

# Labor, Law and Justice



## 30th Annual North American Labor History Conference

McGregor Conference Center  
October 16-18, 2008

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**Labor, Law and Justice**  
**30th Annual North American Labor History Conference**

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday October 16, 2008**

**Registration and Coffee Hour**

9:30 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

**Working Class History, Migration, Immigration Laws, Activist Labor Scholarship:**

**A Chicano/Latino Studies Perspective**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor B

*Chair*, José G. Moreno, Michigan State University

Dióncio Valdés, Michigan State University

Jerry Garcia, Michigan State University

Dylan Miner, Michigan State University

**Labor and Class Movements**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor F

*Chair and Comment*

Graham Cassano, Oakland University

*The Working Class vs. the Leisure Class: How Class Influenced the Movement to Defeat the ERA in Post-WWII America*

Emily E. LaBarbera Twarog, University of Illinois, Chicago

*Looking for a Working Class in the 1950s: Testing the Embourgeoisement Thesis*

Robert W. Wallace, McMurry University

*George Edwards: The UAW's True Labor Man? The 1949 Detroit Mayoral Election and Working-Class Voters*

Elizabeth K. Chamberlain, Central Michigan University

**The Political Consequences of Wartime Labor**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Reuther Library, Woodcock Room

*Chair and Comment*

Daniel J. Clark, Oakland University

*The US Experience*

Karen A.J. Miller, Oakland University

*Labor Mobilization in the UK*

John Martin, DeMontfort University

**Twentieth-Century Shop Floor Culture**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Reuther I

*Chair and Comment*

Stephen Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

*Disputes at the Potter's Bench: West Virginia Pottery Workers' Grievance Procedure in the 1950s*

Lou Martin, Chatham University

*Tobacco Use and Shopfloor Culture at Hammermill Paper Company*

Gregory Wood, Frostburg State University

*Life on the Lehr: Gender Segregation and Women's Shop Floor Culture in the Glass Industry*

Ginny Young, West Virginia University

*This session sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association*

**Lunch**

*On Your Own*

**MOVIE SHOWING**

McGregor, Room B

*"Made in L.A."*

**Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Lessons from the Mexican-American Experience**

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., McGregor B

*Presenter*

Zaragosa Vargas, University of California, Santa Barbara

*Moderator and Respondent*

Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Wayne State University

*Respondents:*

Jorge L. China, Wayne State University

José Cuello, Wayne State University

Francis Shor, Wayne State University

**Liverpool Love Lane Refinery Lives**

Documentary Film Screening

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., McGregor F

*Comment*

Ron Noon, John Moores University, Liverpool

Sam Davies, John Moores University, Liverpool

**Labor, Occupational Health and the Environment**

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., McGregor I

*Chair and Comment*

Nancy Gabin, Purdue University

*Law and Transnational Working Class Activism in the Gilded Age: the Case of Bakery Reform, 1870-1910*

Matthew Bewig, University of Florida

*Labor Under Threat in America's Coalfields: Miners and the Energy Crisis, 1970 to 1983*

Richard Fry, Wayne State University

*'The Fight is Not Yet Over:' USWA Participation in Indiana Dune Preservation in the 1960s*

Brittany Bayless, Purdue University

**Repression and Containment: Workplace Management in the United States and Mexico, 1897-1943**

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., McGregor E

*Chair and Comment*

Howard R. Stanger, Canisius College

*Size Didn't Matter: Activists, Employers and the Open Shop Question, 1897-1917*

Chad Pearson, University of Albany, SUNY

*Divide and Rule: Mexican Railway Executives Exploit Divisions Among the Rank and File of the Strongest National Union*

Robert F. Alegre, Bloomfield College

***Calling All Graduate Students!***

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Woodcock Room

Research session at Walter P. Reuther Library

Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

**Plenary**

4:15 - 5:45 p.m., McGregor B/C

**Chair**

Mel Small, Wayne State University

*U.S. Labor, The Anti-Imperialist Moment of 1919, and American Isolationism*

Elizabeth McKillen, University of Maine and

Lecturer, The Gerald J., Myrna F., and Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Series for the Support of the Discussion of American History, Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs

