

**38th Annual North American  
Labor History Conference**  
October 20-22, 2016  
Wayne State University



*Workers and Global Cities:  
Detroit and Beyond*

### **Conference Site**

The Conference will be held over three days, from Thursday October 20 through Saturday October 22, at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Friday's conference reception, however, will take place at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

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

The Reuther Library will be open the week of the conference, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Additionally, the library will provide extended hours on Saturday, October 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Book Display**

Books on labor history and related topics will be available for viewing on Thursday and Friday (Oct 20-21) in Room A of the McGregor Conference Center. Special thanks to Jamie Jones of Wayne State University Press for setting it up and for managing relations with publishers.

### **Conference Sponsorship**

The North American Labor History Conference is 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 Labor@Wayne, Wayne State University. Support for the Bernath Lecture is provided by the WSU Library System. The Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) provided several graduate student travel grants. Special thanks to the LAWCHA Program Committee for its work (Jana Lipman, chair; Elizabeth Escobedo, Kenneth Fones-Wolf, Sophia Lee, and Max Krochmal).

### **2016 NALHC Committee**

Thomas Klug, NALHC Coordinator

Members: Elizabeth Faue, Daniel Clark, Mike Goldfield, Jennifer Hart, Janine Lanza, Marick Masters, Tracy Neumann, Erik Nordberg, Aaron Retish, Fran Shor, Sarah Swider, and Lillian Wilson Szlaga.

### **2016 NALHC Webpage and Facebook**

Lillian Wilson Szlaga and Tracy Neumann

### **Logistics**

Lillian Wilson Szlaga, Marilyn Vaughan, and the graduate student volunteers from the History Graduate Student Association.

*Workers and Global Cities: Detroit and Beyond*

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**Cover Photograph**

Construction of the Penobscot Building in Detroit, 1920s. Courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.

# THURSDAY

## THURSDAY, October 20, 2016 at McGregor Conference Center

### Registration

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., McGregor Lobby

### Book Display

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., McGregor Room A

### Guided Tour by Steve Babson of the Diego Rivera Murals at Detroit Institute of Arts

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meet at registration table at 9:30 a.m.

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH (on your own)**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. SESSION 1**

### **1.1 Book talk: Reform or Repression: Organizing America's Anti-Union Movement: ROOM J**

Chair: Marick Masters, Wayne State University

Author: Chad Pearson, Collin College

Discussants:

Vilja Hulden, University of Colorado-Boulder

Nathaniel Holdren, Drake University

### **1.2 Space & Place: ROOM FGH**

Chair: Lisa Fine, Michigan State University

*Coxey's Capital to Pullman's Town: The Working Class on the Public Sphere and the City's Outer Limits*

Wesley R. Bishop, Purdue University

*The Koppers Company and West Virginia: Place and Power in the 1950s*

Lou Martin, Chatham University

*The Boundaries of Divine Mercy: Sadako Sasaki and the Globalization of Peace and Conflict Studies in Urban Space: Hiroshima, Iraq, and Beyond*

Mark A. Sleboda, Eastern Michigan University

**1.3 Personal Revolutions: Radical Disillusionment and the Roots of Anti-communism in the CPUSA: ROOM BC**

Chair: Joshua Morris, Wayne State University

*Where is Juliet Stuart Poyntz?: Radical Politics and Anti-Stalinism*  
Denise Lynn, University of Southern Indiana

*Radical Misfit: Understanding Ambivalence in Fred Beal's Proletarian Journey*  
Lawrence T. McDonnell, Iowa State University

*The Disillusionment of Bill McCuiston*  
Vernon L. Pedersen, American University of Sharjah

*To Tell All My People: Race, Representation, and an African-American FBI Informant (Julia Brown)*  
Veronica Wilson, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown

**2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. BREAK**

**2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. SESSION 2**

**2.1 Immigrant and Migrant Workers in Cities: ROOM FGH**

Chair: John Bukowczyk, Wayne State University

*From Peasant to Modern? Polish Urban Migrants and Global Capitalism as Experiences in the Late 19th Century*  
Kathleen Wroblewski, University of Michigan

*Workers in a Globalizing Capital: Armenian Labor Force in Istanbul in the 19th Century*  
Yasar Tolga Cora, University of Michigan

