

Pembroke Center

for TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

2006–07

Pembroke Seminar: Mediated Bodies / Bodies of Mediation

Lynne Joyrich, Associate Professor of Modern Culture and Media, will lead the 2006–07 Pembroke Seminar. It is said that we live in a media-saturated world, that the media now constitute the very air we breathe. But what kind of bodies breathe this air (or airwaves), and how are they formed by media technologies and texts? How do bodies appear and disappear in media culture? What other “bodies of mediation” have existed in, for instance, oral, print, or mechanical cultures? This seminar will explore the relationships between the body and the media across histories and cultures, considering how bodies are figured in media forms, how media forms themselves are embodied, and the interrelations among these phenomena. We will ask what we mean by “media” and “body,” as both are subject to historical change, technological reframing, and philosophical debate. For a full seminar description, please see the Center’s Web site.

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Pembroke Center Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of History Karl Jacoby, Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Judaic Studies Maud Mandel, and Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature Elliot Colla.



Exploring the Language of Victimization

Carolyn Dean, Professor of History and the Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow at the Pembroke Center, is the director of the 2005–06 Pembroke Seminar. This year the seminar is considering the multiple languages used to fashion the image and meaning of victimization in different historical and cultural contexts. The seminar presumes that victimization means the violation of human dignity by the state or by extra-legal groups and explores why critics, policy makers, intellectuals, and historians legitimate

the experiences of some victims more than others. How do victims figure their own victimization? How do perpetrators turn themselves into victims? When does the consciousness of being a perpetrator or a victim develop? Is the victim-perpetrator dichotomy distinctly modern, or does it have a significant genealogy? The seminar examines the aversion and discomfort generated by victims and their experiences as manifested in various historical contexts. For a full seminar description, please see the Center’s Web site.

The Pembroke Seminar Explores “The Language of Victimization”

Scholars at the Pembroke Center are delving into the complexities of “The Language of Victimization” – the topic of this year’s Pembroke Research Seminar. Led by Carolyn Dean, Associate Dean of Faculty and Professor of History, the seminar explores the ways victimhood is understood and portrayed worldwide, and how those modes of understanding shape cultural responses and state policies.

The interdisciplinary seminar brings together Pembroke Center postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, affiliated visiting scholars, and graduate and undergraduate students. During the year, participants attend a seminar once a week and pursue their related research projects. This year, the Pembroke Center welcomes three postdoctoral fellows whose research is enriching seminar discussions.



Lori Allen

Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: A Genealogy of Suffering: Human Rights and the Holocaust in the Formation of Palestinian Nationalism

Allen earned her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago. While at the Pembroke Center this year, she is examining the Palestinian struggle. Noting that Palestinian political culture has been largely shaped by the language and institutions of human rights, a system that itself gelled in response to the Holocaust, Allen asks what the impact of this discourse has been on Palestinian national identity and politics.



Sharika Thiranagama

Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: In Praise of Traitors

Thiranagama received her Ph.D. in social anthropology from the University of Edinburgh. During her fellowship, she is investigating the Sri Lankan conflict and displacement of Tamils and Muslims in northern Sri Lanka. Specifically, she is exploring the meaning of “traitor” in this struggle and how language defines “deserving” and “undeserving” victims. In this context, Thiranagama asks how community can be imagined concurrently as both a community of victims and a community of traitors.



Donna Trembinski

Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: Medieval Heroes, Modern Victims: 21st-Century Perspectives on the Suffering of the Saints

Trembinski earned her Ph.D. in history at the University of Toronto. This year she is studying the sufferings of medieval Christian saints from a modern perspective. She asks how today’s perceptions of pain, suffering, and victimization influence our reading of these phenomena in historical texts, and she questions how the medicalization of pain has changed modern society’s perception of suffering.

Lecture Series



Indrani Chatterjee

Professor of History
Rutgers University

**Captives of
Enchantment:
Gender, History, and
Transformation**

October 4, 2005



Ruth Ben-Ghiat

*Professor of History
and Italian Studies*
New York University

**Unmaking the Fascist
Man: Masculinity and
the Transition from
Dictatorship in Italy**

November 8, 2005



Lynn Hunt

Eugene Weber
*Professor of Modern
European History*
University of California
at Los Angeles

**Tortured Bodies, Novel
Readers, and the Origins
of Human Rights**

February 22, 2006

Faculty Fellows



Carolyn Dean

HISTORY
Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty
Research Fellow
Seminar Leader

Karl Jacoby

HISTORY
Pembroke Center Faculty Fellow

Arlene Keizer

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CIVILIZATION
Edith Goldthwaite Miller
Faculty Fellow

Maud Mandel

JUDAIC STUDIES
Edwin and Shirley Seave
Faculty Fellow

Graduate Fellows

Jennifer Feather

ENGLISH

Natalina Earls

HISTORY

Amy Vegari

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Undergraduate Fellows

Bathsheba Demuth

ANTHROPOLOGY

Elizabeth Burciaga Luna

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Pembroke Center Roundtable

March 3-4, 2006

Who Needs Victims?

