



Professor
Jim Sweet



Athan
Biss

"Undercover Archives:
Surveillance and Historical
Interpretation"

Monday, February 22, 12-1 p.m.

Curti Lounge, 5th Floor Humanities

Join Professor Jim Sweet and Sandoway Fellow Athan Biss for a brown bag workshop focused on the challenges of working with surveillance documents. Using actual archival documents as a starting point we hope to spark a wide-ranging discussion about methodology and interpretation inspired by the simple, but vital question: *How do historians know what they know?* Within the context of surveillance archives a number of additional questions arise: What information is reliable and how can it be verified? How can surveillance archives produce useful information for historians? What motivated the informants who supplied information? What was the bureaucratic culture in which these files were produced?

If you have experience working with surveillance documents or plan to use them in the future, please join us. All interested faculty and graduate students are welcome.