*1950s Milwaukee: Race, Class, and a City Divided*  
Tula Connell, Independent Scholar

**2.2 Book talk: Manhood on the Line: Working-Class Masculinities in the American Heartland: ROOM J**

Chair: Amanda Walter, Wayne State University

Author: Steve Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Discussants:

Daniel Clark, Oakland University  
Nancy Gabin, Purdue University

**THURSDAY**

**2.3 The Raw Materials and Supply Chain of Labor History: A Collaborative Approach to Enhancing Access to Labor Archives: ROOM BC**

Chair: Erik Nordberg, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

*Expanding Access to Oral Histories*

Rebecca Bizonet, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

*Digitization Priorities at the Reuther Library*

Paul Neirink, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

**4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. BREAK**

**4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Keynote Address: ROOM BC**

Introduction and Moderator: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

*Divergent Trajectories of Global Urbanism at the Start of the 21st Century*

Martin Murray, University of Michigan

**FRIDAY, October 21, 2016 at McGregor Conference Center****Registration**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., McGregor Lobby

**Book Display**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., McGregor Room A

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. SESSION 3****3.1 Labor, Property, and Ownership in Global Cities: ROOM BC**

Chair: Karen A.J. Miller, Oakland University

*Rebuilding a More Equitable City: HUD, Labor, and Community Control in Detroit, 1966-1973*  
Lindsay Helfman, Temple University*Labor, Land Use, and the Luxury City: The New York Model*  
Samuel Stein, The Graduate Center, City University of New York*The Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transition to Public Ownership in Atlanta*  
William Jordan Patty, George Mason University**3.2 Labor Leadership, Race, and Ethnicity: ROOM FGH**

Chair: Chad Pearson, Collin College

*The Freedom Struggles of George Durden, African-American Labor Activist in the Illinois Coal Fields, 1857-1917*  
Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University*A New Moral Economy: Catholic New Dealers, Wartime Agencies, and Ethnic Mexican Labor*  
Maggie Elmore, University of California, Berkeley*Odell Smith, Teamsters Local 878, and the Crisis at Little Rock's Central High*  
Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas*The August 29th Movement, Chicano Marxism, and Addressing the Women and Immigrant Workers Questions during the 1970s*  
Eddie Bonilla, Michigan State University

# FRIDAY

## 3.3 Struggling for Justice: Janitors, Domestics, and Textile Workers: ROOM J

Chair: Louis Jones, Wayne State University

*Strategy and Transformation: SEIU's Justice for Janitors Campaign in Denver, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.*  
Grace Davie, Queens College, City University of New York

*"Alone We Can Do Little": Domestic Workers and the Limits of Racial Moderation in the Urban Sunbelt*  
Julia Gunn, University of Pennsylvania

*Pennsylvania's Textile Workers Struggle for a 10-Hour Day*  
Dave Obinger, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. BREAK**

**10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. SESSION 4**

## 4.1 Workers in Global Cities: ROOM BC

Chair: Andrew Newman, Wayne State University

*Why Osaka is "Chicago in Japan"? A Tale of Two Global Cities*  
Toru Shinoda, Waseda University

*Heavy Metal on the Street: Extended Security Networks in Johannesburg and the end of Public Space*  
Martin Murray, University of Michigan

*The Other Beijing: the Informal City*  
Sarah Swider, Wayne State University

## 4.2 Transnational Labor Solidarity: past and present: ROOM FGH

Chair: Fran Shor, Wayne State University

*A Small Immigration Workforce Defeats a Huge Global Corporation: How the Boston School Bus Union Beat Veolia/Transdev*  
Martha Grevatt, Independent Scholar

*Transnational Solidarity Censored: The UAW and the injured GM workers in Colombia, South America*  
Frank Hammer, former President & Chairman, UAW Local 909

*Living Social Dynamite: Early Twentieth-Century IWW-South Asia Connections*  
Tariq Khan, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign



**4.3 Constraining Workers in the 20th century: ROOM J**

Chair/Commentator: Gregory Wood, Frostburg State University

*Workers on the Astroturf: (Stories about) Fake Workers' Organizations in the Early 20th Century*  
Vilja Hulden, University of Colorado, Boulder

