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## Georgia Library Association - Black Caucus (GLA-BC)

Karen Manning

*Georgia Institute of Technology*, km17@mail.gatech.edu

Sofia A. Slutsкая

*Georgia Institute of Technology*, sofia.slutsкая@library.gatech.edu

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## **Georgia Library Association Black Caucus (GLA-BC)**

### **New GLA Interest Group—the Black Caucus— Collaborates with the Academic Library Division**

An initiative to create a Georgia Library Association (GLA) state affiliate of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) was approved by the GLA Executive Board at the December 2018 meeting. During the 2019 Georgia Library Association's Midwinter Meeting, the Black Caucus (GLA-BC) was established and celebrated as a new interest group. Establishing the Black Caucus is an important milestone in the continuing growth and success of the Georgia Library Association.

The Black Caucus advocates for quality, diversified library services that will broaden social impact within GLA and its communities. It is a group where common interests and goals are shared in support of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the library profession.

In the spirit of partnership and possibilities, the Black Caucus will be a unifying group that collaborates with other GLA divisions, committees, and interest groups to offer a robust and diverse array of programming,

events, projects, resources, and opportunities that enhance the value of engaging with GLA.

In line with its mission, the GLA-BC's first event was a collaboration with the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Georgia chapter to organize a viewing of the ACRL webinar "Overcoming Biases and Microaggressions in the Workplace" in multiple locations across the state to give librarians from all types of libraries an opportunity to discuss issues of bias and micro-aggression.



Webinar viewing at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Metropolitan Branch.

The ACRL offers its chapters two free webinars per year. The ACRL encourages group viewings of the webinars to promote networking, communication, and collaboration among librarians. This year, the Academic Library Division (ALD) selected a topic with the broadest appeal to library

professionals from all library types and held the viewings in both academic and public libraries on two different dates at five locations across the state. Eighty library professionals registered to attend the event. To make the events truly interactive, all locations held discussions and workshops after the viewing. In two metro Atlanta locations, Georgia Tech's Isabel Altamirano and Karen Manning guided participants through a user-experience design exercise called "empathy maps" to examine how other people would see a controversial issue. Feedback from the viewings, discussions, and workshops was very positive and generated ideas for future events and collaborations.

The GLA ALD and the GLA-BC would like to thank the libraries and the librarians who worked closely with them to make these webinar viewing parties happen. They included Alison Cook at Columbus State University, Oscar Gittemeier at Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Metropolitan Branch, Ann Fuller at Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus, Karen

Manning at Georgia Tech, and Rachel Evans and Sandra Riggs at the University of Georgia.

As the GLA-BC begins its work, they encourage all GLA members to lend their support to this new interest group. By supporting the diverse library community, the GLA-BC can uphold and advance essential missions of the Georgia Library Association.