

**Pembroke Center Research Seminar Application**  
**2009-2010**

Enclosed are application materials for the 2009-10 post-doctoral fellowships at the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women. There is a one-page application form and a recommendation form to be sent to three referees. To complete your application, please send the following to reach us by December 10, 2008:

Seven copies of the following:

- Application form
- Project statement of five typed pages
- Representative bibliography
- Course proposal with a sample reading list
- Curriculum vitae

We have enclosed a copy of the announcement describing the theme of the research project for 2009-10 and qualifications for the post-doctoral fellows. In evaluating applications, we will be particularly interested in your project statement. Our theme is deliberately broad, though focused on language. We are looking for projects that address the problem imaginatively, that are interdisciplinary in conceptualization, and that demonstrate a theoretical interest in the topic. The project statement should discuss the questions you address, the methods you use to study them, the theoretical underpinnings of your approach, your sources, and the likely outcome of the research. We would like to know what stage of the research or writing will be carried out at the Pembroke Center. And we would like an indication of why participation in an interdisciplinary seminar might be useful for your research.

The Pembroke Post-Doctoral Fellowships are residential grants which provide office space at the Pembroke Center. Recipients are expected to reside in the Providence area, attend the weekly research seminars and associated events, including regular lunches with the seminar and its guests, and the other resident fellows, and teach one undergraduate course.

Please send your referees a copy of our announcement and your project statement. Letters of reference should be returned by their authors directly to the Pembroke Center by December 10, 2008.

## 2009-10 Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Fellowships

### “Markets and Bodies in Transnational Perspective”

**Seminar Leader: Kay Warren**  
**Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow, Pembroke Center**  
**Charles B. Tillinghast, Jr. ‘32 Professor of International Studies and**  
**Professor of Anthropology**

"Markets and Bodies in Transnational Perspective" raises questions about global flows of people and technology that involve reimagining the body and transforming what it means to be human. We want to understand the changing ways bodies are being commodified, and the individual experiences and ideological constructions of these processes. The seminar explores innovations in international migration and biotechnology that push ahead of the law. How are these sites moralized and politicized? How are international norms and regulatory strategies formulated to define rapidly moving currents of change?

The seminar deals with markets as particular historicized innovations whose complex social and political fields mediate their development. To bring these questions into focus, we will examine:

- The simultaneous recruitment and deterrence of migrant labor across borders and regions.
- The simultaneous normalization and rejection of human bodies with the global circulation of public health and biotechnological regimes.

These topics speak to each other in mutually revealing ways about the contested limits of the commodification of human beings. Both involve the policing of bodies – across regional borders and across notions of health and illness. Both involve the recruitment of bodies (for migrant labor or for medical intervention) and the simultaneous deterrence of bodies (as potential “burdens” on state or medical resources). And both generate sites of anxiety and hope where people’s emotions and sense of right and wrong explode into public view to be debated, consumed, and politicized. How do states, NGOs, and other social and political formations intervene in populations with the intent of envisioning a body specifically for the market? What are the limitations of these forms of power? How do current struggles around policing bodies and creating markets differ from earlier struggles and forms of anxiety surrounding the management of bodies?

Legal Norms and Migration. An important trend in the recruitment of mobile labor has been the creation of UN norms born of hybrid human rights and criminal justice frameworks. Human trafficking, child labor, debt bondage, slavery, and, increasingly, international adoption rings and the sale of human organs for transplantation fall under this umbrella. International norms have moved from criminalizing the victim of trafficking to prosecuting the criminal enterprises involved in providing commodities for these markets. What structural and political issues cause states and NGOs to resist, appropriate, or ignore these normative frameworks? What currents of activism mobilize around these issues? What are the unintended consequences of the ways that international norms target certain populations as “vulnerable” and identify workers engaged in exploitative labor

as “victims” rather than as people with their own complex histories and identities? How do these discourses inform the work of NGOs, the development industry, the criminal justice system, and organized crime? Why has this diversified market often outrun the capacity of policing and judicial systems to intervene or regulate these markets?

Norms and Biotechnological Regimes. In dealing with the global circulation of new public health paradigms – such as the marketing of technologies for the genetic screening of wider publics -- scholars note the shift in focus from infectious to genetic diseases and the emergence of a language of expectations about “fitness” and “survival.” How does the medical field deal with the fact that technological innovation seems to be running far ahead of the international consensus about these issues? How do norms pose the double-bind of unequal access to the products of new research alongside quandaries about the allocation of expensive medical resources? We will be particularly attuned to the ways medical technology is appropriated in different parts of the world. How are local understandings of the body, health, and care changing with this newly developing biotechnology? How is social difference part of this story?

There are profoundly interactive and convergent forms of inequality and marginalization that cross-cut migration and health intervention, particularly in the context of the erosion of state welfare across the globe. In both cases “biology” or “migrant labor” are made to appear as if they have their own internal logic and impetus. What might their juxtaposition reveal about their social and political characters?

This seminar will benefit greatly from scholars working in various parts of the world on contemporary migrant labor, health, and market issues, or in historical perspective on topics relating to the interplay of the body, labor, and technology. We welcome social scientists, humanists, and historians whose work troubles conventional definitions of these issues. It would be an asset to attract legal scholars who study interplay of the market and the law, or are participants in debates about the efficacy of norms and rights versus regulatory strategies and corporate self-governance. We also hope to attract scholars who in their ethnographic research demonstrate the creative tensions between locally distinctive meaning-making versus discourses that appear to be globally hegemonic.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

We welcome applications from all scholars who do not hold a tenured position. This is a residential fellowship. Fellows participate weekly in the Pembroke Seminar, teach one undergraduate course, and pursue individual research. Brown University is an EEO/AA employer. The Center strongly encourages underrepresented minority scholars to apply. The term of appointment is September 1, 2009-May 31, 2010. The stipend is \$50,000, plus a supplement for health and dental insurance, unless otherwise covered.

Application forms may be obtained at [www.pembrokecenter.org](http://www.pembrokecenter.org). Questions should be directed to [Donna\\_Goodnow@brown.edu](mailto:Donna_Goodnow@brown.edu). Please send completed application packages to Box 1958, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 (regular mail); or Pembroke Center, Pembroke Hall, 172 Meeting Street, Providence, RI 02912 (express mail). The deadline for receipt of applications is December 10, 2008. Selections will be announced in February.



**Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women  
Confidential Report on Applicant for Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2009-10**

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Applicant Name (Last, First)

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Date

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Name of Referee

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Title

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Institution

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Address

TO THE REFEREE: The above name applicant has been asked to send you this form together with a description of a proposed research project. We would appreciate receiving your evaluation of the candidate's proposed research and of his or her ability to carry it out in the context of the Pembroke Center's interdisciplinary seminar on "Markets and Bodies in Transnational Perspective." Please mail your report to reach us by December 10, 2008, to Post-Doctoral Fellowships, Pembroke Center, Box 1958, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.