Dedication of the Feminist Theory Papers

Formally dedicated on February 5, 2010, the Feminist Theory Papers project has collected—and will continue to collect—materials of scholars who, in the last several decades, have changed the intellectual landscape of universities in the United States and internationally.

Although distinguished collections of women’s scholarship exist elsewhere, such as in the Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection at Harvard, Brown’s Feminist Theory Papers is the only collection that offers a rare perspective on the rigorous interdisciplinary work that brought feminism to the vanguard of academic research. The Pembroke Center’s role for nearly three decades as an institution dedicated to feminist theory makes it particularly well suited to conserve the legacy of scholars who have been at the forefront of critical thinking.

Some ninety-one prominent scholars have signed letters of intent to include their materials in the collection. Currently processed and available to researchers are the papers of Teresa Brennan, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Elaine Marks, Naomi Schor, and Louise Tilly.

The Brown University Library provides for the preservation of—and scholarly access to—the papers. Each set of documents is unique, representing that scholar’s contributions to feminist theory as well as to her discipline and, in some cases, to political work and institutional building. The materials collected include correspondence, research notes, manuscript drafts, syllabi, and other relevant items.

To see a full list of scholars who have committed their papers to date, and for details about the dedication of the Feminist Theory Papers, see page seven. For further information about the Feminist Theory Papers collection, visit: http://pembrokecenter.org/archives/FeministTheoryPapers.html
2009-2010 Pembroke Seminar: Markets and Bodies in Transnational Perspective

This year’s Pembroke Seminar, led by anthropologist Kay Warren, examines global flows of people and technologies that reimagine the body and transform what it means to be human. It is tracing the ways bodies are tied to commodities, to markets of different sorts, and the individual experiences and social constructions of these processes. Scholars explore contradictory patterns of change in transnationalism. How are different sites – adoption, organ transplantation, family cancer risks, labor migration, human trafficking, humanitarian support of refugees, micro-loan projects for low-income women – moralized and politicized across the world? How do regulatory strategies define rapidly moving currents of change? This inquiry calls for a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities and social sciences, as the seminar has discovered.

David Machledt
Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2007

Project: “Moving Risk: Tuberculosis, Migration and the Scope of Public Health at the U.S.-Mexico Border”

Machledt’s research analyzes how public health bureaucracies engage migrants through different scalar frameworks of tuberculosis, including global, population, and community perspectives. While peripheral health workers depend on patients’ social context to deliver treatment, policy planning generally favors decontextualizing risk populations like the “foreign-born.” Media reports posit an interconnected world where “disease has no borders,” but simultaneously cast migrants as potential disease vectors. In a binational setting dominated by health inequalities, Machledt’s research engages how these different frameworks interact and conflict, how they are deployed across bureaucratic levels, and how these deployments affect policy, binational organizing, and individual treatment.

Anita Starosta
Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2009

Project: “Aberrant Subjects and New Borders: Sex Trafficking in Expanded Europe”

Starosta’s research considers the problem of sex trafficking of women from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union after the end of the Cold War. In contrast to social-scientific, policy-related, and legal treatments that constitute the prevailing perspective on trafficking and forced prostitution, Starosta mobilizes the tools of critical theory, cultural studies, and literary theory to examine sex trafficking through a humanistic lens. Her research examines how sex trafficking poses challenges to the dominant narratives of postnational European identity and cosmopolitanism.

