#critlib 2017-09-18: spatial justice

Archive of the September 18 2017 #critlib chat on spatial justice, moderated by @a_meeksie & @vin_alyssa. For more info about #critlib, including past and future chats, visit http://critlib.org/



ARLIS/NA @ARLIS_NA

Join #ARLISriss and #critlib on Monday, September 18 at 8pm Central Time for a Twitter chat on spatial justice critlib.org/spatial-justic...



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

Tonight at 8pm CST: #critlib chat on #spatialjustice and #publicart! Check out the questions/add'l readings here: critlib.org/spatial-justic...



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

#Critlib! on #spatialjustice in half an hour! What did ya'll think of the reading: tinyurl.com/yc3q7asp



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

A note abt tonight's #critlib chat: In addition to storify, the chat will be archived on the ARLIS learning portal: arlisna.org/career-resourc...



6 MONTHS AGO

Introductions



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Hey, #critlib -ers! We'll start chatting in a few minutes.





@collegeart asked their members for their views (tinyurl.com/y88c578v); tonight's #critlib chat is abt adding #librarian voices



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

If you'd like to chat anonymously, you can submit your responses here: goo.gl/8wyNps. They'll be posted by @CritLib_anon #Critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

New to #critlib chats? First off, thanks for joining! So we can keep track, please use A1, A2, etc. prefixes when responding to questions.



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Welcome to tonight's #critlib chat about spatial justice. Let's start with intros!



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

Follow along with @vin_alyssa and I! We are the moderators for tonight's #critlib chat. Feel free to respond anonymously: twitter.com/vin_alyssa/sta...



6 MONTHS AGO



Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

Hey #critlib academic librarian in California.





I'm Alyssa (hello!), an academic librarian in Chicago. #critlib





Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

I'm Amanda, an art/english/WGS/etc. subject liaison at an academic institution in Arizona #critlib. Welcome to tonight's chat!





unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

Hi #critlib mlis student at queens college & ex lib page in public library





Max Bowman @maxgbowman

🧑♂ Hi #critlib I'm Max, academic librarian in Virginia. Mostly lurking tonight.





Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

Hi #critlib, I'm the Digital Initiatives Librarian at Md. Institute College of Art 👋 🌋



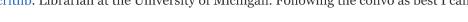
6 MONTHS AGO



Sheila

@ssgarcia23

Hi #critlib. Librarian at the University of Michigan. Following the convo as best I can





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

good evening #critlib, I'm Zoe (zoh-ee), adjunct community college librarian in Seattle, WA.





Hi #critlib, it's me, an LIS PhD student... I am baking cookies, but will be keeping an eye on things. #alreadylate





Sian Evans @sianniekins

Hi #critlib joining in a little late - Information Literacy & Instructional Design Librarian at MICA.





A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

#critlib semi-lurking from MIT Libraries, urban studies & planning librarian so spatial justice is super relevant to my work!





Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

Just got home and coming to #Critlib late. I'm a librarian at a German cultural institute



Q1. What is the function of public art and architecture where you work/live?



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

Let's get started, shall we? Q1: What is the function of public art and architecture where you work/live? #critlib





Amanda Meeks

@A meeksie

Q1 Follow up: Are monuments meant to be art? Do they have a other functions/purposes? #critlib





Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

A1: Arch. at work: buildings named for donors. Pub. art at work: promote conversation among students, faculty, community members #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

A1. My lib has a permanent Mark Twain room. It functions to celebrate whiteness & ignore white supremacy in children's lit #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Lisa Hubbell

@lisahubbell

A1. The building where I work was historically a factory. Art is colorful abstract paintings, + some student projects. #critlib



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

A1: I live in a town surrounded by native reservations, I do not see enough native public art/arch. This reinforces whiteness #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

A1 Tons of monuments, sculptures, and murals by street artists in Baltimore. And this happened baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/... #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

A1: To clarify, our public art *ideally* promotes conversation. But you have to feel welcome on a college campus to see it. #critlib





A1 Lots of public art in Seattle! But only a small portion acknowledges indigenous peoples. #critlib seattle.gov/arts/programs/...





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A1 Chief Seattle sculpture recognizes the city's namesake but def glosses over the whole stolen land thing. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Sea... #critlib





Of Anonymous Critlib

@CritLib_anon

#critlib A1. Some students researching monuments, might serve them better if I don't express opinions.





