

4B—THE POLITICS OF SPACE: CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND THE LIBRARY #2

Changing Spaces: Spatial Reorganization and the Nexus of Power in the Academic Library

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This paper explores the ways that shifting power relations in academia are transforming library spaces. I examine the ways that power external to the library proper, both local (campus-based, administrative power), and global (corporate and state power), infiltrate and reorganize library spaces. Highlighting specific cases of library reorganization, I will show how such projects are often shaped by factors external to libraries, often resulting in a loss or diminution of internal library power or control (whether for library workers, users, or both). Modes of neoliberal reform justify such changes and most often are presented or masked as improvements or advancements of traditional library services, leaving unseen or unnoticed the outsourcing of services, information, metadata, and control.