

Cinderella Ain't Got Nothing on Us: Teaching Faculty Microaggressions towards Librarians

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Little-to-no research exists on microaggressions from teaching faculty towards librarians. Often, the subversive nature of microaggressions makes them particularly difficult to recognize or defend against. Many academic librarians express dissatisfaction or annoyance about mistreatment or ill treatment they have endured at the hands of teaching faculty, who treat librarians like servants rather than colleagues.

Our research project is an initial attempt to address the gap in LIS research on this topic. Using the theory of microaggressions we will investigate academic librarians' experiences of hostile, derogatory and negative treatment, based solely on academic status. To achieve this, our study will conduct an exploratory data analysis of the results of an online survey provided to librarians in North America. Our survey attempts to address the following three points:

1. How do librarians walk the fine line (or where to draw the line) between collegiality and assertiveness when communicating and collaborating with teaching faculty?
2. Do librarians perceive that they have the ability to speak from a place of power?
3. Do librarians feel comfortable and confident enough to report faculty transgressions in the form of microaggressions to their superiors/library administration, and if they do, is adequate support received?