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Always Already Violent: Love and Refusal in the Academic Library

My hope for this talk is that we can think together about the ways that the library and the university are always already violent, and to claim love, safety, choice, trust, respect, kinship, friendship, self-expertise, and joy as ways to reorient, reimagine, and refuse. Because as Fred Moten reminds us, “that’s the insidious thing, this naturalisation of misery, the belief that intellectual work requires alienation and immobility and that the ensuing pain and nausea is a kind of badge of honor, a kind of stripe you can apply to your academic robe or something. Enjoyment is suspect, untrustworthy, a mark of illegitimate privilege or of some kind of... refusal to look squarely into the fucked-up face of things which is, evidently, only something you can do in isolation.”