Jody Enders

*Professor of French and
Italian Studies*
University of California
at Santa Barbara

Amy Hollywood

*Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor
of Christian Studies*
Harvard Divinity School

Alan Klima

Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of California at Davis

Yael Navaro-Yashin

Director of Studies in Social Anthropology
Cambridge University

Jonathan Simon

*Associate Dean of the Jurisprudence and
Social Policy Program and Professor of Law*
University of California at Berkeley

Marilyn Young

Professor of History
New York University



Senior Research Associate

Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf is Senior Research Associate at the Pembroke Center. She is the author of *Wanderings: Sudanese Migrants and Exiles in North America* (Cornell University Press, 2002), one of the first books devoted to the experience of Sudanese immigrants and exiles in the United States, and the editor of the forthcoming *Female Circumcision: Multicultural Perspectives* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006). Abusharaf's work has received support from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study Center, and the Andrew Mellon Foundation. She was a 2000–01 postdoctoral fellow of the Pembroke Center and has been a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights, the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, and the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University.

Research Initiatives

The Center sponsors multiyear research initiatives on topics of special interest. Initiatives include faculty workshops, roundtables, conferences, and publications.

Gender and “Traditional” Muslim Practices

This project looks at how the question of gendered Muslim practices affects – and is affected by – the politics of four interrelated spheres: local practices; the internal workings of states, including legal practices such as family law; the transnational; and the international. In all cases, the project looks carefully at how the notion of the “traditional” is deployed by examining its various uses and articulations, and how “tradition” is lived by the women and men in question. A research roundtable is scheduled for April 14–15, followed by a conference at Brown in 2006–07 and in Istanbul in 2007–08.

DIRECTORS

Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf
Senior Research Associate

Dicle Kogacioglu
*Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
Sabanci University, Istanbul*



Embodiment

The question of embodiment was examined during a Pembroke Seminar led by Anne Fausto-Sterling in 2002–03. The project challenges long-held views on both sides of the nature/nurture debate and explores the dynamic interaction between bodies and the contexts in which they develop. Last year saw a major roundtable conference entitled “Understanding Sexual Differentiation: A New Paradigm for Psychology,” coordinated by Fausto-Sterling and Cynthia Garcia-Coll, Professor of Education, Psychology, and Pediatrics, and partially funded by the Ford Foundation and the Wayland Collegium. Work continues on the emergence of sex differences in early childhood.

DIRECTOR

Anne Fausto-Sterling
Professor of Biology and Medicine

Pembroke Scholar in Residence



Elizabeth A. Castelli '79, Associate Professor of Religion at Barnard College at Columbia University, is Pembroke's scholar in residence for 2005–06. Castelli is the author of a number of books, including the recent *Martyrdom and Memory: Early Christian Culture Making* (Columbia University Press, 2004).

While in residence at the Pembroke Center, Castelli is working on a new book, *Persecution Complexes: Identity Politics, the Language of Victimization, and Christian Activists on the Global Stage*. Castelli's research explores the changing character of global Christianity; the role of religion in shaping global identities, solidarities, and political affinities across traditional national boundaries; and the inter-

sections of religion and violence on the contemporary international stage. In addition to her research, Castelli is a participant in this year's Pembroke Seminar entitled "The Language of Victimization."



Annual Gender Studies Lecture

Arlene Keizer, Associate Professor of English and American Civilization, delivered the annual Pembroke Center Gender Studies Lecture in September. Keizer's lecture, "Aunt Sally and Uncle Sigmund: African Americans, Dream Interpretation, and the Sense of the Future," explored dream interpretation in Toni Morrison's novel *Sula*.

Director of Gender Studies Appointed

Tamar Katz, Associate Professor of English, is the new director of gender studies. Katz has been a member of Brown's faculty since 1992, and her research interests include literary and cultural modernism, gender studies, and literature and the city. She is the author of *Impressionist Subjects: Gender, Interiority, and Modernist Fiction in England* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000). In addition, Katz serves on Brown's Urban Studies Program committee. As director of gender studies, Katz chairs the gender studies faculty board, which oversees the concentration and works to support feminist scholarship across the disciplines.

