

4A—Library Instruction and Political Agency

“I Think the Only Time I Care about Politics Is if It Affects Me or My Family. If It Doesn’t, I Have No Reason to Care about It:” Exploring Young People’s Political Agency and the Role of Information Literacy from a Critical Pedagogical Perspective, Lauren Smith (University of Strathclyde).

This paper discusses the author’s critical phenomenographic research into young people’s experiences of political information. The study explores how a sample of British 14- and 15-year-olds conceive of the many sources of political information in their lives. The results, generated from personal construct and phenomenographic analysis, were viewed from a critical pedagogical perspective to identify ways educators can help young people to develop the political agency they need to become critical citizens. The results provide an insight into the life-worlds of future HE students, which is of relevance to academic librarians interested in their role as critical educators.