Sian Evans

@sianniekins

A1. I took an excellent course in grad school (part 1, pre-library) on german collective memory and counter-monument. #critlib





Sian Evans

@sianniekins

A1 Cont'd. I feel like there's a lot to be learned from German debates here in the US: harvarddesignmagazine.org/issues/9/memor... #critlib





Kelly Thoreson 💯 🔊 @klthoreson

A bit late but interested in this convo. A1. The public lib system I work in has a branch named after a First Nations chief... #critlib





... but I only learned this through someone I worked with and the need for TRC training at libraries, including ours. #critlib



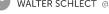


don't think there is a plaque abt who he was (or that he was part of FN resistance) AND his name has been whitewashed #critlib.





A1 we have a statue of our namesake, Goethe, which causes constant confusion about what our mission/focus area actually is #Critlib pic.twitter.com/Spf061z8cU



WALTER SCHLECT @WALTERSCHLECT · 6 MONTHS AGO

Q2. What narratives/whose history is dominant in and around lib*/archives in your community?



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

Q2: What narratives/whose history is dominant in and around lib*/archives in your community? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Q2 Follow up: How does the community engage w those narratives/history? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



S. E. Hackney 🧗 @fiiidget

A2: despite there being lots arad stuff abt black power mymts in our collections, you wouldn't know it from being in the space. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A2 I learned last week that my college came to exist because of WWII, as a war prod facility. History of war/industry emphasized. #critlib



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

A2 Rich white males dominate the mainstream narratives being told through libs/archives in this city, esp in a historical context #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swagdee_swayd

A2. In #Buffalo there are ZERO statues of POC women. The city is 38% Black. Libs had zero exhibits highlighting POCs in 3+ yrs #critlib





A2: We don't acknowledge stolen land in my city & most things are named after white donors: flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter... #critlib





Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

A2 Our students' narratives dominate our space because their work is constantly on display. working an art/design college #critlib





6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

A2: white male narratives still super prevalent in MIT spaces around campus; lib/archives are expanding the narratives in some ways #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

I don't see much engagement, but I know that the BSU on my campus tried to have building's/room's names changed a few years ago #critlib twitter.com/vin_alyssa/sta...



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A2 every campus I've been to names bldgs & spaces after donors/retired faculty--most of whom are white & wealthy. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Pride Library @pridelibrary

@zoh_zoh Old families of the city for many of ours #critlib





Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

A2. Public art in my neighborhood: utility box portraits of Berkeley HS grads. Writers, activists, musicians, mostly white & black. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara @aamcnamara

#critlib our current exhibits are pretty cool (not super involved in either so I can brag, haha): libraries.mit.edu/exhibits/ but change is slow



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@dee_swayd

A2. Along with the whiteness, their is the absence of any youth space in lib. No teen rm cuz admins r afraid of "gangs" #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Pride Library

@pridelibrary

@lee_swayd That's awful 😟 #critlib



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Kelly Thoreson 💯 🔊

@klthoreson

A2. Our summer reading club program had a #canada150 theme that focused on celebrating Canada (+ not engaging w/ colonial history) #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Kelly Thoreson 💯 🞳 aklthoreson

A2. I think our spaces are often v white. Offer to "welcome" others in but might not structurally include them. #critlib





Q2 mostly colonialists/industrialists who later gave money to libraries #Critlib twitter.com/vin_alyssa/sta...

6 MONTHS AGO

Q3. If lib* take an antiracist approach to cultivating culturally responsive spaces, what do we need to examine first and why?



Amanda Meeks

@A meeksie

Q3: If lib* take an antiracist approach to cultivating culturally responsive spaces, what do we need to examine first and why? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

A3: ourselves, absolutely; despite some progress at MIT there are so many ways we're not yet there #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

A3: We have to look at who gets to participate in the cultivation of these spaces. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher

@zoh_zoh

A3 I think libs need to examine the assumed neutrality of whiteness in spaces-white is so often the default for every process, why? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Sian Evans @sianniekins

A3. Architecture! Neo-classical and neo-Gothic buildings as false histories of a pure white past. wnyc.org/story/on-the-m... #critlib





A3 What are our campuses saying to the communities they are in and what are the parallels to our patrons of marginalized groups? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

A3: Stop naming bldngs after rich/white donors, learn & understand local history of PoC, hire PoC to create the art/arch! #critlib twitter.com/A_meeksie/stat...