**Conference Reception**

Reuther Library Lobby

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 17, 2008**

**Registration and Coffee Hour**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

**Legal Structures and Labor's Campaigns for Justice**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor F

*Chair and Comment*

Wythe Holt, University of Alabama Law School

*Global Social Justice and the International Legal Order: Lessons from American Labor's Experience of Constitutional Laissez Faire*

Robin Archer, London School of Economics

*Between a Rock and a Hard Place: How Much Work can Charter Do?*

Eric Tucker, York University

*Spaces of Normativity Between the I.L.O. Legislation and Practice and National Regulations on Employment Contracts*

Elena Crumpana, European Commission and Spiru Haret University Law School, Romania

**Can't Sing, Can't Dance, Can't Write: Laboring in Entertainment during the Blacklist Era**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor E

*Chair*

Gail Malmgreen, Tamiment Library/Wagner Archives, New York University

*Millard Lampell from the Almanacs to The Inheritance: A Wordsmith and the Blacklist*

Ronald D. Cohen, Indiana University Northwest

*Time is Money: Labor, New Dance Group, and Dance as a Weapon*

Victoria Phillips Geduld, Columbia University

*I Won't Negotiate with the Communist: the Birth, Short Life and Death of the Television Writers of America*

K. Kevyne Baar, Tamiment Library/Wagner Archives, New York University

*Comment*

Daniel J. Leab, Seton Hall University

**Immigrant Workers: Policies and Practices**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Reuther Librar, Room 200

*Chair and Comment*

Elena Herrada, Michigan State University

*American Education and Immigration Policy*

Blanche Kabengele, University of Cincinnati

*The Gospel of Joe*

Andres F. Hijar, Northern Illinois University

## **Workers Represented and Representing Themselves**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor I

### *Chair*

Jeffrey Powell, Wayne State University

*Twisted Justice, Distorted History: How Big Business Rewrote History in 1913 Michigan*

Steve Lehto, University of Detroit, Mercy

*Ghostworkers in the Machine*

Adam Tompkins, Arizona State University

*Employer strategy and industrial relations conflict in meatpacking: How important is multi-plant capacity?*

*Comparing Hormel, USA (1985-86) and Portland, Australia (1988-89)*

Patrick O'Leary, University of New South Wales, Australia

## **Luncheon**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor B

### Introduction

Michael Smith, Reuther Library and Archives

*The Auto Industry and the UAW*

Ron Gettelfinger, President of the UAW

## **Contract Labor Systems in Europe and the United States**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor F

### *Chair*

Janine M. Lanza, Wayne State University

*The Statare System: Family Based Contracted Work in Commercial Agriculture in Sweden, 1800-1945*

Lars Olsson, Växjö University, Sweden

*Contracted Workers into Permanent Settlers - Hungarian Farm Workers in Sweden in the Beginning of the Cold War*

Attila Lajos, Växjö University, Sweden

*The Labor Movement, the Bracero Program and the Organizational Struggle in Agriculture, 1942-1960*

Dionicio Valdés, Michigan State University

## **Politics and Practices in the Auto Industry**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor E

### *Chair and Comment*

Lisa Fine, Michigan State University

*Reconsidering CIO Political Culture: Briggs Local 212 and the Politics of Local Dissent in the Wartime UAW*

Charles Williams, University of Washington

*Shop Floor Justice: The Maintenance of Class Solidarity in the Postwar Automobile Factory*

Gregory M. Miller, University of Toledo

*An Historical Analysis of Iacocca: Lee Iacocca with William Novack*

Stephanie A. Martin, University of California, San Diego

## **Coal Communities in Crisis**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor I

### *Chair and Comment*

Kenneth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

*Defending 'Necessary Evils': Company Towns, Miners' Rights, and Federal Investigation in the 1920s*

Rachel Blatch, Widener University

*The Conservative Crusade against Organized Labor in the Turnpike Strike, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, 1939-40*

Jennifer Egolf, West Virginia University

*'Knock the EPA Out!': Environmental Politics and Community Identity in Appalachian Ohio*

Allen Dieterich-Ward, Shippensburg University

*This session sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association*

## **Workers Fighting for Rights: A Comparative Approach**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor C

### *Chair and Comment*

Gregory Swedberg, Manhattanville College

*Chicago's Little Steel Strike: The Moral Equivalent of a General Strike*

Michael Dennis, Acadia University

*The Necessity to Integrate the Disabled in the Productive Sector*

Willy Tadjudje, University of Yaounde II – Soa Faculty of Law, Cameroon

*The Promise of Protocolism: New York Garment Workers, the Lawrence Textile Strike, and the Coalition between Progressives and Radicals from 1908 to 1914*

