October 1
“When Settlers Become Natives?”
Lecture
5:30 – 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Speaker **Raef Zreik**, Visiting Associate Professor of the Humanities at the Cogut Center, Associate Professor at Carmel College/Haifa, and co-director at the Minerva Center for the Humanities/Tel Aviv University, addresses the issue of when settlers become natives. When and under what circumstances can settler colonial projects come to an end and what are the new dynamics of the relationship between settlers and natives. In many ways this is a question regarding the historical conditions that allow a real compromise that can take both groups into a new dialectic. This talk will focus of theoretical aspects of the debate such as: what kind of duties do the colonized and colonizers owe each other? What is the nature of the relationship between ethics and politics? Do we and can we subject both groups to the same ethical standards? And if not, what does that say about the nature of ethics? But if so, what does that say about the nature of politics?

October 2
“The Dynamics of Israel Palestine”
Master seminar
12:00 – 1:30pm

Speaker **Raef Zreik** is a Visiting Associate Professor of the Humanities at the Cogut Center, Associate Professor at Carmel College/Haifa, and co-director at the Minerva Center for the Humanities/Tel Aviv University. This seminar is a follow-up discussion from the October 1 lecture, focusing specifically on the issue of Israel Palestine and the dynamics of the settlers and natives in that region.

October 8
Creative Medicine Series
“Practicing Compassionate Creativity from Neonatal to Geriatric”
Lecture and performance
5:30 – 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Speaker **Kali Quinn**, theatre artist and compassionate creativity facilitator,
creates a multi-media experience to explore empathy in the perceptions of and practice around intergenerational care. Her talk, performance and multi-media presentation will follow three generations of women from an infant home in the 1950s to a present day nursing home including all the grief and gifts that come from family secrets and aging.

This Creative Medicine event will give attendees the opportunity to connect to personal creativity and think about compassionate and innovative ways to increase understanding in the medical profession and in daily life.

October 17
“Missing Links: Islamic Civilization and the Formation of the Modern West”
Colloquium
1:00 – 5:00pm
Pembroke Hall 202
172 Meeting Street

There is now a critical mass of innovative scholars in the US, Europe, and the Arab world who argue that the formation of the Modern West was influenced by Islamic civilization. The field has grown quantitatively and qualitatively, with new lines of inquiry pushing in several new directions simultaneously. This colloquium brings together scholars in an informal setting to take stock of research trends, identify promising new questions and sources, exchange experiences and insights, and set the stage for more symposiums and conferences on the topic.

Some questions addressed by the speakers: What were the influences on the modern west of Islamic civilization? Why has mainstream scholarship been slow and/or resistant to embrace research on these Islamic influences as a core part of the history of philosophy, social theory and science in the modern world? What could and should be done to develop this area of research and to extend its broader academic and public influence and impact?

Speakers include: Muhammad Ali Khalidi, Department of Philosophy and Cognitive Science Program, York University; Karla Mallette, Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan/Ann Arbor; Jamil Ragep, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University; and Shaden Tageldin, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota/Twin Cities. Convened by Cogut Center postdoctoral Fellows in International Humanities Mayssun Succarie (Middle East Studies) and Rafael Nájera (Philosophy).

October 24
The Brown Romanticism Workshops
“Imagined Sovereignties”
Workshop
12:00 – 2:00pm

Speaker Kir Kuiken, English Department, State University of New York/Albany, discusses his new book Imagined Sovereignties (2014, Fordham University Press). This book argues for a new understanding of the relationship between the Romantic imagination and the modern forms of political sovereignty emerging during the period. Its central claim is that, rather than turn away from politics, British Romanticism reinvented it through the imagination, opening up an alternative to the secularization of political-theological concepts. It thus uses the long-established notion that romanticism replaces divine power with poetic creation to greatly rework our contemporary obsession with sovereignty.
October 31
“The Rise of the Romantic Ideal”
12:30 – 1:30pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Composer and pianist Benjamin Nacar ’12 offers a mid-day concert. The program includes: JS Bach, Partita in E minor; F. Chopin, Ballade no 3 in A flat major and Ballade no 4 in F minor; and F. Liszt (transcribed by B. Nacar), Les Preludes.

