ARCHIVES, POWER AND LIBERATION

Spring 2024

INTL ST 189 Special Topic – Global and International Studies – Upper Division

Instructor: María Montenegro (she/her/ella)

This upper division course draws on multidisciplinary literature, critical theory, and contemporary issues to explore the connections between archives, power, and liberation struggles. Taking a feminist, social justice, and human rights approach, the course investigates the political, economic, legal, technological, and socio-cultural forces that shape the ways that archives – in their various forms – are produced, used/appropriated, accessed, controlled/manipulated, discarded, abused, dismissed, and destroyed. Topics include: settler and colonial archives; archives and the nation-state; archives and human rights, reparation and transitional justice; archives and migration; politics of description, classification and representation; digital archives; archival affect; archival return/rematriation; archival activism and resistance; and archival sovereignty among others. These topics will be grounded in case studies, as we discuss them in relation to current issues and struggles of different communities regarding the use/lack of archival records, including: Indigenous peoples; LGBTQ+ communities; people with disabilities; children in out-of-home care; immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; political prisoners and disappeared detainees; among others. This mixed lecture/discussion course is designed to combine group presentations, debate, readings, and media to focus on the core issues that arise at the intersection of archives, power, and liberation.