

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016, Seattle – Conference Session

Connecting Social Justice to the Workplace: Issues of Diversity in Our Professional Lives

The issues of diversity, inclusion, and addressing a wide spectrum of social identities are urgently important on campuses and in cultural institutions across the country. This session aims to provide attendees with a better understanding of the issues of diversity and inclusion and how they impact our unique workplaces, and with a tangible set of tools and resources for continuing education and making positive changes in their home institutions. Wednesday's session, "Connecting the Past to the Present: Promoting Cultural Understanding through Collections and Exhibitions," will address similar issues, while this session will take a broader view, focusing on presenting and discussing the principles of diversity and inclusion and how they manifest themselves in our daily professional lives. These two sessions should complement each other well.

Moderator:

Lesley Chapman, Visual Resources Curator, Colgate University

Speakers:

Processing for Social Justice: Community-based Archives & the Memory of The Miracle Bookmobile

Kelly Besser, Project Archivist, UCLA Special Collections

This presentation will discuss the challenges and rewards of engaging in social justice through community-based archives, and The Miracle Bookmobile's activation as a queer memory project. The Miracle is a community-based bookmobile which has redistributed thousands of zines, books, and comics over the last decade at community events and spaces in Los Angeles and Oakland. By collecting and redistributing free literature, The Miracle reclaims public space, nurtures an anti-capital gifting culture, and makes radical queer and feminist literature accessible to communities across the Golden State.

LIS Microaggressions Project: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Librarians

Simone Fujita, Liaison Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, James Lemont Fogg Memorial Library, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

Microaggressions are brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative slights and insults toward individuals from marginalized communities. In libraries, this can occur among library employees or between library employees and patrons. In this presentation, Simone Fujita, art librarian and Zine Project Manager for the LIS Microaggressions Project, will discuss the ways in which the LIS Microaggressions blog and zine create spaces for those working in libraries, archives and information fields to share their experiences with microaggressions within the profession.

"TILE: Fostering Inclusive Practices in the Classroom at Johns Hopkins University"

Macie Hall, Senior Instructional Designer, Center for Educational Resources, Johns Hopkins University

When professors foster inclusivity in the classroom, they not only help students learn about some of the issues surrounding diverse populations, but also help give students the voice to be more conversant about diverse issues in their fields and the world. Most important, however, is the engagement of students who otherwise may feel marginalized when their own unique experiences remain invisible. The Toolkit for Inclusive Learning Environments (TILE) was created at Johns Hopkins University to spark conversation and share best practices for fostering diversity and inclusion in the classroom, and includes not only best practices but a repository of specific examples that all faculty are welcome to use.

Irlanda Jacinto, University Archivist, University of Wyoming

Irlanda's presentation will focus on her experience as the first woman of color to serve as University Archivist at the University of Wyoming. She will discuss barriers and mental health issues she faced during her first seven months in Laramie, Wyoming; with the intent of contextualizing them to broader issues affecting diversity in information professions.

"Developing Intergroup Relations and Intercultural Competency"

Darlene Nichols, Foundations and Grants Librarian, University of Michigan

Strong intergroup relations and intercultural competency are critical to support honest inclusion in the academy. Library workers who interact with people from a wide range of intersecting identities benefit from understanding the history and current conditions of various social identity groups in the United States. We also need to understand our own cultures and what elements of our culture that we assume are "normal" are really cultural constructions that may not apply to everyone. Understanding of self and others can only help us to improve our communications and services to each person who enters our facilities.

Endorsed by the Education Committee (VRA)