November 11
“Frankfurt Modern: Corporate Europe, Urbanism, and Sustainability – Weimar and Now”
Lecture
5:30 – 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Speaker Thomas Elsaesser, professor emeritus from the University of Amsterdam and visiting professor at Columbia University, takes a wide-ranging look at the cultural topography of Frankfurt, a city with grand ambitions, intent on becoming a European hub, especially in the years between 1925 and 1931. “Frankfurt Modern” will evoke aspects of this rich cultural topography in the 20th and 21st century, retracing an ambitious plan from the mid-1920s that wanted to create a Greater Frankfurt at the heart of Europe, by a combination of landmark buildings, extensive social housing projects, and a modern transport infrastructure of rail, air and water.

November 12
“The New Frankfurt – Building and Dwelling in Film, Design and Photography”
Lecture
10:00 – 11:30am

This follow-up seminar to Thomas Elsaesser’s public lecture “Frankfurt Modern: Corporate Europe, Urbanism, and Sustainability – Weimar and Now” will look at traces of the visual culture by which leading figures of Das Neue Frankfurt (notably Ernst May, Ferdinand Kramer Grete and Hans Leistikow) promoted the new lifestyle of urban modernism by way of instructional films, design prototypes and photography. Special attention will be given to the visual representation of Grete Schütte-Lihotsky’s Frankfurt Kitchen.
November 12
Creative Medicine Series
“Thinking about Thinking: Art Museum Experiences in Medical Education”
Lecture
5:30 – 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

This talk focuses on the collaboration between the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum and Brown medical School that facilitates extended experience observing and discussing works of art. This work focuses on metacognition—the habits of mind, personal biases and individual bodies of knowledge individuals each bring to making interpretations and decision—and communication. This collaboration seeks to support the development of physicians and future physicians by enriching critical thinking, cultivating creativity and nurturing the capacity to envision innovative healthcare solutions.

Speakers include S. Hollis Mickey, Assistant Educator, Gallery Interpretations, RISD Museum; Jay Baruch, MD, Department of Emergency Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University; and Bonnie Marr, MD PGY-4, Emergency Medicine Residency, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University.

November 14
“The Humanities in/and Asia”
Roundtable discussion
3:00 – 5:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

An informal conversation about transformations and opportunities for the humanities both within Asia as well as in the context of transcontinental university relations. China, India, and Japan will be considered, as well as shifting disciplinary boundaries including those between the humanities and the social sciences. Speakers include: Ping-Chen Hsiung, Chinese University of Hong Kong; James Chandler, University of Chicago; Alan Tansman, University of California/Berkeley; and Leela Gandhi, Brown University.

December 6
“New Sounds/Familiar Forms”
Performance
4:00pm
Pembroke 305
172 Meeting Street

A concert and discussion with the Community MusicWorks Players and guest artist Jessie Montgomery. Program includes Julia Wolfe’s “Dig Deep,” in which the quartet’s sounds imitate electric guitar; Sergei Prokofiev’s String Quartet No. 1 in B minor; and the world premiere of a violin-cello duet by Jessie Montgomery.
December 10
“In the Spirit of the Season”
Performance
12:30 – 1:30pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Composer and pianist Benjamin Nacar ’12 offers a mid-day concert with music of the season. Program will include Bach-Busoni, Toccata in C major; Mozart-Nacar, Kyrie and Gloria from “Coronation” Mass; Schubert, Impromptu in B-flat; Liszt, Consolations 2 and 3; and Rachmaninoff, Polka de W.R.
Spring Semester 2015

February 11
Creative Medicine Lecture Series
"Scales to Scalpels: Doctors who Practice the Healing Arts of Music and Medicine"
Lecture
5:30 - 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

There is a widely-held public perception that the fields of medicine and music couldn’t be farther apart. And yet history is full of vignettes about medical musicians and musical physicians. Is this coincidence? Historical artifact? Or is there more? Lisa Wong, MD, pediatrician, musician and author of Scales to Scalpels: Doctors who Practice the Healing Arts of Music and Medicine will introduce the audience to some prominent musician physicians in history, and discuss how music can heal musicians, physicians and the community as a whole.

