

Pembroke Center

for TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

Markets and Bodies in Transnational Perspective

Kay B. Warren, Charles B. Tillinghast Jr. '32 Professor of International Studies and Professor of Anthropology, will lead the 2009-2010 Pembroke Seminar. The seminar will look at global flows of people and technology that involve reimagining the body and transforming what it means to be human. It aims to trace patterns of global flows, and responses—international and local—to the tensions and uncertainties they unleash, seeking to understand the changing ways bodies are commodified and the individual experiences and ideological constructions of these processes. Scholars will explore sites of anxiety that arise when innovations in global labor markets and biotechnologies appear to push ahead of the law. How are these sites moralized and politicized? How are international norms and regulatory strategies formulated to define rapidly moving currents of change? This inquiry calls for a variety of disciplinary perspectives and case studies from different parts of the world.

Since these innovations are occurring in contexts of neoliberal regimes of governance, we will consider policies that have the effect of projecting personal responsibility, self-regulation, and choice onto individuals as rational actors, which creates routinized sites of monitoring and intervention. What is obscured in the focus on decontextualized individual bodies—the migrant, the trafficking victim, the consumer of one's own genetic information? When do local narratives reassert the primacy of the social and economic contexts of people's lives and their wider communities? Looking at markets as particular historicized innovations whose complex social and political fields mediate their development, we will examine two distinctive domains of markets and bodies: the simultaneous recruitment and deterrence of migrant labor across borders and regions; and the simultaneous normalization and rejection of human bodies with the global circulation of public health and biotechnological regimes. For more information, please visit our website at www.pembrokecenter.org.

Gender, Modern China, and the Transnational Humanities

March 13, 2009



(L-R) Amy Dooling of Connecticut College, Haiping H. Yan of Cornell University, Rey Chow of Brown University, Gail Hershatler of University of California, Santa Cruz, Lingzhen Wang of Brown University, Zheng Wang of University of Michigan, and Chengzhou He of Nanjing University.

In conjunction with the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities, the Pembroke Center, along with East Asian Studies and the Cogut Center for the Humanities, sponsored a series of lectures and a colloquium on the question of gender in modern China.

While twentieth-century China has long been described as a century of revolution, Western feminist scholars of China have, over the past twenty years quite

dramatically changed their views of the relationship of Chinese women to the revolution, shifting from a fascinated admiration of women's elevated status in socialist China in the early 1970s to a pronouncement of the failure of the feminist cause in the Chinese communist revolution of the mid-1980s. This radical change in perception has spurred many questions. Was there a

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Postdoctoral Fellows



Sandy Alexandre
Nancy L. Buc
Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in English,
University of Virginia, 2007

Project: “The Lynching Diaspora: The Strange Fruits of Violence”

Alexandre’s project analyzes how what she calls “the ecology of lynching violence” necessarily informs the ways in which black-American artists think about black urbanization while reappraising the popularity of the pastoral idyll in American literature and culture. Alexandre’s work addresses some of the following questions: What does it ultimately mean that “strange fruits” are unnatural to the (American) natural environment? For blackness, even as it is re-imagined as so many fruit, is still dubbed “strange”—is indeed alien to pastoral accouterments. What ideologies do these fruits ultimately help to fortify in their very uselessness as fruits—indeed, by their dying? What role has the invocation of American pastoral ideology played in shaming lynching apologists? Alexandre is also at work on a second book project, *Race against Time*, which looks at the ways we might transform our understanding of “race” if we examine how the very practice of race changes with age—both biographically and generationally.



Jason Lindquist
Carol G. Lederer
Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in English Literature and
Victorian Studies,
Indiana University, 2008

Project: “Tropical Surfeit, the Observing Subject, and the Text, 1773–1871”

Lindquist considers the relationships between the scientific travel narrative and a variety of other European representational modes. In particular, he argues for the emergence of a distinctive “rhetoric of excess” in the tropical travel narrative, its dispersion into fiction and poetry, and its eventual effect on constructions of the ideal Victorian observer. Lindquist concludes that the writing of travelers such as Alexander von Humboldt, Charles Darwin, and Harriet Martineau influenced British thinking on a range of topics from aesthetics to gender to imperial and colonial relations. In scientific circles, in particular, encounters with an overwhelming multitude of unfamiliar details became ritualized, encoded in the scientific process by John Tyndall and others as a necessary preliminary to scientific insight.