Sonja van Wichelen
Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow
Ph.D. in Social Sciences (Anthropology & Sociology), University of Amsterdam, 2007


Van Wichelen’s research explores the paradoxical tension between the growing global adoption market on the one hand and international legal discourses seeking to curtail the practice on the other. She analyzes justifications of “adoptability” in different adoption fields and examines how they correspond to conceptions of transnational ethics. She conducted eight months of ethnographic study in American and European adoption agencies and interviewed representatives in child welfare institutions, intergovernmental organizations, and public advocacy groups. By tracing “justifications” in the realms of the market, law and the public, she anticipates that this will help to explain the pragmatic strategies underlying today’s adoption quandary and clarify mechanisms of legitimacies in global ethical frameworks.
Pembroke Center Lectures 2009 – 2010

Jean Comaroff
Sunny Distinguished Service Professor
Director, Chicago Center for
Contemporary Theory
University of Chicago

“Nations without Borders: Liberalization and the Problem of Belonging in Africa and Beyond”
October 13, 2009

Didier Fassin
James D. Wolfensohn Professor
School of Social Science
Institute for Advanced Study

“So Words and Wounds: The Thin Evidence of Asylum Seekers”
March 2, 2010

Adriana Petryna
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Pennsylvania

“When Experiments Travel”
April 20, 2010

2009-2010 Pembroke Seminar Fellows

FACULTY FELLOWS

Jessaca Leinaweaver
ANTHROPOLOGY
Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow
Project: “Transnational Circulations: Peruvian Migrants and Adoptees in Spain”

GRADUATE FELLOWS

Sohini Kar
ANTHROPOLOGY

Aniruddha Maitra
MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA
Project: “Unruly Crossings: Heteronormativity, Migration, and Biopolitics”

Coleman Nye
ANTHROPOLOGY

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW

Lauren Kay ’11
ANTHROPOLOGY
Project: “An Exploration of the Commodification of Transnational Childcare”
Pembroke Center Roundtable  April 8-10, 2010

“Sites of Critique in a Dystopic World:  Innovative Framings of Markets, Bodies, and Transnationalism”

Presenters:

Wendy Chun
Associate Professor of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University
“Crisis, Crisis, and Crisis, Or the Temporality of Networks”

Clara Han
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
“From Global Mental Health to the Symptom:  Or, What Everyday Indebtedness Can Teach Us about Health and Well-Being”

Sora Han
Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law & Society, University of California – Irvine
“Writing the Wall”

Julie Livingston
Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University
“The Onco-Circuits of Hope and Toxicity”

Miglena Nikolchina
Associate Professor at the Department for Theory and History of Literature Sofia University, Bulgaria
“The Seminar:  Mode d’emploi”

Brown to Host Scholarly Exchange with Nanjing University

As part of the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities, a delegation of Nanjing University faculty will travel to Brown University in June to engage in scholarly dialogue with Brown faculty and students. Hosted by the Pembroke Center, East Asian Studies, and the Cogut Center for the Humanities, the Nanjing faculty will participate in a symposium that will continue discussions begun in 2008 in Nanjing when a group of Brown faculty visited China for the dedication of the collaborative project. Proceedings from that 2008 symposium will appear in the inaugural issue of Nanjing’s new scholarly journal, Gender, Theory, and Culture. In addition to the symposium, the Chinese visitors will participate in the annual meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes to be held this year at Brown and hosted by the Cogut Center. The consortium, to which both the Pembroke and Cogut centers belong, is an international organization that looks at the role of the humanities in a global context.

Modern China from Socio-economic and Transcultural Perspectives
June 12, 2010

Huamin Peng
Professor of Sociology, Nanjing University
“The Experience of Unemployment and Registered Long-term Unemployment in China:  A Gender Perspective”
Discussant:  John Logan, Professor of Sociology, Brown University

Junya Ma
Professor of History, Nanjing University
“A Sacrificed ‘Local’: Water-Control Decisions and the Transformation of the Huabei Social Economy, 1580-1949”
Discussant: Peter Purdye, Professor of History, Yale University

Hong Huang
Professor of French Literature and Gender Studies, Nanjing University
“‘Oriental Ghosts’ in Marguerite Duras’s Works”
Discussant: Gretchen Schulz, Professor of French Studies, Brown University

Jun Liu
Professor of Chinese, Nanjing University
Director of the Confucius Institute, Waterloo University, Canada
“History, Memory, and Writing: North American Chinese Literature in the Homeland Images”
Discussant: Emma J. Teng, Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Yajun Chen
Professor of Western Philosophy, Nanjing University

