The Question of Violence

The Pembroke Seminar is focusing this year on "The Question of Violence." It is looking at the history of violence as a social and discursive category and at expanding discourses of violence in contemporary United States. Deborah McDowell, English, University of Virginia, was this year's first visiting scholar. She gave a public lecture on "Los Angeles: An Anniversary Post-Mortem" and led a session of the seminar. Other visiting scholars include Elaine Scarry, English, Harvard University, and Patricia Williams, Columbia School of Law.

Affiliated Scholars Program

The Center's affiliated scholars program is offering affiliation and office space in 1995–96 to three scholars working in the area of feminist theory. Affiliated scholars will have use of Pembroke Center and Brown University facilities and will participate in a year-long series of seminars on feminist theory held in conjunction with lectures by a group of distinguished visiting scholars. The position carries no stipend.

To apply, send a curriculum vitae and a four-page abstract (plus bibliography) of work to be undertaken in 1995–96. Deadline for applications: February 15, 1995.

Post-doctoral Fellowships

For information on 1996–97 Pembroke Center post-doctoral fellowships, contact the Center after August 1, 1995.
1993–94
“Law, Letters, and ‘Difference’”

Laura Hanit Korobkin
Artemis A. W. and Martha S. Joukowsky Pembroke Fellow

Project: Criminal Conversations: Gendering Evidence in Nineteenth-Century American Adultery Litigation Narratives

Korobkin’s project investigates how the narrative process of litigation silenced, fictionalized, but ultimately, if problematically, empowered women in nineteenth-century America. Using the tort of criminal conversation (civil adultery litigation) as a paradigm, it looks at how courtroom speakers, in transforming the ambiguous data of subjective experience into coherent, persuasive narratives, inevitably draw on their culture’s repertoire of powerful and familiar stories. The study focuses first on Henry Ward Beecher’s notorious 1875 trial for adultery, then on a group of cases in which late 19th-century American women, newly “liberated” by the Married Women’s Property Acts, became themselves criminal conversation plaintiffs in cases against their husbands’ mistresses.

Laura Korobkin is a Lecturer in the Department of History and Literature at Harvard University and a Fellow at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College.

Sylvia Schafer

Project: Children in Moral Danger: Governing the Family in Third Republic France

Through an examination of how the new categories of “moral abandonment” and the “child in moral danger” were codified in law in 1889, Schafer’s project explores the articulation of family law and its field of operation in later nineteenth-century France. Schafer argues that the 1889 law was the object of continual and contestatory interpretation, which drew upon and reinscribed an array of highly gendered and historically specific normative definitions of the dangerous parent, the endangered child, and the protective state. In tracing the dynamics of reading and encoding at many levels of the early Third Republic’s juridical regime, Schafer shows how the “deviant” family was constructed as an appropriate object of state regulation under the new political order.

Sylvia Schafer teaches in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Janaki Nair
Carol G. Lederer Pembroke Fellow

Project: Modernity, Patriarchy, and Law: Mysore, 1850–1940

Janaki Nair came to the Pembroke Center after a year in Bangalore, India, where she collaborated with the National Law School of India University in an attempt to devise texts for law students on the historical relationship between law and gender in colonial India. Her project at the Pembroke Center examines the relationship between law and modernity in the colonial Indian context with reference to a series of legal initiatives of the princely state of Mysore between 1890 and 1940. She looks at how the relationship foregrounded the position of women within and outside families and enabled the development of new forms of female subjectivity. This work forms a part of a larger project of tracing the relationship between state power, nationalist modernity, and subaltern consciousness in modern India.

Janaki Nair is a Research Fellow at the Madras Institute of Development Studies in India.

Visiting Scholars:
1993–94

Anita Allen
Georgetown University Law Center

Jodie Z. Bernstein, Vice President, WMX Technologies, Inc.
and

Nancy L. Buc
Buc Levitt and Beardsley

Drucilla Cornell
Cardozo Law School
Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer

Susan Hirsch, Anthropology.
Wesleyan University

Barbara Johnson
English, Harvard University

Susan Ball Lecturer

Richard Wasserman
Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Other Events of 1993–94

As a coda to its year of research on “Art in the Age of Difference,” the Center presented a panel discussion on “Art Institutions in the Twenty-first Century.” Panelists were: J. Carter Brown, former director of the National Gallery; Agnes Gund, president of the Museum of Modern Art; and Roger Mandle, president of the Rhode Island School of Design. J. Carter Brown has been a member of the Brown Corporation since 1992; Agnes Gund since 1990.

Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor
Nancy Armstrong, Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor, gave an inaugural lecture, “Why Daughters Die: The Cultural Logic of American Sentimentalism.” Professor Armstrong, who came to the chair in 1993, is a member of the departments of Comparative Literature and English, and of the Center in Modern Culture and Media. Her books include Desire and Domestic Fiction: A Political History of the Novel and, with Leonard Tennenhouse, The Imaginary Puritan: Literature, Intellectual Labor, and the Origins of Personal Life.

The Future of Women’s Studies
A panel of faculty from Brown and Wesleyan Universities discussed “The Future of Women’s Studies Nationally and Internationally.” Wesleyan faculty participants were Ann du Cille, English and Afro-American Studies; and Brigitte Young, Government; Brown faculty were Nancy Armstrong, English, Comparative Literature, Modern Culture and Media; Anne Fausto-Sterling, Biology and Medicine; and Lynne Davidman, Sociology and Judaic Studies.

1993–94
Roundtable:
March 18–19, 1994
Marks of Gender and the Crisis of Legal Forms
Invited participants:
Marie Ashe
Suffolk Law School
Marianne Constable
Department of Rhetoric,
UC Berkeley
Wai Chee Dimock
Department of English,
Brandeis University
Martha Albertson Fineman
Columbia University School of Law
Prabhu Mohapatra
Program of Agrarian Studies,
Yale University
Janaki Nair
History,
Pembroke Center

Nancy Armstrong
differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies, affiliated with the Pembroke Center, is published three times a year by Indiana University Press.

Volume 6, Numbers 2-3
More Gender Trouble: Feminism Meets Queer Theory
Interviews
Judith Butler
Against Proper Objects
Rosi Braidotti with Judith Butler
Feminism By Any Other Name
Gayle Rubin with Judith Butler
Sexual Traffic
Biddy Martin
Extraordinary Homosexuals and the Fear of Being Ordinary
Evelynn Hammonds
Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black Female Sexuality
Kim Michasiw
Camp, Masculinity, Masquerade
Trevor Hope
Melancholic Modernity: The Horn(m)osexual Symptom and the Homosocial Corpse
Responses
Rosi Braidotti
Revisiting Male Thanatica
Trevor Hope
The "Returns" of Cartography: Mapping Identity-In(-)Difference

Carole-Anne Tyler
Passing
Elizabeth Weed
The More Things Change
Elizabeth Grosz
The Labors of Love. Analyzing Perverse Desire: An Interrogation of Teresa de Lauretis's The Practice of Love
Response
Teresa de Lauretis
Habit Changes

Volume 7, Number 1
Universalism
Ernesto Laclau
Subject of Politics, Politics of the Subject
Naomi Schor
French Feminism Is a Universalism
Joan Scott
Universalism and the History of Feminism
Anthony Arnove, Anne Menke, Steven Evans, and Neil Lazarus
The Necessity of Universalism
David Palumbo-Liu
Universalisms and Minority Culture
Danielle Haase-Dubosc
The View From Here: Or Living in the Gap Between the Different Takes on the World
Bruce Robbins
The Weird Heights: On Cosmopolitanism, Feeling, and Power

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