

# ARCHIVES, POWER AND LIBERATION

Spring 2024

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

Instructor: María Montenegro (she/her/ella)



Photo: National Archives during the October 2019 social upheaval, Santiago, Chile.

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.