



# Lecture

## ANN LAURA STOLER

Anthropology and Historical Studies  
The New School

Friday, November 16, 2007

1:00-3:00 pm

Communications 120

Reception and *Conversatorio* to follow

### Along the Archival Grain: Thinking through Colonial Ontologies

What can we learn about the colonial order through the nature of its archival productions? In her lecture, Ann Stoler will address the insights that can be gained into the social imaginaries of colonial rule by attending not only to colonialism's archival content, but to the principles and practices lodged in particular archival forms. Stoler's focus is on archiving as process rather than on archives as things. Most importantly, Stoler looks to archives as condensed sites of epistemic and political anxiety rather than as just uneven, incomplete, or partial sources, and as intricate technologies of rule in themselves.

*Conversatorio* with Professor Stoler

3:45-5:15 pm

Communications 202

Readings for the *Conversatorio* are available at the Simpson Center, Communications 206. For information on the readings, see

[www.simpsoncenter.org/empires](http://www.simpsoncenter.org/empires)

**Ann Laura Stoler** is Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies at The New School. She has worked on issues of colonial governance, imperial epistemologies, and the politics of sentiment in comparative perspective, with a focus on the Netherlands Indies, for three decades. Her books include: *Imperial Formations* (2007), *Haunted by Empire* (2005), *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* (2002), *Tensions of Empire* (1997), *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things* (1995), *Along the Archival Grain: Thinking through Colonial Ontologies* (forthcoming), and a special issue of *Cultural Anthropology* entitled "Imperial Debris" (forthcoming).

This talk is part of the series *Shifting Empires: Transforming Colonial Rule in the Pacific Islands and Circum-Caribbean Worlds* and is sponsored by the Department of History, the Institute for Transnational Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, and the Simpson Center for the Humanities.