Elizabeth Stephens  
Research Fellow  
Centre for the History of European Discourses  
University of Queensland Australia 4072

**Report on NEER-funded Bodies of Knowledge Conference**

I am pleased to report that the “Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality in the Archives” held with the generous support of a $6000 grant from the Network for Early European Research was a great success. The conference was held at the State Library of Queensland from April 24-26, 2007, with over 70 attendees from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and France.

The aim of the conference was to take account of the turn to new theories and practices of the archive in critical theory, cultural studies, queer theory, philosophy, sociology and associated disciplines, which has had important repercussions for scholars working on histories and philosophies of the body. The conference examined the impact of innovative recent work of archives and archival practice for GLBTQ and sexuality studies, by interrogating how knowledge about the body is collected and held, as well as how it is produced. Drawing together scholars from a broad range of inter-disciplinary fields, the conference programme highlighted sexuality scholarship that is empirically grounded, document based, historically inflected, theoretically informed, and self-conscious of its relationship to archival practice. Keynote speakers included leading international figures in this field: Catherine Waldby, Elizabeth Kerekere, Rosemarie Garland-Thompson, Susan Stryker and Anjali Arondekar.

The grant from NEER was used for two main purposes:
- the awarding of bursaries to postgraduate students and early career researchers to enable attendance at the conference
- to cover a large portion of the costs of one of the keynote speakers, Professor Anjali Arondekar
After a competitive application process, bursaries totalling $2500 were awarded to:

- Sally Newman
- Michelle Marie Antoinette
- Soraya Garcia-Sanchez
- Sarah Cefai
- Nicole Anderson

Professor Anjali Arondekar’s expenses included an international airfare from Los Angeles to Brisbane, five nights at the Stamford hotel, meals and conference attendance fees, visa, and incidental expenses such as taxis. The NEER contribution to Prof Arondekar’s expenses was $3500.

A book proposal drawing on the conference proceedings is now underway. The collection, tentatively entitled *Bodies of Knowledge: Embodiment and the Archival Imaginary*, is anticipated to be edited and completed during 2008, with publication expected for 2009. This publication will, of course, acknowledge the generous support of NEER in the holding of the conference.