Astrid Schrader
Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky
Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in History of Consciousness,
University of California,
Santa Cruz, 2008

Project: “Responsibility and the Politics of Temporality in Toxic Microbiology”

Schrader asks how one might think differently about responsibility in scientific practices. Based on a comparative analysis of experiments involved in an ongoing scientific-political controversy over the toxicity of a fish-killing microorganism, Schrader’s project looks at how criteria for what counts as evidence for or against toxicity get built into scientific experiments. Taking seriously that science is a material practice to which not only humans contribute, Schrader proposes a notion of responsibility that is attentive to multiple “histories” and “agencies,” and that underpins objectivity in science rather than interfering with it. Moving beyond the investigation of how social values influence the production of scientific facts, Schrader’s project highlights the ways ethical and political concerns become necessarily part of the objective referent in scientific experimentation as soon as more-than-human agencies are taken into account.



Lisa Uddin
Pembroke Center
Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in Visual and
Cultural Studies,
University of Rochester, 2008

Project: “Race, Gender, and Species in American Zoo Renewal”

Uddin examines the racial and gendered dynamics involved in the representation of animals. Focusing on U.S. zoos of the 1960s and 1970s, she traces the simultaneous turns during that period to wildlife conservation, on the one hand, and urban and suburban development, on the other. Looking at the National Zoo and the San Diego Zoo, Uddin studies the ways zoo designers, directors, and promoters struggled to construct naturalistic displays of breeding wildlife as displays of normative civic life. She asks how and to what extent endangered zoo animals became surrogates in the mid-twentieth-century production of American whiteness, and considers the implications for posthumanist theory and practice.

Pembroke Seminar

Visions of Nature: Constructing the Cultural Other

Leslie Bostrom, Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow and Associate Professor of Visual Art, is the director of the 2008–09 Pembroke Seminar. This year's seminar, "Visions of Nature: Constructing the Cultural Other," explores representations of nature cross culturally and historically. Those in the West have an uneasy and contradictory relationship with the natural world, being of it as animals yet simultaneously observing, consuming, and attempting to control it. Through the visual arts and popular media, through science, literature, and philosophy, through landscaping and architec-

ture, humans represent their relationships with nature. Nature can be a kind of dark mirror, reflecting back one's desires and fears, loaded with contradictions and colonial yearnings. People consume it and attempt to control it, yet revere it and attempt to preserve it. The seminar explores the ways such ambivalences have driven Western scientific thinking as well as its social and cultural aspirations. In doing so, it looks at what is particularly "Western" about Western nature.

For a full seminar description, please visit:
www.pembrokecenter.org

2008-2009 Pembroke Center Lectures



Hank Randall

Ursula Heise

*Associate Professor of English and
Director of the Program in Modern
Thought and Literature*
Stanford University
"The Surrealist Microscope"

February 10, 2009



Donna Goodnow

Stefan Helmreich

Associate Professor of Anthropology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
"Alien Ocean: Life at Sea"

March 17, 2009



Hank Randall

Lorraine Daston

Director
*Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science*
*Visiting Professor of Social
Thought and History*
University of Chicago
"The Naturalistic Fallacy Revisited"

April 7, 2009

FACULTY FELLOWS

Leslie Bostrom

VISUAL ART
Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty
Research Fellow

Wendy Chun

MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA
Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow

Project: "Programmed Visions:
Software, DNA, Race"

Peter Heywood

BIOLOGY
Pembroke Center Faculty Fellow

Project: "Values of Nature in
Representations of the Quagga"

Nancy Jacobs

HISTORY
Edith Goldthwaite Miller Faculty Fellow

Project: "Birds in Africa: Power over
People, Power among People"



Hank Randall

Graduate Fellows Pooja Rangan and Hillary Kaplan

GRADUATE FELLOWS

Hilary Kaplan

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Pembroke Center Graduate Fellow

Project: "The Voice of Nature and
Contemporary Poetry"

