

### **3A— ON NEUTRALITY / QUESTIONING NEUTRALITY #2**

*Towards an Ethics of Difference: The Pluralist Library*

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This presentation advances an ethical alternative to the dichotomy of neutrality and censorship in librarianship. I begin with an attempt to elucidate a clear definition of neutrality by examining the historical circumstances of LIS and logical positivism within the university in order to develop an understanding of how neutrality developed as an ethical system within the discipline. I then explore the value laden nature of neutrality in order to develop an understanding of how neutrality functions as a hidden, yet hegemonic force, within LIS. Out of this exploration, I turn to feminist scholarship in order to provide a critique of neutrality as a hegemonic force (rather than as an ethical position). I argue that, in order to develop a more egalitarian framework, librarians should turn to a variety of ethical formations, rather than promoting a single, universal position of neutrality.