Anjali Arondekar is Associate Professor of Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research engages the poetics and politics of sexuality, colonialism and historiography in South Asia.

Focusing on late colonial India, Arondekar examines the spectacularization of sexuality in anthropology, law, literature, and pornography from 1843 until 1920. Rather than render sexuality’s relationship to the colonial archive through the preferred lens of historical invisibility (which would presume that there is something about sexuality that is lost or silent and needs to “come out”), Arondekar engages sexuality’s recursive traces within the colonial archive against and through our very desire for access. Each chapter addresses a form of archival loss, troped either in a language of disappearance or paucity, simulacrum or detritus: from Richard Burton’s missing report on male brothels in Karâchi (1845) to a failed sodomy prosecution in Northern India, *Queen Empress v. Khairati* (1884), and from the ubiquitous India-rubber dildos found in colonial pornography of the mid-to-late nineteenth century to the archival detritus of Kipling’s stories about the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009**
**HUMANITIES GATEWAY 1002**
**12—2:00 PM**

We will discuss the introduction and first two chapters of *For the Record: On Sexuality and the Colonial Archive in India*. See [http://www.dukeupress.edu/books.php3?isbn=978-0-8223-4533-6](http://www.dukeupress.edu/books.php3?isbn=978-0-8223-4533-6) if you want to purchase the book. Contact adrianaj@uci.edu for copies of the reading.

*This is the first presentation this year in a series of regular workshops on the topic, "Document/Documentary/Documenting." The workshops promote critical inquiry into literature, film and media studies, cultural studies, anthropology. This is philosophy and the arts. Faculty and graduate students from Comp Lit and related departments, together or singly, are invited to propose workshops on research they are currently pursuing. Participants might present work-in-progress or lead a general discussion of questions related to suggested readings. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Annette Schlichter at aschlich@uci.edu.*