1B—Whiteness and Academic Librarianship

*Unmasking Whiteness: An Anti-Racist Approach to Reference Services, Dave Ellenwood (University of Washington Bothell and Cascadia College)*

Grounded in critical race theory and critical whiteness literature, this paper will examine the ways in which whiteness and racism shape reference services in academic libraries. Through a discourse analysis of key professional reference guidelines, this paper will interrogate three primary areas in which the culture of whiteness appears in reference services: approachability, responsiveness, and objectivity. By identifying the limitations of current conceptions of these principles and by applying social justice-oriented communication and service models, this paper will articulate the foundations of an anti-racist reference practice.