*The Raw Deal: The Smith Act and Organized Labor: Teamsters Local 544 as a Case Study, 1941-1943*  
Donna Haverty-Stacke, Hunter College, City University of New York

*The Rise of Meritocratic Morality and the Failure of Institutions: A Study of Unemployed Autoworkers in the US and Canada*  
Victor Chen, Virginia Commonwealth University

**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CONFERENCE LUNCHEON: ROOM LM (Pre-Registration Required)**

Awarding of LAWCHA graduate student travel grants by Ken Fones-Wolf, member of the LAWCHA Board of Directors and Program Committee

Luncheon Address (co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the MA in Public History program, Wayne State University)

Introduction: Kidada Williams, Wayne State University

*Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward Project*  
Tobi Voight, Detroit Historical Society

**1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. SESSION 5****5.1 Worker Education and Communication: ROOM BC**

Chair: Graham Cassano, Oakland University

*Taking Sides in the "Bloodless Croton War": The Coverage of the Croton Aqueduct Strike and Labor's Relationship with the Penny Press*

Mark Bernhardt, Jackson State University

*"I shall never go back to Detroit..." The Re-education of Disorderly Juvenile Females at the Michigan Industrial Home for Girls*  
Julieanna Frost, Siena Heights University

*From the Flivver King to The Other America: The United Auto Workers and the Printed Word in the Reuther Era*  
Dominique Daniel, Oakland University

# FRIDAY

## 5.2 Religion, Elective Affinity, and Labor's North-South Divide: ROOM J

Chair and Commentator: Evelyn Sterne, University of Rhode Island

*What was different about Southern workers? Evangelical Protestantism*  
Ken Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

*Catholicism and the CIO: an Elective Affinity*  
Steve Rosswurm, Lake Forest College

## 5.3 Gender and Union Organizing in the Mines, Woods, and Offices: ROOM FGH

Chair: Steve Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

*Masculinity, the I.W.W., and the Mesabi Range Strike of 1916*  
David LaVigne, College of St. Benedict, St. John's University

*Race, Sexuality, and Class in the Piney Woods: Timber Barons and the Brotherhood of Timber Workers, 1910-1916*  
David Marquis, The College of William and Mary

*From Defeat to Victory in the Stronghold of Organized Labor: Clerical Unionization at New York University*  
Amanda Walter, Wayne State University

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m. BREAK**

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

### **Keynote Address: ROOM BC**

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

Welcome: Dean Sandra Yee, Wayne State University Libraries

Introduction and Moderator: Thomas Klug, Marygrove College

*The Fight against Corporate Rule: Corporate Lawsuits vs. Democracy in El Salvador and Beyond*  
Robin Broad, School of International Service, American University

**4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. BREAK**

**4:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. RECEPTION**

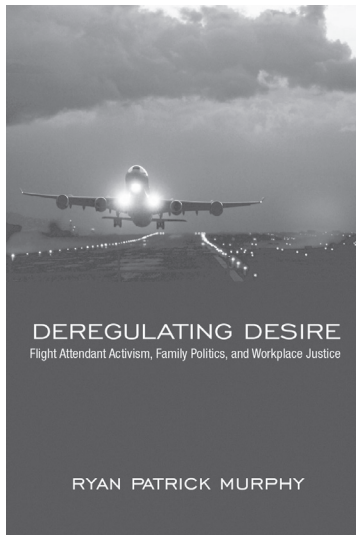
**Reception: Walter P. Reuther Library**

Unveiling of Walter Speck’s FPA/WPA Mural of the “Ford Riot” @ Reading Room

Erik Nordberg, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library

Elizabeth Clemens, Walter P. Reuther Library

Conference Reception in the Lobby of the Reuther Library



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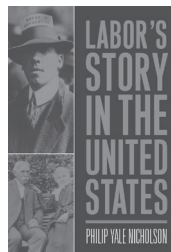
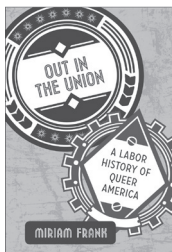
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# SATURDAY

