Critical Reflections: Exploring Narratives of Librarianship in the Corporate Research-Intensive University in Canada

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While numerous studies examine the impact of the corporatization of higher education on faculty, only a handful explore librarians’ experiences. My doctoral research seeks to address this gap by expanding librarians’ shared understanding of how the logics and practices of the neoliberal university produce the material practices—the space and time—of our work. Data for this study was gathered through semi-structured interviews with twenty-four information literacy or liaison librarians—with years of professional experience ranging from less than one to more than thirty, all working in Canadian U15 universities—and analyzed using constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2014). Themes emerging from a sample of the data, which I will explore in this presentation, include: librarians’ perceptions of the values and practices of the corporate university; and tensions between professional, personal, and institutional values.