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher

azoh zoh

A3 I'm thinking about how in many cases a white committee gets together to recognize other whites, curate white displays, etc. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

A3 (cont.): Often these convos happen in homogeneous committees, or it becomes something for POC staff, faculty, students to fix. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

A3. Who is already represented? Who makes decisions? Who is in the conversation? Who is framing the questions? #critlib twitter.com/A_meeksie/stat...



6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

A3 What are our interactions & the way we move through our space, the way we use our space saying to our patrons and community? #critlib







@CityThatReads love this--how do our spaces express our values? do they say what we want them to say? #critlib





Really just want to use the & emoji for A3 because we're approaching that time of year, & its analogous #critlib





A3 also, what am I/are other white lib folks ignoring/looking past/not seeing in spaces? what's the "invisible" default? #critlib



Q4. How can we can work to counteract & subvert oppressive spatial elements, such as monuments that function as microaggressions?



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Q4: How can we can work to counteract & subvert oppressive spatial elements, such as monuments that function as microaggressions? #critlib





Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Q4 follow up: How can we prevent minimization/erasure of marginalized ppl's narratives/contributions thru our work in lib/archives? #critlib





A4 Take them down. #critlib





Anonymous Critlib

@CritLib_anon

#critlib A4. Outnumber them, if possible. Add displays that tell the stories that are left out.



6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

#critlib for me this manifests e.g. in the (v white) art we have in the libraries (which we're working on...but it's taken a while...)



6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti

@CityThatReads

A4 Sharing a response from a membership organization is not the answer. Not naming whiteness is not the answer. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Max Bowman

@maxgbowman

Re: how do we cultivate spaces that allow folks to feel comfortable, and represented. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

Again for the ppl in the back #critlib twitter.com/zoh_zoh/status...



6 MONTHS AGO



Sian Evans

@sianniekins

A4 I keep coming back to Germany. Look to examples of places where folks have thought through these questions more than we have. #critlib





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A4 on campus, I think it's necessary to talk about history of the campus/library & how it does or doesn't represent current values. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

A4: We can do the work to research/work w community to document narratives often overlooked/reserved for bottom shelf of history. #critlib twitter.com/vin_alyssa/sta...



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher

@zoh_zoh

A4 I went to Oberlin & many students walk AROUND the arch at commencement bc they don't like what it represents. active resistance. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti

@CityThatReads

A4 Do what we tell students to do in instruction: think about what's missing. What's not there. What aren't you finding. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

@CityThatReads Yes Jenny! So perfect #critlib twitter.com/citythatreads/...



6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

A4 while lib staff remains so white I think a lot is letting patrons/community have freer rein to reinterpret/reinscribe space #critlib





Thread. #twitterstorians #critlib twitter.com/jmjafrx/status...





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A4 interesting-looks like Oberlin changed the route after I graduated, partly due to controversy. insidehighered.com/news/2009/04/2... #critlib





Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

A4: Support artists and activists who want to work to counteract these structures and monuments #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A4 this is actually a really interesting example bc Oberlin lets the arch remain standing but no longer centers it in the ceremony #critlib





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A4 I also really like the idea of adding to existing art/spaces to counteract & disrupt the narrative. #critlib





Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

A4. Invite community conversations. @LevineMuseum in Charlotte, NC is a good model for these. #critlib





A4. Have conversations about these monuments. Don't let them be neutral, passive. They never were. #critlib





unbalanced Libra

lee_swaydbee_swayd

A4. Better yet, don't just remove racist ass statues. Smash them! #DoItLikeDurham #critlib





Pride Library

@pridelibrary

@vin_alyssa A4: Actively search for marginalized ppl's stories/contributions in your field/local history. Don't rely on 1 source for the facts #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO

Q5. What barriers might we encounter in trying to do this work in our profession & how can we overcome those barriers?



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

Q5: What barriers might we encounter in trying to do this work in our profession & how can we overcome those barriers? #critlib





Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

I really love this work, for example. #critlib Support these activists and artists. twitter.com/BYP_100/status...



6 MONTHS AGO



Sian Evans

@sianniekins

A5. Racism. Keep at it (white folks). #critlib



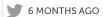


A5: Apathy, donor politics (for buildings, collections, etc.), white fear. #critlib





A5 White fragility. #critlib





#critlib A5. Assumptions that libraries should or can be neutral.