February 19
"Publishing in the Humanities"
Informal seminar
1:00 - 2:30pm
Pembroke Hall 202
172 Meeting Street

How do promising manuscripts become successful books? Thomas Lay, acquisitions editor for literature, philosophy, and political theory at Fordham University Press, will speak about the path that leads from knowledge's accumulation to its dissemination. Since, for humanists, that path leads through scholarly presses, this talk will discuss how presses and editors view their role in the production and organization of knowledge and will offer tips on negotiating the process of scholarly publication in order to get one's work into the hands of readers. Topics to be addressed will include revising a dissertation into a book, describing and framing a project's intervention, creating an audience, choosing a press, pitching a book to an editor, and negotiating the production process.
February 19
"The Minor Event: Lyricism of the Still"
Lecture
5:30 - 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Taking the lyricism of the film still as its point of departure, Speaker Forest Pyle, Department of English, University of Oregon, explores how the stilled image in poetry or cinema – and in particular Percy Shelley’s *The Triumph of Life* and Todd Haynes’ *Velvet Goldmine* – can generate what Pyle calls the “minor event.” Pyle is interested in examining how the cinematic still might open a new way of reading poetry’s own filmic structures for the effects of minor events: images that can solicit the attention we might associate with an event without becoming a major site of hermeneutic significance or iconic force. Drawing on the work of Barthes, Deleuze, and other theorists of the “minor,” the Pyle considers how this “lyricism of the still” contributes to the “minorization” of poetry and cinema.

February 20
The Brown Romanticism Workshops
"Art's Undoing: In the Wake of a Radical Aestheticism"
Master seminar
12:00 - 2:00pm

Speaker Forest Pyle, University of Oregon, argues for a new conception of aestheticism, seeing it as opening onto a sort of 'black hole' in existence. Radical aestheticism describes a recurring event in some of the most powerful and resonating texts of nineteenth-century British literature, offering us the best way to reckon with what takes place at certain moments in texts by Shelley, Keats, Dickinson, Hopkins, Rossetti and Wilde. He explores what happens when these writers, deeply committed to certain versions of ethics, politics, or theology, nonetheless produce an encounter with a radical aestheticism which subject the authors' projects to a fundamental crisis.

February 25
The Sarah Cutts Frerichs Lecture
"Victorian Psycholinguistics: Thomas Prendergast's (1807?-1886) Approach to Language Learning"
Lecture
5:30 - 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Speaker Marjorie Perlman Lorch, Birkbeck, University of London, speaks about the many innovative methods of language teaching devised in the second half of the 19th century. These were primarily developed by educators from France and Germany. One exception was the English civil servant Thomas Prendergast (1807?-1886), who created a system for language learning with many original features. He
published *The Mastery of Languages or, the art of speaking foreign tongues idiomatically* in 1864 upon retiring as a magistrate of the East India Company in Madras, India. This was followed by individual volumes on French, German, and Spanish, as well as Hebrew and Latin. The unique feature of Prendergast’s pedagogical approach was its use of observations on child language acquisition, of both mother tongue and additional languages, and on psychological notions regarding memory, learning, and the lexicon. In addition to this distinctive developmental perspective, Prendergast also considered the significant differences for the learner between classroom instruction and cultural immersion. These insights were drawn from his personal experiences of British education in the 1810s and 1820s, and his life in multilingual India from the 1820s to 1850s. Prendergast applied these observations to fashion a system of self-guided study for adults. His *Mastery* system of language learning will be explored with regard to the psycholinguistic concepts it embodies.

**February 26**

"A Historical Consideration of Neurological, Psychological and Pedagogical Ideas on Language Learning"

Master seminar  
12:00 - 2:00pm

Speaker **Marjorie Perlman Lorch**, Birkbeck, University of London, offers an in-depth master seminar on language learning. The 19th century understanding of first language acquisition was underpinned by diary observations collected by parents. This process was viewed as primary based on imitation of the mother’s input (e.g. Darwin 1877). Many language teachers in the 19th century had invoked ideas about how children learn their mother tongue to inform formal language teaching practice. The notion of age of exposure to a second language was also present in educational debates throughout the century. Observations of children learning additional languages in a multilingual setting was a unique driver for Prendergast’s (1864) pedagogical approach to adult foreign language learning. At the same time, clinical observations of acquired disorders of language in individuals who spoke more than one language (e.g. Ribot, 1881, Pitres, 1895) were viewed as selective impairments of memory rather than expression. These 19th century perspectives on language learning and loss are contrasted with present day formulations of maturational trajectory, knowledge of language and other cognitive processes, and the role of working memory.

Suggested pre-seminar reading list.