## **SATURDAY, October 22, 2016 at McGregor Conference Center**

### **Registration**

8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

### **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. SESSION 6**

#### **6.1 Conflict in the Coalfields: A Roundtable on Strikes and Mine Wars in Early Twentieth Century Pennsylvania and West Virginia: ROOM FGH**

Chair and Moderator: Ken Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

Panelists:

Hal Gorby, West Virginia University

Gary Jones, American International College

Lou Martin, Chatham University

#### **6.2 California Farm Workers: Nationalism, Internationalism, & Cosmopolitanism: ROOM J**

Chair: Joshua Morris, Wayne State University

*A Global Farmworker Movement: Politics of Arab Nationalism in the UFW*

Neama Alamri, University of California, Merced

*California Farm Labor Unions, the Communist Party, and Strategic Capacity during the Strike Wave of 1933*

Paco Martin del Campo, University of California, Berkeley

*Historicizing Hardayalism: Resisting Colonialism with Ghadri and Sikh Cosmopolitanism and the Construction of a Global Labor Movement*

Amrit Deol, University of California, Merced

#### **6.3 Stories of Transnational Labor Activists and Organizers: ROOM BC**

Chair: Christopher Johnson, Wayne State University

*Louis Lingg's Autobiography—An Overlooked Confession?*

Timothy Messer-Kruse, Bowling Green State University

*Tragic Labor Trailblazers: Clemente and Federico Idar*

Julie Leininger Pycior, Manhattan College

*Abraham Plotkin, an American labor organizer in Berlin, 1932-1933*

Catherine Collomp, Université Paris-Diderot

**6.4 Organizing African American Labor in the Global City: ROOM E**

Chair: Tula Connell, Independent Scholar

*The Rebirth of Riot: Class Struggle Since the 1960s*  
Michael Stauch, University of Michigan

*Experiences with Garnishment in Chicago, Illinois: Systems of Indebtedness in the Global City*  
Marc Reynolds, Northern Illinois University

*Forcing Desegregation of the Building Trades, Chicago 1969: C.T. Vivian and Coalition United for Community Action*  
Edward Byrd, Northern Illinois University

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BREAK**

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. SESSION 7**

**7.1 Workers in Post-Industrial(izing) Urban Contexts: Room BC**

Chair: Tracy Neumann, Wayne State University

*“Where Have the Workers Gone?”—Shattered: Post/Industrial Photography*  
Siobhan Angus, York University

*Defining Fine: Conservative Politics and Urban Growth in America’s Finest City*  
Daniel Elkin, University of Arkansas

*“Niggermation not Automation”: The Temporal Politics of Race, Labor, and Revolution in Postindustrial Detroit*  
Paul Lawrie, University of Winnipeg

**7.2 The Changing Meaning of Worker/Labor: Room J**

Chair: Janine Lanza, Wayne State University

*“A Muss Among the Flunkies”: Mass Musicians Organizing in New York, 1840-1860*  
Rachel Miller, University of Michigan

*Los Morenos and the Mexicans: Of Muggings, Patronos (Bosses), and Relational Race Making Processes in South Chicago*  
Sergio Lemus, Harold Washington College

## SATURDAY

### **7.3. In the Wake of Globalization, De-Industrialization, and “Free Trade” Agreements: Devastation, Privatization and Resistance: ROOM FGH**

Chair: Angela Dillard, University of Michigan

*Bringing Detroit ‘to heel’ - Bailouts and Beyond*

Frank Hammer, former President & Chairman, UAW Local 909

*Sustainable Development vs. Colonial Gentrification: The Case of Gary, Indiana*

Ruth Needleman, Indiana University

*Poisoning of the Poor and Environmental Homicide in East Chicago, Indiana*

Lorrell Kilpatrick, Indiana University

*The Dismantling of Democracy and the Poisoning of Flint MI*

Claire McClinton, Flint Democracy Defense League

**12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH PROVIDED**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. CAPSTONE SESSION**

### **Reflections on Workers in Global Cities: Detroit and Beyond: ROOM BC**

Chair/Moderator: Michael Stauch, University of Michigan

Panelists:

Austin McCoy, University of Michigan

Tracy Neumann, Wayne State University

Joshua Akers, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Patrick Vitale, New York University

