

## **6C—NEOLIBERALISM AND ISSUES OF IDENTITY #1**

*Between Neoliberalism and Identity: Academic Librarianship and November 9, 2016*

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CAPAL17 featured a heavy emphasis on identity in its call for papers, and this has been much questioned recently. Neoliberalism – ascendant for decades – is missing from the discussions. Politically it’s now combined with proposals to massively borrow to invest in infrastructure (bolstering the working class), strong moves against immigration (thought to bolster the working class labour market), and against the depredations of free trade agreements. This paper won’t resolve these contradictions but a deeper look at the political operation of neoliberalism – and how it has been “sold” – sheds some light on the political success of neoliberalism which foreshadowed an unmoored “whitelash” response – and the postmodern methods deployed in neoliberal right-wing politics which promoted the atmosphere of a fact-free, policy-free, and truth-free election. This cuts to the heart of academic librarianship and the critiques of identity politics in turn help shed some light on where progressive politics have fallen down.