4A—Library Instruction and Political Agency

*Knowledge as Power: Teaching Students to Think Critically about Information at University and Beyond, Pascal Lupien (University of Guelph).*

Academic librarians have been at the forefront of supporting student research, yet there is more they could be doing to ensure that students have the skills they require to exercise democratic citizenship beyond the university. Ensuring the right to information pluralism requires citizens to engage with relevant theoretical concepts and to understand and recognize techniques used to generate and reproduce the dominant discourse. Drawing on relevant theoretical work and on experience with teaching democratic thinking to university students, the presenter will discuss the relationship between information and power. He will then consider how we can teach students to understand this relationship and evaluate sources accordingly.