On sabbatical from the regular Pembroke Seminar, the Center is sponsoring a year-long series of lectures and seminars on Feminist Theory Today.

The series began in September with a one-day conference bringing together (clockwise from left) Joan Wallach Scott, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study; Hazel Carby, African American Studies and American Studies, Yale University; Naomi Schor, French Department, Harvard University; and Mary Ann Doane, Modern Culture and Media Studies, Brown University.
contends, indicates a peculiarly violent yet necessary placement of “femininity” in the production of boxing’s compulsory masculinity. In an attempt to denaturalize violence between men as a revelation of pure masculinity, she also poses questions about the production of racial difference within these “male” configurations and focuses on the ways in which a conscription of black male bodies into boxing furthers the spectacularization and eroticization of violence in sports as “natural.”

Pamela Haag
Ph.D. in History, Yale University
Nancy L. Buc Fellow


Drawing on an array of legal and popular narratives concerned with various social and sexual “contracts,” Haag’s project historicizes, and thus defamiliarizes, the governing opposition in modern American culture of coercion and consent. By assuming that our culture’s very definitions of “freedom” and “violence” are as historically contextual as our handling of physical transgressions such as rape, she outlines the “pre-history” of sexual rights discourse, so crucial to second wave feminism, through considering how coercive and “genuinely” free relations were defined through their dominant tropes — seduction, abduction, white slavery and interracial rape, among others — from the 1870s to the 1920s. These constructions of violence defined not only women’s unique sexual subjectivity as “victim,” she suggests, but also helped to refashion the normative free individual, or “private person,” in John Stuart Mill’s coinage, in a distinctly “personal” and sexual fashion.
Graduate Student Conference at Brown

"Locating Feminisms," an interdisciplinary graduate student conference, was held at Brown on March 1–2. Funded by the Pembroke Center, the conference was planned and run by an interdisciplinary group of Brown graduate students. The conference explored a range of current academic feminisms and looked at the relationships between the academy and political activism. Participating graduate participants came from Brown, the Bunting Institute, SUNY-Buffalo, University of California-Santa Cruz, Columbia, Cornell, CUNY, Harvard, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, New York University, Princeton, Rutgers, Simmons, Toronto, and Tufts.

Women’s Studies Lecture


Pembroke Center Lecture Series in Feminist Theory 1995–96

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Cornell University
The Susan Ball Lecturer

Jane Gallop
Modern Studies
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Avital Ronell
Comparative Literature
University of California, Berkeley

Gayatri Spivak
English
Columbia University
The Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecturer

Anna Tsing
Anthropology
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