Make.Believe: Sexuality’s Subjects

My talk engages the emergence of a *devadasi* collectivity in colonial Portuguese India, the *Gomantak Maratha Samaj*, to pose two vulgar historiographical questions: (1) How does the absence and/or presence of archives secure historical futurity for sexuality’s subjects? (2) What if we are to shift our attention from the recursive dialectic of paucity and plenitude, and focus instead on a history of sexuality that is both incommensurable and quotidian, recalcitrant and ordinary? The challenge here is to configure a queer historiography that paradoxically adds value to a sedimented historical form (lost archives must be resurrected, found, produced for future gains) precisely by staging interest in its modes of reproduction.