**2:45 p.m – 5:30 p.m.**

### **Detroit Labor History Tour led by the Michigan Labor History Society**

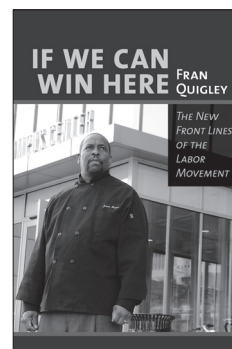
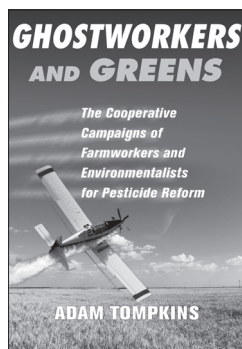
Leave by bus at 2:45 p.m. from the Reuther Library (5401 Cass Ave.)

Cost: \$10

To reserve a spot, contact conference coordinator, Thomas Klug

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

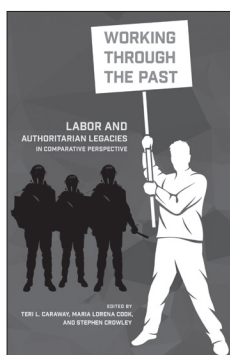
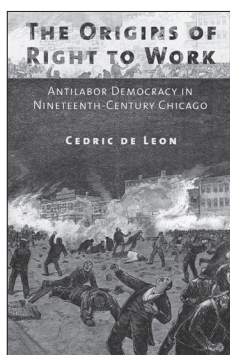
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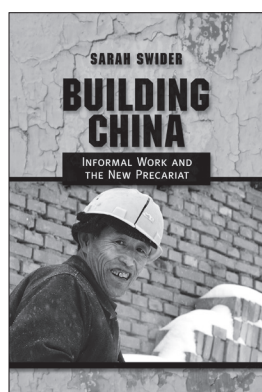


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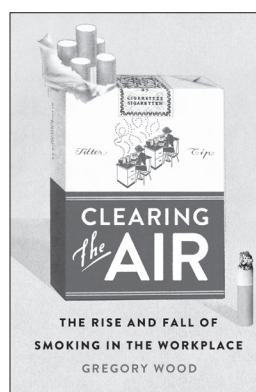


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Please visit the book display in Room A in the McGregor Conference Center on Thursday and Friday to view recommended titles from these publishers:

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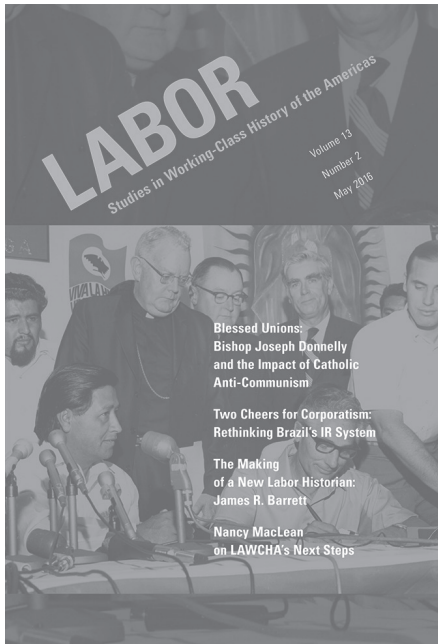
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# LABOR

## Studies in Working-Class History



Leon Fink, *editor*

As a site for both historical research and commentary, *Labor* hopes to provide a scaffolding for understanding the roots of our current dilemmas. While still engaging social movements and institutions based on industrial work, *Labor* gives equal attention to other critical labor systems and social contexts, including agricultural work, slavery, unpaid and domestic labor, the informal sector, and the professions. We look not only to academic historians but also to other scholars, journalists, labor educators, poets, and writer-activists for submissions.

*Labor* is the official journal of the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA).

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### Membership Information

A subscription to *Labor* is available through membership in LAWCHA.