Pooja Rangan

MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA
Pembroke Center Graduate Fellow

Project: "Traces of Nature:
Archiving Subjectivity at the Limits
of Ethnography"

Gender, Modern China, and the Transnational Humanities



Lectures

February 20 ♦ 4:00pm ♦ Smith-Buonanno 201

"The Gendered Dimensions of Nation-Building in Rural Sichuan during World War II: A Local Perspective"

Chris Gilmartin
Northeastern University

March 6 ♦ 4:00pm ♦ Wilson 102

"From Tie Guniang to Dagongmei: Cultural Representations of Female Labor in Post-Socialist China."

Amy Dooling
Connecticut College

Sponsored by East Asian Studies



Colloquium

March 13, 2009 ♦ 12:45-5:30 pm ♦ Pembroke Hall 305

Moderator: Lingzhen Wang
Brown University

"Rhythms of the Unreal: Ding Ling Story and the Chinese Revolutions"

Haiping H. Yan
Cornell University

Discussant: Roy Chow
Brown University

"Revealing Erasures: Visual Representation of Women of China (1949-2009)"

Wang Zheng
University of Michigan

Discussant: Chengzhou He
Nanjing University

"Gender, Memory, and China's Collective Past"

Gail Hershatzer
University of California Santa Cruz

Discussant: Mark Swislocki
Brown University

Sponsored by Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women,
Cogut Center for the Humanities, East Asian Studies, Africana Studies, International Affairs

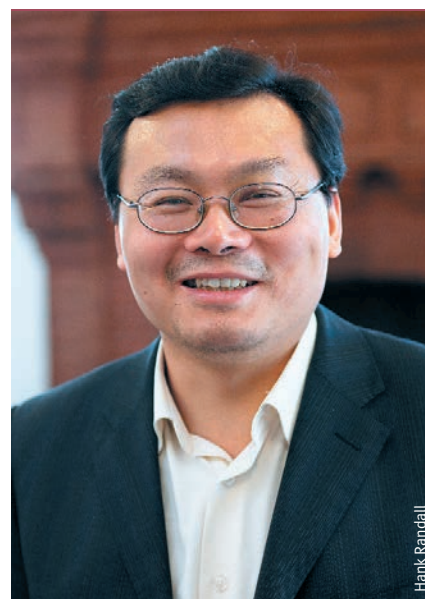
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gender revolution in China's long twentieth century? How do we understand the state feminism practiced in the communist revolution and in socialist China? Could Chinese women's stories and writing help us comprehend revolution and agency differently?

The changing perceptions that sparked such questions have, in turn, stimulated critical reassessments of the ideological and political assumptions underpinning Western feminism itself: feminist scholars worldwide have had to reframe their political and intellectual endeavors in light of the entrenchment of transnational capitalism and international media. Taking into account the long history of globalization and modernity, they have examined, in particular, the complicitous role of feminism in reinforcing power structures in both national and global settings. Challenging the long-existing modes of colonialist/neocolonialist and cold-war knowledge production, some feminist scholars have articulated a transnational feminist prac-

tice that interrogates universalized concepts of subject, gender, and history and calls for critical attention to historical specificities, local cultural dynamics, and political contingencies in dealing with ever changing and multilevel patriarchal collaborations.

It is in this context that a group of leading scholars gathered at Brown to reassess gender and revolution in modern China, reevaluate different political and feminist legacies, and develop new transnational approaches that take into consideration different cultures, histories, and political significations.



Hank Randall

Chengzhou He, Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanjing University, spent a month in residence at Brown as a Cogut Center Distinguished Fellow. On March 10, he delivered a lecture on "Gaze, Performativity, and Gender Trouble in *Farewell My Concubine*."

In February, **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** delivered the inaugural lecture for the Brown initiative *Towards a Global Humanities*. Spivak's lecture, "The Stakes of a World Literature," was jointly sponsored by Africana Studies, the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, the Cogut Center for the Humanities, and International Affairs.

In March, **Ratna Kapur**, director of the Center for Feminist Legal Research in New Delhi, spoke as part of the South Asia Speaker Series. Kapur's lecture, "Hecklers to Power? The Waning Tools of Liberal Rights and Challenges to Feminism in South Asia," was sponsored by International Affairs and the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women.