“Pragmatism in China”
Discussant: Paget Henry, Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies, Brown University

Chengzhou He
Professor of English and Drama, Nanjing University
Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences
Co-Director, Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities

“Intercultural Theater: Adaptations and Staging of Western Plays in China”
Discussant: Haiping H. Yan, Professor and Director of the Graduate Field in Theatre Studies, Cornell University
What’s the Difference? The Question of Theory

This special anniversary issue titled *What’s the Difference? The Question of Theory* considers the ways critical theory has changed in the twenty years since the journal’s inception. *differences* first appeared in 1989 in the midst of heated debates between poststructural theories of difference and the politics of racial and sexual diversity. In the ensuing years, the journal has established itself as a critical forum where the problematic of differences is explored in texts ranging from the literary and the visual to the political and social. In this issue, contributors bring their own critical convictions, personal passions, and sometimes unexpected investments to bear on questions of what counts as theory today and what kinds of work theory still does.

A distinguished list of contributors from a cross-section of disciplines and political positions looks at the contemporary theoretical landscape. One contributor insists that an increasingly corporate academic model needs to move away from its emphasis on output and acknowledgment, instead, the pleasures of teaching, learning, and thinking. Another takes stock of the conceptual and political gains that an antibiological stance in queer and feminist theory has conferred on theoretical innovations, suggesting that the confluence of physiology and phantasy in psychoanalyst Melanie Klein’s work offers a new way to think about critical theories of embodiment. Yet another contributor racializes “whiteness,” asking whether a male-authored work, which contains no black characters of consequence, is nevertheless fair game for a black feminist reading.

Contributors:

Emily Apter  
Simon Critchley  
Ann duCille  
Avital Ronell  
Joan Copjec  
Miglena Nikolchina  
Elizabeth Grosz  
Ranjana Khanna  
Elizabeth Castelli  
Susan Gubar  
Lee Edelman  
Jacques Khalip  
Gayle Salamon  
Elizabeth Cowie  
Elizabeth A. Wilson  
Elizabeth Weed

Anne Fausto-Sterling Named Nancy Duke Lewis Professor

Anne Fausto-Sterling is Professor of Biology and Gender Studies and chair of Brown’s Committee on Science and Technology Studies. The Nancy Duke Lewis Chair is designated for a distinguished scholar in any field who has contributed significantly to feminist scholarship who has a commitment to the work of the Pembroke Center and to the vitality of research on gender at Brown. Fausto-Sterling has long supported women and gender studies at Brown, and is an active member of the Pembroke Center’s leadership.

As an international pioneer in the study of scientific understandings of gender and sexuality, she is known for her numerous scholarly publications, including two books that have transformed the field: her 1985 *Myths of Gender: Biological Theories about Men and Women*, and her 2000 *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. Fausto-Sterling has been a distinguished visiting faculty member and scholar in residence at a number of institutions in the US, including Harvard, Mount Holyoke, Cornell, and SUNY, as well as at the University of Amsterdam and the Hubrecht Laboratory in Utrecht.

Annual Gender Studies Lecture  “Gender, Sexuality, and the Problem of Memory”

November 10, 2009

To celebrate her appointment to the Nancy Duke Lewis Chair, Fausto-Sterling delivered the Center’s annual lecture in Gender and Sexuality Studies. In her lecture, Fausto-Sterling discussed her recent exploratory inquiries into attempts to explain the varieties of gender expression and human sexual desire. She examined the social scientific use of personal memory as a form of statistically analyzable data, contrasting this use with contemporary neurobiological understandings of how memory works. Following two recent books—Ansermet and Magistretti, *The Biology of Freedom*, and Harris, *Gender as Soft Assembly*—she pointed to the ways neurobiology has more in common with psychoanalytic understandings of memory than with psychological or sociological accounts.
Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant Recipient Joy Neumeyer Studies Private Life and the Russian State in the Late Soviet Period

Joy Neumeyer ‘10 is the recipient of this year’s Helen Terry MacLeod Research grant to support research for her honor’s thesis in history. Neumeyer’s research project is on the relationship between private life and the Russian state in the late Soviet period. Specifically, Neumeyer seeks to understand how the Soviet state sought to appropriate gender and sexuality to realize its aims.

