultural exchange, intellectual property, and commodification – does the narrative of

globalization engender, celebrate, and exclude?

“Globalization” concentrates the question of the culture of the market in a single term that refers simultaneously to economic, political, ecological, technological, social, and cultural developments. In attempting to discover what is achieved by such a concentration, participants examined the historical contingencies of globalization: which groups – nations, states, classes, races, regions, genders, NGOs – represent themselves as “global”; how are women, consumers, laborers, investors, citizens, and traders represented by globalization; how is globalization related to the commodification of culture, intellectual property, and representation itself; and many other related topics.



Roundtable participants June Nash, Anthropology, Graduate School and City College, City College of New York (left); and Rosemary Coombe, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

Invited participants:

Janet Abu-Lughod
*Sociology and Historical Studies
Graduate Faculty
The New School for Social
Research*

Giovanni Arrighi
*Sociology
The Johns Hopkins University*

Jean-Christophe Agnew
*Professor of American Studies
Yale University*

Timothy Burke
*History
Swarthmore College*

Rosemary Coombe
*Anthropology and Faculty of Law
University of Toronto*

June Nash
*Anthropology
Graduate Center and City College
City University of New York*

Visiting Scholars 1999-2000:

Jennifer Wicke
*English
University of Virginia
Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer*

Mary Poovey
*Center for the History of the
Production of Knowledge
New York University
Susan Ball Lecturer*

Arif Dirlik
*History
Duke University*

1999–2000

The Culture of the Market

The Pembroke Research Center for 1999–2000 considered the complex interplay between the culture of the market and the market as a form of culture. Participants examined the forms of “culture” that characterize market economics: the opposition between high and low culture; the commodification of culture in the arts, the media, and personal life; the uneasy relation of the public to the private; and the popular narrative of competition.

1999-2000 Postdoctoral Fellows



Lara Kriegel

Ph.D. in History

The Johns Hopkins University

Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: *Britain by Design: Markets, Material Culture, and the Nation in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*

Lara Kriegel's project chronicles the mid-nineteenth-century development of London's South Kensington Museum (later renamed the Victoria and Albert Museum) in order to recouple the issues of industrialization and cultural formation, issues that have been severed by contemporary historical scholarship. The opening of the Museum represented the culmination of efforts on the part of artists, manufacturers, “lady journalists,” and Members of Parliament to improve what they called “the public taste in design.” Their concerns about the poor taste of such things as wallpapers, calicoes, and pottery belied a larger set of anxieties about the social and cultural effects of the mechanization of production, the growth of a nineteenth-century global marketplace, and the increasing democratization of consumption in Britain and abroad. To address these concerns, the reformers set about educating artisans and strengthening copyright legislation in addition to collecting and displaying “tasteful” products in the Museum. Kriegel emphasizes the shift from educating laborers to reforming consumers and the transition from artisanal training to spectacular display. She demonstrates the ways that concerns about the market, production, and consumption come to be expressed as concerns about culture and a critique of aesthetics.

Lara Kriegel is Assistant Professor of History at Florida International University.



Mary Ann O'Donnell
Ph.D. in Anthropology
Rice University
Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: *Guanxi Capitalism?*
Colonial and Cold War Legacies
in South China

Mary Ann O'Donnell's research looks at the cultural politics of globalization in Shenzhen, the oldest and largest of China's Economic Zones. Located just north of Hong Kong, Shenzhen was established as a social laboratory, where the Chinese leadership could test various policies before implementing them throughout the country. These policies ranged from signing international trade treaties to restructuring local government. Significantly, Hong Kong was both the model for this selective transformation and the means of its realization. By tracking how "Hong Kong" is lived in Shenzhen, O'Donnell explores the dialectic of theoretical speculation about globalization and the practice of everyday life, arguing that "globalization" is a strategy for imagining, experiencing, and negotiating the post-Cold War era. Her theoretical point of departure is the anthropological insight that human behavior is cultural and always embedded in symbolic regimes. She examines how specific forms of Shenzhen culture – architecture, history, kinship, gossip, and theater – mediate changing articulations of the relationship between the state and global capital. By problematizing "the global" as an aspect of specific urban cultures, she draws attention to the ideological stakes in declaring ours a global world.

Mary Ann O'Donnell is currently working as a nonprofit financial analyst and completing a book manuscript.



Andrea Volpe
Ph.D. in History
Rutgers University
Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky
Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: *National Bodies: Carte de Visite*
Portrait Photographs and the Politics of Visual
Culture in the United States, 1860-1873

Andrea Volpe uses *cartes de visite* – the first form of commercial portrait photography capable of reproduction in multiple paper prints – as a visual and cultural lens through which Americans came to terms with, and understood, the widespread social, political, and economic changes of the 1860s. *Cartes de visite* (literally, "visiting cards") arrived in the United States from France on the eve of the American Civil War. Although the little portraits were exchanged and collected among family and friends, they were not used as visiting cards. That the *cartes* were common and ordinary prevented their being the subject of a critical, scholarly study; yet it is because so many people were drawn to them that they are revealing historical artifacts. Volpe argues that these images should be seen as active agents whose power of visual representation allowed Americans to see and understand social and economic change through visual culture. As a result, she makes new connections between popular, commercial photographs and questions about value, exchange, collecting, and accumulation that resonated with the political and economic construction of the market and the nation in the United States.

