In this talk I will explain how Hamiltonian and quasi-Hamiltonian reductions naturally appear in certain classical field theories: the Wess-Zumino-Witten theory and Chern-Simons. This is achieved by using the language of derived symplectic geometry that I will explain. An application of these ideas is a local computation of symplectic forms on the character varieties and their prequantizations. (Received February 08, 2014)