Louise Lamphere Visiting Assistant Professorship in Gender Studies

In the fall of 2009, the Department of Anthropology and the Pembroke Center will be pleased to welcome the inaugural Louise Lamphere Visiting Assistant Professor in Gender Studies.

This visiting assistant professorship is made possible by anthropologist Louise Lamphere's major gift to Brown University in support of gender studies in cross-cultural and transnational perspectives. The gift is particularly meaningful in that Lamphere, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, was a pioneer in early feminist scholarship and a junior faculty member in the Brown Anthropology

Department in the 1970s. After being denied tenure, Lamphere became the lead plaintiff in a class action suit against the University for sex discrimination. The suit was settled by a consent decree in 1977 that mandated goals and timetables for the hiring and tenuring of women faculty. Over the years, the conditions of the consent decree resulted in many more women scholars joining the Brown faculty. This story of gender studies scholarship and activism comes full circle with Lamphere's groundbreaking gift to support visiting junior faculty appointments at Brown.



Charley Chen

Jihyun Sung

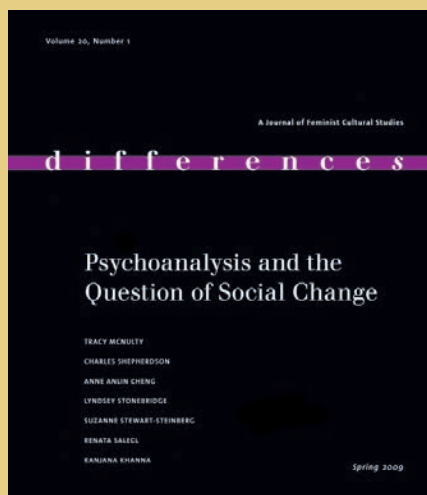
Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry
Department of Education

Thanks to generous support from the Ford Foundation, Jihyun Sung has joined Professor Anne Fausto-Sterling's team leading a research initiative titled, "The Emergence of Sexually Differentiated Behaviors in Infancy: A Dynamic Systems Approach." From the perspective of dynamic systems theory, the project argues that sex-typed behaviors come into being through a process of dynamic interactions between children and their environment—a function of both biological and social influences. Accordingly, in the current project, researchers are conducting detailed analyses of ten infants (five boys and five girls from ages two to fourteen months) and their mothers in weekly sessions. The analyses are yielding rich descriptions of

the development of activity level, vocalization, and play behavior, three behaviors for which sex-typed differences have previously been reported in the first three years of life. Postdoctoral fellow Jihyun Sung received her Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Georgia.

For more information about the research initiative, please visit:
http://www.brown.edu/Research/Behaviors_in_Infancy/

Colloquium Observes Twentieth Anniversary of *differences*



The year 2009 marks the twentieth anniversary of *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. In celebration, the journal will publish a special issue that takes a look at the current state of critical theory. Four of the contributors to the issue joined Brown faculty at a colloquium in April asking “What’s the Difference? Critical Theory Today.”

The latest issue of the journal, *Psychoanalysis and the Question of Social Change* (spring 2009), has appeared, while a double issue on *The Future of the Human* (summer-fall 2009), guest edited by Nancy Armstrong and Warren Montag, is forthcoming in early September. The twentieth-anniversary issue (spring 2010) is currently in production.

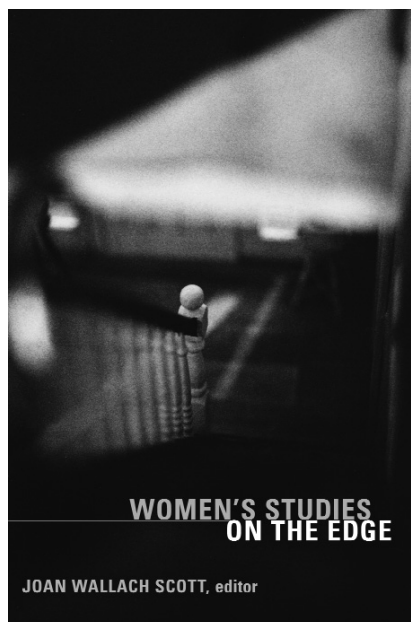
The Feminist Theory Papers

By consolidating, organizing, and digitizing the papers of scholars and critics who have transformed their disciplines as well as the field of feminist theory, the Pembroke Center is preserving a crucial body of work that changed the intellectual landscape of universities in the U.S. and internationally.