Andrea Volpe is teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Visiting Scholar Seminar Participants 1999-2000

Nancy Austin
History of Industrial Design
Rhode Island School of Design

Gail Bederman
History
Notre Dame University

Christy Burns
English
College of William and Mary

Ashmita Khasnabish
English Literature

Patricia Mills
Political Science
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

Marguerite Murphy
English
Bentley College

Monique Roelofs
Philosophy
Bryant College

Faculty Research Fellows

Dian Kriz
History of Art
Edith Goldthwaite Miller Faculty
Fellow

Lingzhen Wang
East Asian Studies

Graduate Student Fellows

Annette Van
English

Sandor Vari
History

Alexandra Zafiroglu
Anthropology

Twentieth Anniversary Colloquium

This spring, the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its founding with a colloquium on April 20, 2001. Papers will be presented by the current and former Nancy Duke Lewis Professors:

Nancy Armstrong
*English, Comparative Literature,
Modern Culture and Media
Brown University*

Naomi Schor
*French
Yale University*

Joan Wallach Scott
*School of Social Sciences,
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton University
Founding Director of the
Pembroke Center*

and by three former postdoctoral fellows:

Rey Chow
*Comparative Literature and
Modern Culture and Media
Brown University*

Jenny Sharpe
*English
University of California,
Los Angeles*

Charles Shepherdson
*English
State University of New York,
Albany*

New Center Director Appointed

Elizabeth Weed, formerly Associate Director of the Pembroke Center, was appointed Director on July 1. Weed became Associate Director at the Center's founding in 1981 and served as Acting Director in 1985-87, 1992-93, and 1996-97. She succeeds Ellen Rooney, Pembroke Center Director for seven years.

Under Rooney's leadership, the Center reached its endowment goal of \$3 million in the fall of 1999. Among her many contributions to the Center's research programs, Rooney established Faculty Research Fellowships, which enable Brown faculty to participate in the Pembroke Research Seminar, and Graduate Research Fellowships for graduate student participants. Rooney returns to full-time teaching and research in the departments of English and Modern Culture and Media. She continues as an editor of *differences* along with Naomi Schor of Yale University and Elizabeth Weed.

Pembroke Center Prizes, 2000

The Joan Wallach Scott Prize for an outstanding thesis by a Women's Studies concentrator was awarded to **Stephanie Ann Sterling** for her thesis, "Sex, Violence, or Victim: Foucault, MacKinnon, and the Civil Rights Remedy of the Violence Against Women Act." **Lindsay Edwards Kelley** won the Helen Terry MacLeod Prize for an outstanding thesis on women or gender in a concentration other than Women's Studies. Her area of concentration was in Art Semiotics, and her thesis was titled "The Spiritual Reading: Mysticism in the Twentieth Century." The Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the area of feminist studies was awarded to **Kirsten Marthe Lentz**, American Civilization, for her thesis, "Television as Bad Objects: Feminism, Race, and the Politics of the Sign of the 1970s Television and Film."

Postdoctoral Fellows 2000-01 The Question of Emotion

Postdoctoral Fellows

Rogaia Abusharaf
Ph.D. in Anthropology
University of Connecticut, 1994
Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow
Project title: Rage and Civilization: Understanding British Responses to Female Circumcision in Northern Sudan

Margherita Long
Ph.D. in East Asian Studies
Princeton University, 1998
Artemis A. W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow
Project title: Emotion, Cognition, and Rationality

Marianne Janack
Ph.D. in Philosophy
Syracuse University, 1996
Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow
Project title: Uses of Perversion. Tanizski and the Sex of Fascist Japan

Faculty Research Fellows

Carolyn Dean
History
Edwin and Shirley Seave Fellow

Bernard Reginster
Philosophy
Edith Goldthwaite Miller Fellow

Inge Wimmers
French Studies
Chesler-Mallow Fellow

Graduate Student Fellows

Mai Al-Nakib
English

Uriah Kriegel
Philosophy

Sara Bergstresser
Anthropology

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Brown

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*English, Comparative Literature,
and Modern Culture and Media*

Ray Chow
*Comparative Literature, Modern
Culture and Media*

Madhu Dubey
English, Afro-American Studies

Carolyn Dean
History

Anne Fausto-Sterling
Biology and Medicine
Paget Henry
Sociology; Afro-American Studies

David Konstan
Classics, Comparative Literature

Karen Newman
Comparative Literature, English

Ellen Rooney
*English, Modern Culture and
Media*

Nancy Rosenblum
Political Science

Pembroke Center

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Center Manager

differences:

*A Journal of Feminist
Cultural Studies*

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Elizabeth Weed
Ellen Rooney
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