**March 8**

"Anthem"

Concert and readings  
7:30pm

Grant Recital Hall  
Benevolent and Hope Streets

Inspired by Wilfred Owen’s iconic poem, *Anthem for Doomed Youth*, **Aurea** weaves poems, diary entries, letters to loved ones, and music, tracing the emotional and philosophical outpouring by artists of the era. With poetry and letters of Owen, Sassoon, Apollinaire and other soldier poets of WWI, and chamber music of Britten, Ravel, Elgar, Ives, Webern, Bartok and Stravinsky.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Music and Cogut Center.
March 9
"Not About Heroes"
Theatrical presentation
7:30pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

A riveting play by Stephen MacDonald, delving into the friendship of the two World War I soldier poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, and the firsthand horrors and realities of The Great War. With harmonica improvisations, and solo viola music of the period, this powerful and poignant work, questioning the meaning of war, is drawn from diary entries, letters, and their poetry. With Nigel Gore and Rudy Sanda; Chris Turner, harmonica and Consuelo Sherba, viola.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Music and Cogut Center.

March 11
"I Could Not See To See: An Evening with John Dugdale"
Lecture
5:30 - 7:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

How does one produce images when one doesn't see the world? What does photography become in the absence of vision? These questions are central to the work of speaker John Dugdale, who has explored matters of blindness, sexuality, and history in the last thirty years of his career. In "I Could Not See To See," Dugdale returns to Brown for a lecture, music and conversation around several of his iconic cyanotypes. Merging personal reflection with analyses of technique, style, and the history of photography, this event revolves around the aesthetics of the nineteenth century, the music of 'Americana', and questions of the photographic image. Dugdale will discuss the relationship of his work to early practitioners such as Herschel, Talbot, and Cameron, the inspiration he has found in the works of Aaron Copland, and how the idea of the photograph involves a certain relationship to the world--"water from a stream, light from the sun, minerals from the earth," in Dugdale's words. "I Could Not See To See" will reflect Dugdale's transhistorical connections--between past and present, HIV/AIDS in the 80s, and the future possibility of creating images through radically different modes of perception.

March 13
The Brown Romanticism Workshops
"Poetic Force: Poetry After Kant"
Master seminar
12:00 - 2:00pm

Speaker Kevin McLaughlin argues that the theory of force elaborated in Immanuel Kant's aesthetics (and in particular, his theorization of the dynamic sublime) is of decisive importance to poetry in the nineteenth century and to the connection between poetry and philosophy over the last two centuries.
Inspired by his deep engagement with the critical theory of Walter Benjamin, who especially developed this Kantian strain of thinking, McLaughlin uses this theory of force to illuminate the work of three of the most influential nineteenth-century writers in their respective national traditions: Friedrich Hölderlin, Charles Baudelaire, and Matthew Arnold, elucidating Kantian theory and providing a fresh account of poetic language and its aesthetic, ethical, and political possibilities.

March 16
"Dreams of Homer: New Music by Benjamin Nacar"
Concert
12:30 - 1:30pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

Pianist and composer Benjamin Nacar '12 and friends perform two new works. First is "Homeric Rhapsody", a duet based on several of the books of Homer's Iliad and played by Maya Ramchandran, violin, with Nacar on piano. The second piece, entitled "Dodecatet" is a work in three movements written for string sextet plus wind quintet and piano and performed by Natasha Bluth, flute; Isaac Suh, oboe; Benjamin Wesner, clarinet; Zach Spector, bassoon; Gail Clarke, horn; David Weinberger and Alex Hirsch, violin; Tiffany Chen and Ryan Roelke, viola; Shawn Tsutsui and Paula Li, violoncello; and Nacar on piano.

April 7
"Art, Life, Finality: The Metamorphoses of Beauty"
Lecture
6:00pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street


Co-sponsored by the Cogut Center for the Humanities and the Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women.

April 10-11
Conference
9:15am - 6:45pm (both days)
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

The goal of Political Concepts is to serve as a platform for revising, inventing, and experimenting with concepts while exploring the
political dimension of their use and dissemination. Participants operate under the assumption that our era urgently needs a revised political lexicon that would help us better understand the world in which we live and act, and that the humanities at large can and should contribute toward such a revision. In the past, some of the participants revised key political concepts while others showed the political work done by terms and common nouns that are not usually considered “political.”

Speakers include: Amanda Anderson, English; Susan Bernstein, Comparative Literature/German Studies; Timothy Bewes, English; Stephen Bush, Religious Studies; Beshara Doumani, Middle East Studies; Jacques Khalip, English; Jacques Rancière, Philosophy, University of Paris VIII, Saint-Denis; Thangam Ravindranathan, French Studies; Gerhard Richter, German Studies/Comparative Literature; Lukas Rieppel, History; Philip Rosen, Modern Culture and Media; Michael Sawyer, Africana Studies; Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Pembroke Center/Italian Studies/Comparative Literature; Peter Szendy, Comparative Literature; Elizabeth Weed, Pembroke Center; David Wills, French Studies.