Individuals: \$50

Students: \$25

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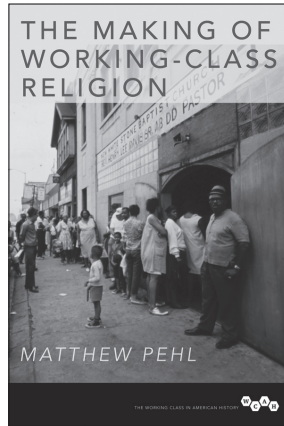
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**Free Labor**

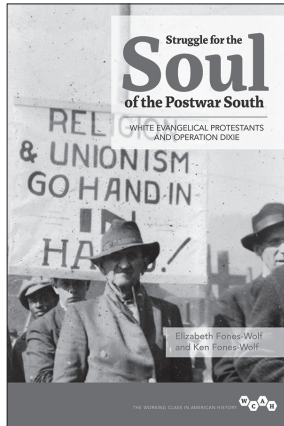
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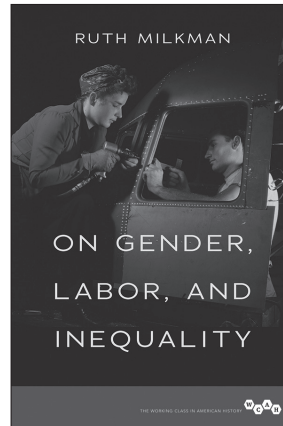
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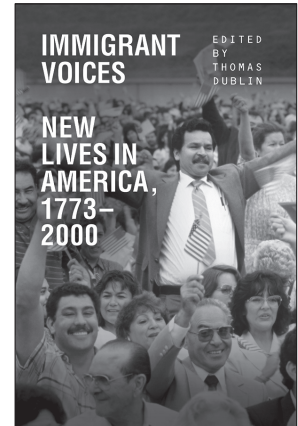
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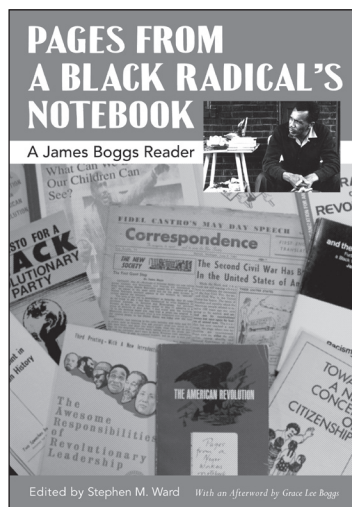
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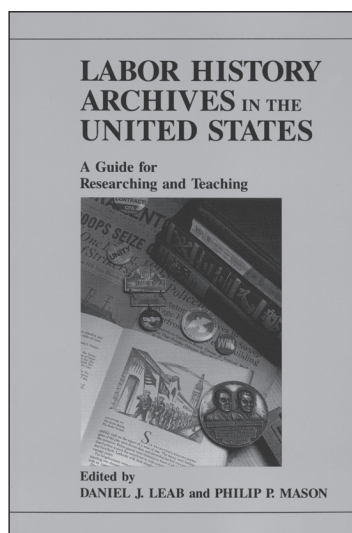
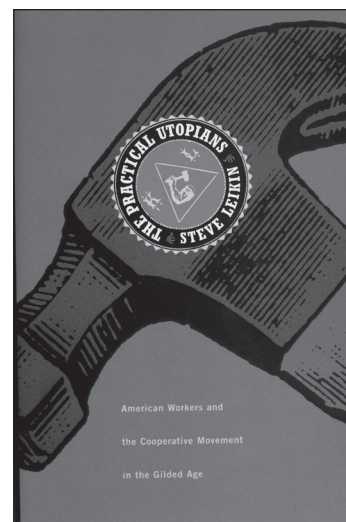
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Conference sessions will focus on how labor and working-class history is remembered by and interpreted for public audiences around the world. Topics might include (but are certainly not limited to):

- Museum exhibits
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- The use of historical memory in current organizing campaigns and labor battles

We invite proposals from any discipline and from scholars, practitioners, and activists working in any geographical or temporal framework. We welcome all forms of conversation, and we encourage proposals for non-traditional session formats. Proposals for complete sessions should include a one-page session description and a one-page cv for each participant. Proposals for individual presentations should include a one-paragraph abstract and a one-page cv.

Submissions should be sent as a single PDF file by **April 1, 2017** to [nalhc@wayne.edu](mailto:nalhc@wayne.edu)