In light of the recent anti-racist protests in reaction to continued police violence in the United States and across the globe, the Princeton-HU Strategic Partnership Research Project Re-Imagining the Archive: Sexual Politics and Postcolonial Entanglements is hosting a one-day digital conference on Thursday, March 18th, 2021, to discuss the current challenges of memorial cultures and politics. The simultaneous critique of racism, sexism, and transphobia in different places across the globe in 2020 marked a specific moment in time that we take as a prompt to further the conversation on anti-racist and postcolonial memorial and archival practices and methodologies. How and where do we encounter the legacies of enslavement and colonialism in our everyday lives, in our research and our institutions’ histories? What strategies can we find to publicly address and counter these histories of violence? This includes the renaming of streets and the removal of statues but also the creation of new sites of commemoration. Keynote speaker Anjali Arondekar and panelists will address the following questions: How can transdisciplinary gender and postcolonial studies, combining historiographic, literary, and anthropological perspectives, not only challenge existing archives, but also re-imagine methodologies of archiving? How do the body, feeling and aspiration act as archives and how can we approach the archive itself as a processual hub of relationships and struggles? In other words, which archival hermeneutics are required to tell marginalized gendered (hi)stories, including fictional and speculative re-imaginations as alternative forms of (counter)archives, and envision possible queer antiracist/antisexist futures?

March 18, 2021
9 am – 4 pm (ET)
14 - 21 (CET)

RE-MAPPING MEMORY:
Possibilities of Postcolonial and Anti-Racist (Counter)Archiving

Register: HERE
Contact: GSS / ZtG

Princeton-HU Strategic Partnership: GSS and ZtG - Re-Imagining the Archive: Sexual Politics and Postcolonial Entanglements
Re-Mapping Memory: 
Possibilities of Post-Colonial & Anti-Racist (Counter) Archiving 
Thursday 18 March, 2021 
9.00 am Eastern Time (ET) / 14.00 Central European Time (CET) 
Register: HERE 
Contact: GSS / ZtG 

KEYNOTE
Anjali Arondekar (Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, and founding Co-Director, Center for South Asian Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz)

Abundance: Sexuality's Archives

Histories of sexuality routinely mediate past(s) through archival forms of paucity, disenfranchisement and loss. Sexuality, particularly in the global south, is rescued from the detritus of hegemonic histories of colonialism and nationalism and placed within more reparative narratives of reform and rights. This talk challenges such a focus on loss as the structuring mode of narration for histories of sexuality. Instead, I explore the radical abundance of sexuality through archives in South Asia that are plentiful and quotidian, imaginative and ordinary.

Two central questions are at stake here: (1) What if we are to shift our attention from the recuperation of sexuality as loss to understanding it as a site of radical abundance and futurity? (2) What are the archival and/or evidentiary forms that emerge from such a coupling of sexuality and abundance?