Using her research grant, Neumeyer has traveled to Washington, D.C. to do research at the Library of Congress, utilizing a set of hundreds of letters that the Library of Congress has acquired from Literaturnaia Gazeta, one of the most influential newspapers of the Soviet era. She also researched Russian language periodicals, plays, and tracts on marriage and family. Neumeyer draws upon these and other sources to analyze how the state promoted ideals of gender and private life through social services and rituals, how the media communicated them to the public, and how citizens adapted this official discourse to the realities of daily life.

Barbara Anton Internship Award Recipient William Lambek Explores the Formation of Political Identity through Transnational Migration

The Pembroke Center Associates offer the annual Barbara Anton Internship Award to an undergraduate student whose honors project involves an internship or volunteer work in a community agency. This year’s award recipient is William Lambek ’10, who is conducting primary research in partnership with four Rhode Island non-profit organizations. He is studying political identity formation and community organizing among Latina/o immigrants in Rhode Island for an honors thesis in Latin American Studies and Africana Studies.

Using ethnographic and oral history methodologies, Lambek’s research is centered within four membership-driven community organizations: Fuerza Laboral (Power of Workers), the Olneyville Neighborhood Association, Direct Action for Rights and Equality, and the Action Committee of English for Action. His research participants are Latina/o immigrants who are members and staff within these organizations.

Lambek’s project seeks to understand claims to community and shared identity made within immigrant community organizations. He traces the disparate paths of transnational migration leading Latina/o migrants into these organizations, exploring the commonalities and divergences between their transformations in self-identification and attitude with regard to class, race, sexuality, gender, nationality, and immigration status. By linking personal histories to community narratives, and by drawing connections between identity formation and modes of community organizing, Lambek’s work will further understandings of the basis, nature, and possibilities of grassroots organizing in Latina/o immigrant communities.
Contributors to the Feminist Theory Papers

