September 25
All Day Symposium
"Violence, Terror, and the Image"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
9:30am - 5:30pm

This symposium will address the question of the power of images over thought in the context of recent concerns over terrorism, and the challenge it poses for criticism and critique. Is there an aesthetics of terror? How is satire implicated in the politics of the spectacle? And what is the relationship between theological traditions of iconoclasm and secular commitments to think outside the sphere of recycled images? Speakers Sadia Abbas, Rutgers University; Ariella Azoulay, Brown University; Faisal Devji, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford; Rosalind Morris, Columbia University; Bruce Robbins, Columbia University; and David Wills, Brown University.

September 30
Politics in the Humanities (PITH) Lecture
"Gay Weddings and the Limits of Equality Law: A Play-based Approach to Christian Claims of Conscience"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
4:00pm

Speaker Davina Cooper, Kent Law School, University of Kent, addresses the contemporary legal drama that has erupted in many jurisdictions in recent years as conservative Christians refuse to provide lesbians and gay men with goods, membership and services, arguing that their right to refuse is entitled by religious freedom and equality law.

October 1
Humanities in the World Lecture
"What is Literary Knowledge of Economy? How Does Criticism Help?"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
5:30pm

Literary study has lost ground within universities and with the general public because of two apparent failures. It doesn't seem to produce research knowledge of the kind defined by the natural and physical sciences. It also appears not to help to solve public problems like climate change, structural racism, faltering technological innovation, or economic inequality. Speaker Christopher Newfield, Department of English, University of California/Santa Barbara, suggests ways we might think about the status of literary knowledge and the connections between literary criticism and the social sciences. In discussing one current economic problem, he argues that literary critics might best address political economy with theories of non-economic subjectivity that emerge from literary study itself. This project is part of the Pell Humanities Initiative in Rhode Island to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
October 2
Master seminar
"Institutional Futures of Humanities Research"
12:00 - 2:00pm

This fall marks the 45th anniversary of the collapse of the job market for humanities PhDs. Thanks in large part to adjuncting, the market has never fully recovered. Assuming perm-austerity in university finances and disruptive debates about student learning, how should graduate programs respond? Speaker Christopher Newfield’s prior research suggested the humanities have been too accommodating and market-adaptive, and we’ll discuss alternative policies for PhD program structures, budgeting, teaching, and claims for humanities research.

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October 8
Master seminar
"Ecology, Organology and Pharmacology in the Neguanthropocene"
10:00am - 12:00noon

A general ecology as it is proposed by Erich Hörl needs a new transdisciplinary approach that speaker Bernard Stiegler, Institut de recherche et d’innovation du Centre Pompidou, calls general organology. The object of such an approach is the study of the conditions of the exosomatization process that characterizes the technical form of life specific to human bodies and societies. Such a study is necessary because exosomatization has always toxic effects that need social negotiations, prescriptions and therapies – those being forms of what I will call neguanthropology.'

October 8-10
Conference
"Terms of Media"
Various times and locations

"Media determine our situation," Friedrich Kittler infamously wrote in his introduction to Gramophone, Film, Typewriter. Although this dictum is certainly extreme--and media archaeology has been critiqued for being overly dramatic and focused on technological developments--it propels us to keep thinking about media as setting the terms for which we live, socialize, communicate, organize, do scholarship, etc. After all, as Kittler continued in his opening statement almost 30 years ago, our situation, "in spite or because" of media, "deserves a description." What, then are the terms--the limits, the conditions, the periods, the relations, and the phrases--of media? And what is the relationship between these terms and determination?
October 14
Creative Medicine Lecture
"Points of Service: Responsive Art-Making and Intimate Public Discourse"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
5:30pm

After two years of offering and writing from Climate Anxiety Counseling at various sites in Rhode Island, speaker Kate Schapira, Lecturer in Nonfiction Writing in the Brown Department of English, is ready to talk about intimacy’s potencies and limits, and art as a pathway for care and transformation. Climate Anxiety Counseling—a structured, low-gatekeeping public space for strangers and acquaintances to share their anxieties, climate-related and otherwise—offers artists and health care practitioners ways to consider structures of and openings for care, why we do it, and what to do when there is no good answer.

Kate Schapira is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *The Soft Place* (Horse Less Press, 2012), and eleven chapbooks. She lives in Providence, also teaches poetry for Frequency Writers and co-runs the Publicly Complex Reading Series.

October 29
Lecture
"Facebook as Form: How to Do Literary Things with Social Media"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
5:30pm

Speaker Jeff Nunokawa, Department of English, Princeton University, will talk about his ongoing efforts to engage social media as a means and opportunity for the creation of new literary and critical forms. He has been, as he puts it, "writing like a methodical maniac" on Facebook for nearly ten years. In this talk, he'll try to explain why. Professor Nunokawa is author of *The Notebook* (Princeton, 2015), a collection of his Facebook notes over several years. Respondents: Juan Patrick Soto ’17, Brown University, and Emily Rutherford, PhD Candidate, Columbia University.

