

## **5A—Holding up the Mirror**

*Consultants in Our Community: Are They In or Are They Out?*

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While library consultants have long been part of our library ecosystem, in the scholarly literature there has been negligible consideration given to the role consultants play in academic libraries and the impact of consultants on the academic library community. While the title of our talk may seem unnecessarily polemical, it is reflective of the kind of literature that currently exists on the use of consultants. That is, consultants in libraries are largely addressed in personalized opinion pieces that either champion or criticize the use of consultants. This talk aims to embody these two positions to make explicit the limitations of current discourse.