Hannah Arendt Centennial

Colin MacCabe, Professor of English with the University of Exeter and the University of Pittsburgh, will present a lecture as part of the Hannah Arendt Seminars sponsored by the Cogut Humanities Center, the Watson Institute, and the Pembroke Center. MacCabe will speak on two films that engage Arendt: Jean-Luc Godard's *Notre Musique* (2004) and Anne-Marie Miéville's *Nous sommes tous encore ici* (1997). Professor **Mary Ann Doane** of modern culture and media will respond.

The films will be screened in Pembroke Hall, Room 210, between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on March 21. The lecture will be at 5 p.m. on March 22 in the Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall.

Archives Web site

The Pembroke Center has developed a Web site to highlight the important collections of the Christine Dunlap

rated by the donation of the papers of the late Naomi Schor. The new Web site features highlights from Naomi Schor's

Nancy Duke Lewis Chair from 1985–89. After her tenure at Brown, Schor held positions at Duke, Harvard, and Yale universities.



papers as well as the papers of Elaine Marks, which were also recently donated. The Center plans to build the Feminist Theory Papers into a rich resource for future scholars.

Elaine Marks was a pioneer of women's studies and a scholar of French literature. She held teaching positions at New York University, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1977 Marks became the first chair of the Women's Studies Research Center at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she remained for 22 years.

Farnham Archives, housed at the John Hay Library. The archives contain rich resources on Brown and Rhode Island women. A new collection, the Feminist Theory Papers, was recently inaugu-

of the Department of French Studies. Schor was actively involved at the Pembroke Center and was a founding co-editor of *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. She held the

To explore the new Web site of the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives, please visit: www.pembrokecenter.org/farnham_archives/

Consultant to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives



Historian **Jane Lancaster** is Special Consultant to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives.

Lancaster, a specialist in Rhode Island history, is the author of a number of books, including a biography of Lillian Gilbreth '15 Ph.D. entitled *Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth: A Life Beyond Cheaper by the Dozen* (Northeastern University Press, 2004).

Lancaster is working to evaluate and expand the Farnham Archives collections. She is also expanding the Pembroke Center's oral

history project and is interviewing alumnae with unique perspectives on Pembroke Hall in anticipation of its renovation.

PHOTO: JOHN MEYERS

Pembroke Associates to Present Award to Marian Wright Edelman and Sister Mary Reilly

The Pembroke Center Associates, an alumnae organization that has long supported the Center and its programs, has established an award recognizing leadership for change through education. The award honors people in any field who, both nationally and at the grass-roots level, succeed in changing lives by helping others to see the world differently and offering new ways of thinking about seemingly unsolvable problems. A donation of \$5,000 is made to an organization selected by each award recipient.

The 2006 award will be given on April 11 to Marian

Wright Edelman and Sister Mary Reilly. Edelman is founder and chief executive officer of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, D.C., and has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans her entire professional life. Sister Mary Reilly is a Sister of Mercy in Providence, Rhode Island. She co-founded Dorcas Place, a private, nonprofit adult literacy and learning center, and Sophia Academy, a nonprofit, nondenominational middle school for girls from Providence's low-income neighborhoods.

differences: *A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*

differences, affiliated with the Pembroke Center, is published three times a year by Duke University Press.

The journal's fall 2005 issue, *Derrida's Gift*, celebrates the late Jacques Derrida's contributions to feminist theory. Contributing authors include Fran Bartkowski, Anne-Emmanuelle Berger, Susan Bernstein, Judith Butler, Pheng Cheah, Drucilla Cornell, Jacques Derrida, Jane Gallop, Elizabeth Grosz, Peggy Kamuf, Christie McDonald, Joan Wallach Scott, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

The spring 2006 issue, *Feminist Theory and the Frankfurt School*, has as its guest editor Wendy Brown, Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley. Contributions include:



- Wendy Brown, *Introduction*
Rebecca Combay, "Adorno avec Sade..."
Elisabeth Bronfen, *Reality Check: Image Affects and Cultural Memory*
Karyn Ball, *The Longing for the Material*
Robyn Marasco, "Already the Effect of the Whip": *Critical Theory and the Feminine Ideal*
Jessica Benjamin, *Two-Way Streets: Recognition of Difference and the Intersubjective Third*
Herbert Marcuse, *Marxism and Feminism*

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