

“Diversity by Design: The Way Forward”

In this talk, Prof. Caidi looks back at a decade of research on ‘diversity’ broadly construed, and its implications for teaching and practice. She will first discuss some key ideas that she and her research collaborators examined, including the idea of social inclusion being framed as an information problem; the attractiveness of LIS careers to students and alumni stemming from diverse backgrounds; the diversity of LIS professions, and the significant disconnect that persists in how the goals of LIS education are seen by certain groups of practitioners, students, and faculty members. She will also share some recent research on the tactics used by marginalized youth to create opportunities for engagement, community building and identity formation in the context of their everyday life. The talk will take up several related concepts and the relationships among them to expand on the meanings and values of diversity, with an eye toward reconceptualizing it as a powerful force for advancing and reshaping the information professions.