Jacob Kramer, Borough of Manhattan Community College

*Defending their Right to Work: Street Vendors and the Struggle to Make a Living in a Mexican City, 1969-1977*

Sandra C. Mendiola, University of Alabama, Huntsville

**Land Tenure and Marginalization in Latin America and Louisiana**

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor B

*Chair*

Michael Mizell-Nelson, University of New Orleans

*The Evolution of Land Tenure & Ownership Law in Louisiana, Chile and Ecuador*

Margaret M. Mahoney, University of Chile/American University

*The Real and Imagined: Land Tenure Among Chile and Louisiana's Disenfranchised in Times of Crisis*

Janie Simms Hipp, United States Department of Agriculture

*River Rats: Working Class Squatter Communities in 19th and 20th Century New Orleans*

Michael Mizell-Nelson, University of New Orleans

*Immigrant Labor Strife and Solidarity in Post-Katrina New Orleans*

Leo B. Gorman, University of New Orleans

*Comment*

William Quigley, Loyola University

**Race and Civil Rights: Evolution over Time**

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor F

*Chair*

Tom Klug, Marygrove College

*"All Men Are Entitled to Justice by the Government": Race, Rights, and the State during World War I*

Paul Michel Taillon, University of Auckland, New Zealand

*'The Latest Comers into Industry: 'Theorizing the 'Negro Woman Worker' during the Great Depression*

Keona Katrice Ervin, Washington University in Saint Louis

*From the Fight to Overcome to the Fight for Freedom*

Thomas S. Darragh, Central Michigan University

*Michael Novak, White Ethnicity, and Changing Concepts of Justice in 1970s America*

Richard Moss, Purdue University

**Teachers' Unions: A Reading from Richard Kahlenberg's *Tough Liberal: Albert Shanker and the Battles Over Schools, Unions, Race, and Democracy***

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor E

*Chair*

Daniel Golodner, Wayne State University

Richard Kahlenberg, Century Foundation Senior Fellow



**Roundtable on Jane LaTour's *Sisters in the Brotherhoods: Working Women Organizing for Equality in New York City***

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Woodcock Room, Reuther Library

*Discussants*

Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

Elaine Crawford, IBEW Local 58

Michelle Fecteau, AAUP Wayne State University Chapter

Nancy Gabin, Purdue University

*Comment*

Jane Latour, District Council 37

*This session sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association*

**Plenary**

5:15 - 6:30 p.m., McGregor B

*Josie's Story: Looking for History in Some Very Small Places*

Kevin Boyle, The Ohio State University

**Conference Dinner**  
6:45 - 7:45 p.m., McGregor L/M

## **Post-Plenary Gathering**

### **Labor and Social Conscience A Memorial Tribute to Bernard J. Firestone Labor Poets 2008**

McGregor, Room B  
7:30 p.m. until . . .

#### **Marge Piercy**

Detroit Poet and Author

Ms. Piercy's work centers on issues of poverty among working-class families.

#### **Thylia Moss**

Award-Winning Author and Playwright

Ms. Moss will be joined by DJ Nick Speed, record producer for artists such as Eminem and 50 Cent, for a session of poetry, beats and film.

#### **Stephen Haven**

poet and Author

Mr. Haven's work centers on what it means to be a 21st century American man.

Hosted by

**M.L. Liebler**

WSU Faculty Member and Director of  
Springfield Arts: Metro Detroit Writers

This event is sponsored by the Center for Labor Studies and the Department of English's Loughhead-Edridge Visiting Writers' Program, The Irvin D. Reid Honors College, and the Women's Studies Program Wayne State University, The Springfield Arts: Detroit Metro Writers Organization, Poets & Writers, Inc. of New York, and the WSU Chapter of the AAUP/AFT.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

**Saturday, October 20, 2008**

**Registration and Coffee Hour**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

**Labor's Struggle for Political and Civil Rights**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor B

*Chair and Comment*

David Goldberg, Wayne State University

*Legal Challenges to Labor Rule: Gateshead Council between the Wars*

Sam Davies, Liverpool John Moores University

*Civil Liberties and Labor Disputes: the Case of the CAW*

Brandi L. Lucier, University of Windsor

*A Call for 'Justice' rather than 'Protection:' The UAW's Legal Strategy Against Multinational Corporations*

