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The Reanimating Data Project Workshop 18th Nov. 2020

Hi, this is Sharon

Each Breakout Room to consider the following;

- What would you put in a feminist archive?

Is anything ever too personal?

Eye roll, cliché, embarrassment, too challenging a question ...

Formative objects

Friendship, family connections, gender identity, sexuality

Survival

Bonding

Language

Virginia Woolf

Wonder Woman/Women

Music

A vase

Anonymity

- What is feminist archiving to you?

Ethical processes

Can pertain to methodology rather than content, i.e. not all the women in the archive have to be "feminist" or identify as such

Power dynamics

Ethics of care

Intersections with anti-colonial approaches

Process vs preservation -- need things be permanent?

- What counts as archival material, are feminist archiving appraisal methods different and why?

- What would you put in a feminist archive?

- What makes an archive feminist? the content? how its made?

- What can the feminist archive do?

- What does the feminist archive do for you?

- What are the problems? what are the risks?

ethics - taking responsibility for creating ethical practice

working with the questions and the power of decontextualising material

listening

Finding, being found, renewing
tensions between safe spaces and public spaces/ open spaces
letting something unexpected happen. we don't know what
feminist knowledge making will look like when we share the archive.
questions can be more revealing than answers.
past-present relations rather than then and now
collect, but how to use creatively. do we want to do more than
preserve and hoard the histories as part of dealing with trauma
rather than unleashing it.
Methods for getting beneath narrative, unexpected, lateral,

Abira, Joan, Sharon

What is feminist archiving to you?

- recognition of labour and appropriate pay
- a particular approach, a process and a methodology (how objects are selected, organised and described)
- feminist, queer, post-colonial, are we grappling with the same questions?
- Causes disruptions
- Melissa Adler, impact of lack of representation, what you can add to something that already exists rather than creating something new.
- "The politics of seeing" - Heidi (Museum, objects, lessons)
- feminist organising
- portable archives, building community (creative archiving) - Climbing Poetree
- disrupts the notion of "the" archive, broadening the parameters of the archive - the digital does this
- relationship between museums and archives, how things are accessed digitally changes this. The digital replicates.
- Michelle Caswell, imagined archives. When "silenced" or absent.
- archives feel fixed, feminist archives are more fluid
- forming connections between the past, not being bound by time or space. Liberation
- Activism
- creating genealogies, activating others to connect to history
- Story-telling and creative aspects - the building of the archive is just the beginning of the story - creative responses activate different responses
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Key Concepts on feminist archiving (RAD Team and You)

Suzanne, Ali, Niamh

- the importance of trying to capture all contributions to archival

work – women's archival labour can be overlooked

- the significance of scale – Moravec – on the British Library being able to digitise Spare Rib – but what is possible for small archives
- the choices that get made – what gets digitised and made available
- how are those decisions made
- decolonisation the focus of conversations in the library – but library has inherited collection from Institute of Development Studies
- the significance of the location – where is the archive, what gets donated
- who gets to make decisions in archives – smaller archives having more autonomy to gather materials maybe; also the role of the idiosyncratic archivist who may get to make decisions
- the significance of the digital – archival material out of context?

Ester, Janet and Eleanor

Thinking about the literature on feminist ethics – recognising affect and power relations are key. the attention to affect really comes through in this project – the time and the thought and the care. This is not something that some funders of open data projects are interested in. So its really important to make this work visible.

Thinking through what my children would think to hear my life? Brinign affect into history.

What does it mean *not* to do the research, or not to make it available? We need to take some risks in order to do ethical research, thinking about the politics of representation.