Moderators include: Joan Copjec, Modern Culture and Media; Bonnie Honig, Modern Culture and Media/Political Science; Lynne Joyrich, Modern Culture and Media; Adi Ophir, Cogut Center for the Humanities/ Middle East Studies; Marc Redfield, Comparative Literature; Ravit Reichman, English; Rebecca Schneider, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies; and Michael Steinberg, Cogut Center for the Humanities.

A copy of the conference program. A copy of the conference abstract.

April 13
"The Humanities in Israel/Palestine: Reflections on the State of Knowledge"
Symposium
5:30 - 7:30pm
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street

The space of the humanities and qualitative social sciences in Israeli universities - like that in most developed countries – has shrunk as a result of neo-liberal managerial ideology and policies. In addition, and in a way that reflects other developments in Israeli politics and culture, large segments of research and teaching have been vehemently criticized by right-wing politicians, activists, donors, and journalists. Self-appointed “academic monitors” with strong links in the government are constantly identifying academic departments and individual scholars and de-legitimizing their work as politically-tainted, i.e., leftist and anti-Zionist (hence academically illegitimate), and a threat to the national ethos (hence unworthy of public funding in Jewish State). While some academics have responded by avoiding areas of contention and fostering an image of a de-politicized academic space, others have opted for bringing to the fore the political condition within which research and teaching take place. For the latter, reflection on the politics of knowledge within and around the university has become inseparable from the production of knowledge in the humanities and social sciences.

The Minerva Humanities Center at Tel Aviv University has become a hub and a home for researchers who insist on integrating this kind of reflection in their academic work. Speakers Naveh Frumer, Minerva Humanities Center; Raef Zreik, Carmel Academic College and Minerva Humanities Center; Shaul Setter, Sapir College and Bezalel Academy of Art and Design; and Yoav Kenny, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rhetoric Department, University of California/Berkeley, will address the present predicament of the Humanities in Israel/Palestine in this special symposium at the Cogut Center for the Humanities. They will be joined by respondents from Brown: Amanda Anderson, English; Sa'ed Atshan, Middle East Studies; Nathaniel Berman, Cogut Center for the Humanities; Leela Gandhi, English. Concluding remarks from Beshara Doumani, History.
In the logic-twisting reality of contemporary healthcare, both patients and healers risk feeling abandoned by reason and compassion. How do we make sense of complicated and surreal experiences that seem to challenge the reach of conventional narratives, and what freedoms does fiction provide in gaining understanding and insight? What is the responsibility of the physician/writer as storyteller? Speaker Jay Baruch, MD discusses his latest collection of short fiction, *What's Left Out* (Kent State University Press, 2015), and reads from selected stories.

Jay Baruch is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University, where he serves as the director of the Program in Clinical Arts and Humanities and Director of the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Scholarly Concentration. His first collection of short fiction, *Fourteen Stories: Doctors, Patients and Other Strangers* (Kent State University Press, 2007) won Honorable Mention in the short story category in ForeWord Magazine's 2007 Book of the Year Awards. His short fiction and essays have appeared in numerous print and online medical and literary journals.

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May 1
"A Scrap of Paper: Breaking and Making International Law during the Great War"
Symposium
12:00 - 2:00pm

Speaker Isabel V. Hull, professor of History at Cornell University, will speak on her new book, "A Scrap of Paper: Breaking and Making International Law during the Great War" (Cornell, 2014). This book is the first study of international law and the Great War published since 1920. It compares wartime decision-making in Germany, Great Britain and France, emphasizing the tensions between law and arguments of military necessity. Respondents: David Kennedy, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University; Arnulf Becker, International Relations, Brown University; and Nathaniel Berman, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University.

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May 12
"Opera According to Liszt"
Concert
12:30 - 1:30pm

A program of Wagner and Verdi performed by pianist and composer Benjamin Nacar '12. Selections will include Verdi-Liszt "Rigoletto" paraphrase; Verdi-Liszt *Miserere* from "Il Trovatore"; Wagner-Liszt *Liebestod* from "Tristan und Isolde"; and Wagner-Liszt *Overture* to "Tannhäuser."