Michael J. Murphy, Stony Brook University

**The Turning Point for U.S. Labor: Class, Culture, and Corruption in Post-WWII America**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor I

*Chair and Comment*

Joe McCartin, Georgetown University

*The Racketeer Menace and Anti-Unionism in the Mid-Twentieth Century U.S*

David Witwer, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

*Bringing God to the Shopfloor: The Industrial Chaplain Movement in Postwar America*

Elizabeth and Kenneth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

*Ordinary (GI) Joes: Veterans and the Fate of Working-Class Americanism*

James T. Sparrow, University of Chicago

*This session sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association*

**Work, Freedom, and the Justice System**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor F

*Chair and Comment*

Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

*Was the Haymarket Trial Fair? A Reexamination in the Context of Contemporary Legal Standards and Practices*

Timothy Messer-Kruse, Bowling Green State University

*'A Most Notorious Thief': Theft and Worker Pilferage from Charleston's Antebellum Wharves*

Michael D. Thompson, Emory University

**Luncheon**

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor L/M

**Labor and Presidential Politics**

David Bonior

Former member of Congress and  
current professor at WSU

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Thirty Years and Counting: Labor, Scholarship, Activism, and the Future**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor B

Christopher Johnson, Wayne State University

Geoff Eley, University of Michigan

Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

Janine Lanza, Wayne State University

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

McGregor Lobby

Cash Bar

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## **Program Notes**

### **Sponsors for the North American Labor History Conference**

The Conference is co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.

Additional support is provided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Center for Labor Studies, Wayne State University.

### **North American Labor History Conference Program Committee**

Janine Lanza, coordinator and chair; Catherine Ash, John Bukowczyk, Elizabeth Faue, Marc Kruman, Andrew Port, Aaron Retish, Francis Shor, and Richard Fry. The committee also extends a special thank-you to Lisa Phillips for her work on this year's program.

### **Cover Art**

"Misfortune Cookie," by Noel Baebler, 2008.

### **Book Display**

Books on labor history and related topics are on sale in Room J of the McGregor Conference Center throughout the conference.

### **Extended Research Hours at the Reuther Library**

Monday, October 13, 2008	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, October 14, 2008	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15, 2008	9:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, October 16, 2008	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Friday, October 17, 2008	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2008	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Knowledge, Work and Class

Thirty-First Annual North American Labor History Conference  
Wayne State University, October 22 - 24, 2009

The Program Committee of the North American Labor History Conference invites proposals for sessions and papers on "Knowledge, Work, and Class" for our thirty-first annual meeting.

The diffusion of knowledge – through classrooms, print, media, the internet – is one of the most powerful forces of modern global culture. While the intellectual labor needed to create these words, images and ideas is often invisible, the conditions and compensation for that labor has recently come into the public debate. The wrangling over artists' compensation for illegal downloads, the debate over advertising on blogging websites, or the movements for better pay for graduate teaching assistants, represent several different arenas where the worth of ideas is currently playing itself out.

The 2009 North American Labor History Conference "**Knowledge, Work and Class**" will explore the myriad questions that emerge when considering the worth, conditions and compensation for the labor of thought and production of ideas. From journalists to teachers to researchers, labor performed with the brain as well as the hand is foundational to modern economies but also presents challenges to those seeking to historicize, contextualize and analyze these types of labor.

The program committee encourages comparative and interdisciplinary scholarship from a range of national and international contexts, the integration of public historians and community and labor activists into conference sessions, and the use of differing session formats (workshops, roundtable discussions, and multimedia as well as traditional panels). It encourages sessions that address the theme from perspectives of gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality.

Please submit panel and paper proposals (including a 1-2 page abstracts and brief vitas or biographical statements for all participants) by **March 23, 2009**, to:

Professor Janine Lanza, Coordinator, North American Labor History Conference  
Department of History, 3094 Faculty Administration Building  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202  
Phone: 313/577-2525; Fax: 313 577-6987  
Email: nalhc@wayne.edu

The North American Labor History Conference is sponsored by the Department of History, the Walter Reuther Library, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University.