

The UCSC Education Department Colloquium  
Series

**Methodological Meditations:  
On Unsettling the University**



**Sheeva M. Sabati**

Ph.D. Candidate  
Education Department UC Santa Cruz

**Wednesday, February 6th**  
**12:15 pm – 1:45 pm**  
**McHenry 0266**

A confluence of historical scholarship, campus-based activism, and media attention over the past decade has brought U.S. universities into national focus around fraught ethical issues. Researchers have uncovered how lauded institutions of higher education built their endowments through racial/colonial violence, including the ownership of enslaved African Americans and the classification of indigenous peoples into objects of scientific study. Amidst ongoing struggles for racial and indigenous justice, such histories raise urgent questions about the ethical responsibilities of universities in response to these legacies. In this two-part talk, I situate how my dissertation project engages in this conversation and discuss my methodological approach, which draws from anti-colonial feminisms and settler colonial studies. I will describe my process of developing a humanities dissertation project that examines and unsettles the racial/colonial entanglements of higher education.

Sheeva Sabati is a doctoral candidate in the Education Department in the Social and Cultural Contexts of Education at UC Santa Cruz. She has also completed Designated Emphases with the Feminist Studies Department and the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) Program. Her research has also been shaped by projects through the Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California (CCREC). Sheeva serves on the Editorial Collective of the Latin American Philosophy of Education Society (LAPES) and collaborates with scholar-activists to re-imagine higher education otherwise.