November 5
Lecture
"Forms of Attention: Image-Consciousness in Hopkins and Tolstoy"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
5:30pm

Speaker Thomas Pfau, Department of English, Duke University, will offer a phenomenological account of how images register in consciousness and what sets them apart from propositional forms of knowing. Specific emphasis will be given to the form of "attention" that is being solicited by images and to how what Husserl calls "image-consciousness" (*Bildbewusstsein*) is consummated in a holistic type of action. Examples will be drawn from GM Hopkins and Leo Tolstoy.
November 6
Romanticism Workshops
Master Seminar
"After Sentimentalism: Liberalism and the Discontents of Modern Autonomy"
12:00 - 2:00pm

In a discussion of his most recent book, *Minding the Modern* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2013), speaker Thomas Pfau, Department of English, Duke University, argues that the loss of foundational concepts in classical and medieval Aristotelian philosophy caused a fateful separation between reason and will in European thought. Pfau traces the evolution and eventual deterioration of key concepts of human agency—will, person, judgment, action—from antiquity through Scholasticism and on to eighteenth-century moral theory and its critical revision in the works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

November 9
Lecture
"'Why, on the death penalty, begin with literature?'
5:30 - 7:00pm
Sidney Frank Hall/Marcuvitz Auditorium
185 Meeting Street

Speaker Peggy Kamuf, Departments of French and Comparative Literature, University of Southern California, will take as her starting point a question posed by Derrida early on the *The Death Penalty* seminar in order to analyze the indissociable link between modern literary discourse and opposition to capital punishment. Following that, Professor Kamuf will discuss examples drawn from Genet, Hugo, Camus and Blanchot.

November 11
Creative Medicine Lecture
"Woodturning My Way Through Brain Research: Observations on the Intersection Between Biomedical Research and Visual Art"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
5:30 - 7:00pm

Speaker Peter Snyder, MD, will explore the various points of intersection, creative opportunities and also potential pitfalls with respect to the age-old relationship between medical researchers and visual artists. Dr. Snyder is a specialist in the neurobiology and early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and he serves as Chief Research Officer for the Lifespan Health System. He is also a practicing artist, with his most recent exhibit at Brown University's Granoff Center for the Creative Arts (July 17 - September 16, 2015).
November 18
Films at the Cogut Center
Screening
"Coriolanus" (2011, English, 123 minutes)
Sidney Frank Hall/Marcuvitz Auditorium
7:00 - 9:30pm

In a contemporary vision of Shakespeare's classic, Caius Martius 'Coriolanus' (Ralph Fiennes), a revered and feared Roman general is at odds with the city of Rome and his fellow citizens. Pushed by his controlling and ambitious mother Volumnia (Vanessa Redgrave) to seek the exalted and powerful position of Consul, he is loath to ingratiate himself with the masses whose votes he needs in order to secure the office. When the public refuses to support him, Coriolanus's anger prompts a riot that culminates in his expulsion from Rome. The banished hero then allies himself with his sworn enemy Tullus Aufidius (Gerard Butler) to take his revenge on the city. The film will be introduced by Richard Rambuss, professor of English, Brown University.

December 2
Humanities in the World Lecture
Invitational Lecture in the Humanities
"Working for Your Bread: The Value of the Humanities"
5:30 - 7:00pm

‘Working for your bread’ is a phrase drawn from Kierkegaard, and it signals (for him) a kind of timeless balance between effort and reward, a balance that is often skewed in real life but exists in the ‘soul.’ The expression also designates a form of ‘compensation’ which – today – seems in jeopardy for students who work in the Humanities. Speaker Arnold Weinstein, Edna and Richard Salomon Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature, argues that the phrase – the connection between effort and reward – defines the very nature of humanistic knowing, the kind of ‘experiential knowing’ that we get from literature and art, which is radically at odds with the ‘information-culture’ of our time. Many classic texts center on just this drama: data exploding into experience. This event is part of the Pell Humanities Initiative in Rhode Island to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

December 4-5
Symposium
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.” Concepts under consideration at this event: Agency, Bondage, Desert, Disappearance, Formation, Gesture, Minority, Property, Potential, Publicity, Abiura, Shibboleth, Strike and Televisual Reality.
December 9
Mid-day concert
"Beethoven's Hammerklavier"
Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street
12:30-1:30pm

Benjamin Nacar '12 will offer a brief talk about Ludwig van Beethoven whose 245th birthday is December 16, then perform the Hammerklavier Sonata, Op. 106.

Free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible.