

**"THE POWER AND MYSTERY OF EXPERTISE"
THE PEMBROKE RESEARCH SEMINAR**

**BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND
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SYLLABUS

The significance of expertise for rulership today is easy to see – in the vernacular of national politics, the management of international economic life, the arrangement of family and gender relations, and more. But what is “expertise?” What part knowledge, what part common-sense --- what portion analytics, argument, lifestyle, character? Expertise is often associated with professional or disciplinary formations – how important are these institutional forms to the practice and reproduction of expert rulership? How does expertise write itself into power?

The aim of the seminar will be to develop components of a general model or theory of expertise. We encourage a wide range of interdisciplinary studies which might shed light on the following sorts of questions:

- How do more and less conscious components of expert knowledge function? Is there a “langue” and a “parole” to expert argument? What are the components of expert knowledge, how do they operate – linguistically, ideologically, practically? How significant are elements like “distinction,” “difference” or “decision?”
- How do expert analytics relate the looser patois of expert analysis, commentary, opinion? How much is prejudice, group-think – or useful rules of thumb and default judgment?
- How are expert and lay practices and knowledges intertwined? What can we say about the rise and fall of expert self-confidence or prestige as various “expertises” come in and out of fashion in different domains of life?
- How do new modes of expertise arise, assert themselves? What of the people whose projects are pursued through expertise – projects of affiliation and disaffiliation, wills to power and to submission?

With luck, the seminar will bring together scholars approaching these issues from multiple fields of inquiry – historical studies of expert vernaculars and professional practices; cultural study of the languages of governance and the management of the subject; philosophers interested in the operations of language and rhetoric, science studies scholars who look at ways expert knowledge gives power to scientific claims; sociologists of the professions and of contemporary practices of power. We particularly encourage participation by scholars from professional fields inquiring into the modes of their own rulership.

The Seminar will meet for the first time on September 1, 2010 at 10:am in Pembroke Hall. At our first meeting, we will introduce ourselves and our work to one another and hold a general discussion of the Seminar's themes and structure. We will not meet on September 8, but thereafter, starting on September 15, we will meet weekly on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. On September 15, participants are cordially invited to an opening reception at my home at 7:00pm.

We will use our time together on Wednesday mornings in various ways over the course of the year, taking the discussion in whatever directions seem exciting for the group. My proposal is that we begin by devoting a few sessions to reading a few texts – many of which may be familiar to participants from other contexts – to help us develop a common vocabulary for thinking about expertise.

I propose five such sessions here. My thought is that we begin with “Session One” on September 15 and see how it goes. Participants may have better ideas about what we ought to read together. Perhaps we'll want to intersperse other materials, save some of these readings for later in the year or drop them altogether. As we come to identify common questions to explore, we may want to devote a group of sessions to various issues.

In the spirit of getting to know one another, I have paired social theory readings with materials from “expert” fields with which I am familiar – law, war, economic development. As we go along, if this model is useful, perhaps we would find volunteers who would bring us into their own “expert” worlds in a parallel fashion.

I am excited about our coming work together and look forward to our first session!

SESSION ONE

- **MAX WEBER**, “The Vocation of Politics” and “The Vocation of Science” in The Essential Weber: A Reader, Sam Whimster, Editor (Routledge Press 2004) pages 257-287
- **OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES**, “The Path of the Law” from The Canon of American Legal Thought, David Kennedy and William Fisher III, Eds. (Princeton University Press 2006) pages 29-43
- Introduction to The Canon of American Legal Thought, David Kennedy and William Fisher III, Eds. (Princeton University Press 2006) pages 1-16.

SESSION TWO

- **JACQUES DERRIDA**, “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” in Writing and Difference, translated by Alan Bass, (University of Chicago Press, 1978) pages 278-293

- **DUNCAN KENNEDY**, “A Semiotics of Legal Argument,” 42 Syracuse L. Rev. 75 (1991), as republished with “European Introduction: Four Objections” in 3 Collected Courses of the Academy of European Law, Book 2, 309-365 (Kluwer, 1994) at http://duncankennedy.net/documents/A%20Semiotics%20of%20Legal%20Argument_European%20Intro.pdf
- **DUNCAN KENNEDY**, “Freedom & Constraint in Adjudication: A Critical Phenomenology, 36 J. Leg. Ed. 518 (1986). Reprinted in Critical Legal Studies, J. Boyle, ed., (Dartmouth Press 1992) at http://duncankennedy.net/documents/Freedom%20and%20Constraint%20in%20Adjudication_A%20Critical%20Phenomenology.pdf

SESSION THREE

- **PIERRE BOURDIEU**, “Structures, Habitus, Practices” in The Logic of Practice, translated by Richard Nice (Stanford University Press, 1990) pages 52-65
- **GUNNAR MYRDAL**, "Appendix 2: The Mechanism of Underdevelopment and Development and a Sketch of an Elementary Theory of Planning for Development” in Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations, Volume 3, by Gunnar Myrdal, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1968)

SESSION FOUR

- **SIGMUND FREUD**, The Question of Lay Analysis James Strachey, Editor; with introduction by Peter Gay, WW Norton and Company, The Standard Edition, 1990.
- **SIGMUND FREUD**, Totem and Taboo, Dover Publications, 1998
- **SIGMUND FREUD**, “Thoughts for the Times on War and Death,” (1919) <http://www.panarchy.org/freud/war.1915.html>
- **SIGMUND FREUD** and **ALBERT EINSTEIN**, “Exchange of Letters about War” <http://www.public.asu.edu/~jmlynch/273/documents/FreudEinstein.pdf>

SESSION FIVE

- **MICHEL FOUCAULT**, Lectures of 3 March 1976, 10 March 1976, 17 March 1976, from Society Must be Defended: Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976 pages 189-264,

- **MICHEL FOUCAULT** “Lectures of 11 January 1978, 18 January 1978, 25 January 1978 and 1 February 1978” from Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the College de France 1977-1978, pages 1-114
- **DUNCAN KENNEDY** The Stakes of Law, or Hale and Foucault! At http://duncankennedy.net/documents/The%20Stakes%20of%20Law%20or%20Hale%20and%20Foucault%20_%20J%20Leg%20Stud.pdf
- **DAVID KENNEDY** “Lawfare and Warfare” in Cambridge Encyclopedia of International Law, (draft, forthcoming 2011)