So, what now?
Moving through tensions to practice in critical library assessment

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"Despite reports of how detrimental such disparities are to the larger social good, we can only conclude that the normative culture is invested in these inequalities in ways that complicate change."
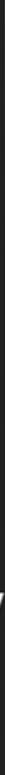
Hurtado, 2015, p. 290

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value   values

values

object forms

active forms

- ➔ strategic plans
- ➔ mission + vision statements
- ➔ policies
- ➔ values statements
- ➔ statements of support

"the undeclared rules and activities that form the disposition or propensity of a system, be it a city, an organization, or a free trade zone."

Reframing assessment practice to reflect community accountabilities:

- Treat the people who provide us with their data as partners, rather than subjects

- Position data providers (rather than library administrators) as the primary audience of our work

- Push back on requests for data that might exploit or increase the vulnerability of those who provide it

- Highlight instances when we have not used library data to full effect or to its original intent

- Question if new data is actually needed to make a decision (especially if that decision is all but made already)

- Recognize the labour of library workers and partners required for even small projects and weigh this cost against the potential benefit of the work

"...while we act in relation to object forms, our actions are also influenced by de facto forms of power that are often more consequential than our official positions."

Yousefi, 2017, p. 93

"...some may deem resistance impossible. Yet this assumption is dangerous because it suggests that we have no agency and that neoliberalism is a permanent structure, rather than contingent on our daily assumptions, behaviors, and actions. Furthermore, it ignores the myriad forms of resistance that are already taking place inside and outside the neoliberal academy."

Shahjahan, 2014, p. 230

"Slow to change, higher education poses significant barriers within institutions themselves and within the environment of their work. The heavy investment in the accountability movement provides an opportunity to push back on externally defined measures and lean into ourselves to be critically reflexive and discover and address our own shortcomings to advancing justice through higher education. However, it requires us to rethink our practices to evaluating ourselves. The calls for justice in current times cannot wait."

Hernández, Berumen, & Zerquera, 2018, p. 142

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Hurtado, 2015, p. 290

"The decision to maintain the status quo, to preserve current power structures, and by extension to remain exclusionary, is intentional."

Yousefi, 2017, p. 95

Thank you

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