Plenary: On Critical Practice: Opening Reflections

Emily Drabinski (Long Island University), Heidi Jacobs (University of Windsor), Jessie Loyer (Mount Royal University).

What does critical practice mean in the context of academic librarianship? What does it look like in specific professional practice, scholarly, and service environments, whether internal to the profession or in external communities? Why is it important? What are its limits and how are these negotiated? What kinds of tensions does it bring up and what approaches are needed to address them? Our opening plenary features introductory explorations of critical librarianship in practice, theory, and professional/civic engagement through the reflections of three academic librarians. The session seeks to provide a preliminary opportunity for sharing insights, vocabulary, concepts, and frameworks with which to engage questions of academic librarianship and critical practice.