The Feminist Theory Papers archivist is Amy Greer, a graduate of the Simmons College Master’s program in Library and Information Science. The papers of Naomi Schor, Elaine Marks, and

Louise Tilly, are currently accessible to the public; in April, the papers of Teresa Brennan became the newest materials to join the collection. The Center has secured commitments from a large number of well-known feminist theorists, with scholars continuing to pledge their papers. At the formal dedication of the Feminist Theory Papers in the fall, the names of those who have already committed their papers will be announced.

The Feminist Theory Papers advisory board is chaired by Joan Wallach Scott, Harold F. Linder Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study and founding director of the Pembroke Center. Other members of the board include Ferris Olin, head of the Margery Somers Foster Center of Rutgers University Libraries; Ranjana Khanna, Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women’s Studies and Professor of English at Duke University; and Ben Kafka ’98, Assistant Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, and History at New York University.



Women’s Studies on the Edge, edited by Joan Wallach Scott and the third book in the *differences* series, appeared in spring 2008. According to Duke University Press, the collection of essays, which have in common their embrace of feminism as a critical stance, is selling well.

Sponsorship of such publications continues to make the Pembroke Center a leading voice in feminist studies.

Barbara Anton Internship Award Recipient Alison Cohen'09 Presents at AAAS Annual Meeting



The Pembroke Center Associates, the Center's alumnae/i support organization, provides an annual award to an undergraduate student whose honors project

involves an internship or volunteer work in a community agency. This year, the Barbara Anton Internship Award went to Alison Cohen, a Brown senior who is an intern for Communities for a Better Environment in Oakland, California.

Cohen's internship is a critical component of the research for her honors thesis, "Community-Based Participatory Epidemiology: Developing, Conducting, and Analyzing an Environmental Health Assessment with Communities for a Better Environment." The thesis aims to develop a better local understanding of the pollution burden and health problems affecting residents of Richmond, California, a low-income community of color living near a Chevron oil refinery and other industrial facilities. Phil Brown, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies and Interim Director of the Center for Environmental Studies, serves as Cohen's thesis advisor. A second adviser is Rachel Morello-Frosch,

Associate Professor of Public Health and Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley.

Through her internship, Cohen conducted survey research on residents' health status, health resources, and known exposures. Thanks to the promise shown by her initial research, she was accepted to present her preliminary findings at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in February. She also presented her findings to the survey participants and neighborhood residents.

Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant Recipient Karen Dannemiller'09 Seeks to Reduce Formaldehyde Exposure



Karen Dannemiller, a senior concentrating in chemical engineering, is the recipient of this year's Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant to support her research to develop and test a formaldehyde detection system.

Dannemiller's project aims to develop an inexpensive method of detecting formaldehyde that can be used in the home. Formaldehyde is a respiratory irritant and a carcinogen that is found in all types of housing but especially in mobile homes due to a variety of construction materials and consumer products. High formaldehyde levels were a significant problem in the temporary housing initially supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to Hurricane Katrina. Pregnant women and young children are at particular risk. Dannemiller hopes that the system she develops will allow families to identify and remove the sources of formaldehyde to prevent further exposure.



Pembroke Center Has New Home

Pembroke Hall, which recently underwent a \$9 million renovation, is now home to the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women and the Cogut Center for the Humanities. Built with funds raised by the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women, Pembroke Hall was originally dedicated on November 22, 1897, as the first permanent home of the Women's College in Brown University. Rededicated in October of 2008, the newly restored building houses scholars and provides teaching and research spaces for seminars, lectures, and collaborative programs offered by the Pembroke and Cogut Centers. The stunning renovation by architect Toshiko Mori P'05 brings together past and future in a dynamic combination of nineteenth-and twenty-first-century design.

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