



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook  
p r e s e n t s

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

# Regina Kunzel

## In Treatment:

### Mental Illness, Health, and Modern Sexuality

This talk focuses on the records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, the federal hospital for the mentally ill in Washington, DC, in order to explore the ways in which sexual- and gender-variant people have encountered psychiatry and psychoanalysis in mid-twentieth-century America. Kunzel considers these records not as a collection of disparate documents but as an archive, in order to reflect on how, through an archive's logics and silences and the longings an archive elicits, they challenge queer history. Bringing queer history into conversation with new scholarship on archives and "the archive" more generally, the talk is part of a larger project on the role of psychiatric scrutiny and stigma in the making of modern sexuality.

**Regina Kunzel** is the Paul R. Frenzel Land Grant Chair in Liberal Arts and Professor in the Departments of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and History at the University of Minnesota. She currently serves as Chair of the Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, and Professor of GWSS and History. She is the author of *Criminal Intimacy: Sex in Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality* and *Fallen Women, Problem Girls: Unmarried Mothers and the Professionalization of Social Work, 1890 to 1945*.

