

## **4B—THE POLITICS OF SPACE: CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND THE LIBRARY #1**

### *Building a Critical Anti-Poverty Reference Centre?*

Kate Adler (Metropolitan College of New York)

Expanding on a project first workshopped at the Critical Librarianship & Pedagogy Symposium, this paper will explore theoretical questions raised in the collection development of Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) Library's proposed South Bronx Community Reference & Anti-Poverty Research Center. At the heart of the MCNY Library's mission is the vision of a library as a collaborative space for intellectual inquiry. With the Reference Center project, this mission would be extended by providing an open, nimble, and collaborative community space, engaging students and the larger community in accessible, relevant scholarship. Building on ideas of affective geography, I consider libraries as a third space and explore how reference collections/archives may be differently imagined in the context of historically underserved communities. Close at hand will be the question: 'What is the role of a critical reference practice in nurturing scholarly/community library space as tools for social justice?'