A5 I think many librarians feel like they don't fully control the lib's spaces & don't want to invite admin attn to these issues. #critlib





@zoh_zoh I think about this a lot, and it's partially why I often organize between institutional spaces. #critlib





A5 getting pushback for not being "nice." I try to use my white privilege to be pushy for the cause of justice #critlib





Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A5 "oh, you don't like that endowed classroom named after a white supremacist? we'll just take it & use it for something else, thx" #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

A5: Fear of "offending"/"alienating", push back, lack of understanding beyond own experience-to name a few, ALL tied to whiteness #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

A5. In addition to white supremacist libs, the hierarchy prevents staff from engaging. & support staff are usually most POC & queer #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



A A McNamara

@aamcnamara

@lee_swayd *snaps for this* #critlib



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

A5: To overcome, keep working. Must say that often, as I too easily stay quiet. Systems cannot dismantle quietly or easily #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Jenny Ferretti @CityThatReads

A5 Being dismissed because I'm a WOC in a predominantly white field. #critlib





Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

A5. All the mistakes white allies inevitably make, and finding ways to work through them w/o repeated burden to POC. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

A5 like so many things, I'm afraid we'll never see real progress with this until we see more diversity in library leadership. #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher

@zoh_zoh

A5 if libraries are perpetually run by white women & white men who make most decisions, how can we undo all this shit? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

@zoh_zoh Bring more people into decisions. #critlib



🍧 6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

A5: If you're white, now is not the time to turn away from these issues. It never was. We have to face it head on, not bury heads #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

A5. Yt ppl r also uber risk-adverse. #critlib





#critlib truth twitter.com/lee_swayd/stat...





A5 Organize. @librarieswehere #critlib





Can't keep up with responses, thanks to this head cold. But I'll catch up tomorrow! Thanks for sharing, everyone. #critlib





A5: It's incredibly important to acknowledge short comings & LISTEN to PoC affected by these spatial injustice. The first time. #critlib





@A_meeksie Yes! I never get tired of this post from @AprilHathcock (good thing, when I need the reminder) #critlib aprilhathcock.wordpress.com/2016/04/13/you...





A5. I think prof is 30% unionized. What if we were 100% union? What risks would we make? #critlib





A5 Seconding @CityThatReads's ORGANIZE & for white ppl, make spaces 4 ppl of color in yr organizing. its not hard! #artandfeminism #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

A5 Funding sources coming from people/organizations with a vested interest in maintaining white supremacy #critlib twitter.com/a_meeksie/stat...



6 MONTHS AGO

Conclusions



Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

As we get close to our 60 mins, let's mix in #critpitch time. Anyone have writings/events/readings/other things to share? #critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Zoe Fisher @zoh_zoh

Tune in for the next #critlib chat on Tuesday, October 3 about #OER! #critpitch critlib.org/twitter-chats/...



6 MONTHS AGO



Amanda Meeks

@A_meeksie

Thank you all so much for participating in tonight's #critlib chat! I can tell folks got fired up about this and I hope we can keep at it



6 MONTHS AGO



Alyssa Vincent

@vin_alyssa

If anyone would like to volunteer to Storify this chat, please let us know! #critpitch #critlib



🏏 6 MONTHS AGO



Thank you so much to to @A_meeksie & @vin_alyssa for a great #critlib chat!





Alyssa Vincent @vin_alyssa

Echo-ing @A_meeksie and her thanks. Here's to continuing the conversation! #critlib





Sian Evans @sianniekins

Thanks @A_meeksie and @vin_alyssa for this awesome chat! #critlib





Lisa Hubbell @lisahubbell

Thanks so much to @A_meeksie @vin_alyssa & all the #critlib folks who showed up to chat about spatial justice.



6 MONTHS AGO



mikkiliqi@gmail.com @Qi40660473

Thanks!#critlib



6 MONTHS AGO



Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

Sorry I was late to the discussion! Loved this #critlib topic. Working in an inflexible rigid space has made me want better library spaces



6 MONTHS AGO



unbalanced Libra

lee_swa@bee_swayd

Thx @A_meeksie & @vin_alyssa for #critlib chat!





First #critlib conversation, came late and catching up on what was said. Came away with lots to think about





Zoë @zomanjii

Totally missed the #critlib discussion, but I'll be reading back through everything!





A. Hathcock @AprilHathcock

Looks like I missed a good #critlib tonight. Will enjoy lurking through the tweets.





sarah @sarahkirkley

Catching up on yesterday's #critlib & what a great conversation!



6 MONTHS AGO



NaoB @BishopNaomi

@A_meeksie have you seen this? #critlib DU libraries did an exhibit of Real Life Indians a few year ago! twitter.com/BishopNaomi/st...