Lila Abu-Lughod, Columbia University
Linda Martin Alcoff, Hunter College City University of New York
Emily Apter, New York University
Frances Bartkowski, Rutgers University
Sandra Lee Bartky, University of Illinois - Chicago
Seyla Benhabib, Yale University
Anne-Emmanuelle Berger, Cornell University
Lauren Berlant, University of Chicago
Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard University
Susan Bordo, University of Kentucky
Rachel Bowlby, University College London
Karen Brodkin, University of California - Los Angeles
Wendy L. Brown, University of California - Berkeley
Judith Butler, University of California - Berkeley
Hazel V. Carby, Yale University
Elizabeth A. Castelli, Barnard College, Columbia University
Anne Anlin Cheng, Princeton University
Joan Copjec, State University of New York - Buffalo
Drucilla Cornell, Rutgers University
Elizabeth Cowie, Rutherford College, University of Kent
Joan E. DeJean, University of Pennsylvania
Penelope L. Deutscher, Northwestern University
Wai Chee Dimock, Yale University
Janice L. Doane, Saint Mary's College - California
Mary Ann Doane, Brown University
Ann duCille, Wesleyan University
Zillah Eisenstein, Ithaca College
Jean Bethke Elshtain, University of Chicago
Yasmine Ergas, Columbia University
Anne Fausto-Sterling, Brown University
Frances Ferguson, Johns Hopkins University
Margaret W. Ferguson, University of California - Davis
Jane Gallop, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Judith Kegan Gardiner, University of Illinois - Chicago
Shahla Haeri, Boston University
Sandra Harding, University of California - Los Angeles
Nancy C.M. Hartsock, University of Washington
Mae G. Henderson, University of North Carolina
Marianne Hirsch, Columbia University
Bonnie Honig, Northwestern University
Jean E. Howard, Columbia University
Lynne R. Huffer, Emory University
Alison M. Jaggar, University of Colorado - Boulder
Alice A. Jardine, Harvard University
Claire Kahane, State University of New York - Buffalo, emerita
Coppelia Kahn, Brown University
Cora Kaplan, Queen Mary College, University of London
Vicki Kirby, University of New South Wales
Dorothy Yin-Ye Ko, Barnard College, Columbia University
K. Dian Kriz, Brown University
Louise Lamphere, University of New Mexico
Joan B. Landes, Pennsylvania State University
Marnia Lazreg, Hunter College
Saba Mahmood, University of California - Berkeley
Elaine Marks (1930-2001)
Anne McClintock, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Deborah E. McDowell, University of Virginia
Nancy K. Miller, City University of New York
Tania Modleski, University of Southern California
Henrietta L. Moore, Centre for the Study of Global Governance
Chantal Mouffe, University of Westminster
Karen Newman, New York University
Linda Nicholson, Washington University
Felicity A. Nussbaum, University of California - Los Angeles
Kelly Oliver, Vanderbilt University
Mary Poovey, New York University
Denise Riley, University of East Anglia
Mary Louise Roberts, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Avital Ronell, New York University
Ellen Rooney, Brown University
Jacqueline Rose, Queen Mary University of London
Renata Salecl, Central European University
Chela Sandovaal, University of California - Santa Barbara
Sylvia Schaffer, University of Connecticut
Mira Schor, Parsons School of Design
Naomi Schor (1943-2001)
Joan W. Scott, Institute for Advanced Study
Jenny Sharpe, University of California - Los Angeles
Elaine Showalter, Princeton University, emerita
Barbara Hermstein. Smith, Brown University and Duke University
Hortense J. Spillers, Vanderbilt University
Ann Laura Stoler, New School for Social Research
Jennifer Terry, University of California - Irvine
Barrie Thorne, University of California Berkeley
Louise A. Tilly, New School for Social Research, emerita
Leti Volpp, Berkeley Law University of California
Judith R. Walkowitz, Johns Hopkins University
Kay B. Warren, Brown University
Elizabeth Weed, Brown University
Kari Weil, Wesleyan University
Laura Wexler, Yale University
Mimi White, Northwestern University
Linda Williams, University of California - Berkeley
Elizabeth A. Wilson, Emory University
Linda M.G. Zerilli, University of Chicago
Ewa Plonowska Ziarek, State University of New York - Buffalo

For more information about donating papers or accessing the collection, please contact Feminist Theory Paper Archivist Amy Greer at (401) 863-6268 or Amy_Greer@brown.edu.
Pembroke Center
for Teaching and Research on Women

Brown University
Box 1958
Providence, RI 02912

Pembroke Center
Advisory Board
Leslie Bostrom
Visual Art
Carolyn J. Dean
History and Modern Culture and Media
Mary Ann Doane
Modern Culture and Media and English
Anne Fausto-Sterling
Biology and Medicine
Lynne Joyrich
Modern Culture and Media
David Konstan
Classics and Comparative Literature
Bernard Reginster
Philosophy
Ex Officio
Ellen Rooney
Modern Culture and Media and English
Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg
Italin Studies and Comparative Literature

Pembroke Center Associates
Council Officers
Phyllis Santry ’66
Chair
Elizabeth Munves Sherman ’77, P ’06, P ’09
Vice-Chair

Pembroke Center Staff
Elizabeth Weed
Director
Christy Law Blanchard
Director of Program Outreach and Development
Denise Davis
Managing Editor of differences
Donna Goodnow
Center Manager
Amy Greer
Feminist Theory Papers Archivist
Martha Hamblett
Programs and Stewardship Coordinator
Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg
Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies

Contact Information
Pembroke Center
Brown University
Box 1958
Providence, RI 02912
phone: 401 863-2643
tax: 401 863-1298
e-mail: Pembroke_Center@brown.edu
web: www.pembrokecenter.org