5B—The Languages of Academic Libraries

On the Front Line? The Prevalence of War Metaphor in Academic Libraries, Melanie Boyd (University of Calgary, presenting), Ozouf Sénamin Amedegnato (University of Calgary, in absentia).

Metaphor is one of the most common figures of speech—providing a way we perceive, imagine, and interpret the world. In some work milieus, including academic libraries, metaphors grounded in war and conflict are disturbingly common. This paper will provide background about metaphors and how they work, exemplify and dissect the use of war metaphors, and reflect on how such metaphors might nurture a culture of symbolic violence by establishing the academic library as agonistic. To address this critical issue, we will suggest ways to augment awareness of war metaphor in the library context, as well as alternatives to it.