

**39th Annual North American
Labor History Conference
October 19-21, 2017
Wayne State University**



*Labor History
and Public History*

Conference Site

The Conference will be held over three days from Thursday October 19 through Saturday October 21 on the campus of Wayne State University.

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, conference attendees can access the Reuther's exhibit spaces to view the 1967 exhibits Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Special access to those exhibits – and guided tours of a 1937 WPA mural – will be available on Saturday from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Book Display

Books on labor history and related topics will be available for viewing on Thursday, October 19 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), and Friday, October 20th (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), in Hilberry F at the Student Center. Many thanks to Jamie Jones of Wayne State University Press for managing the exhibit logistics.

Conference Sponsorship

The North American Labor History Conference is sponsored by the Department of History, Labor@Wayne, the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University. The Wayne State University Library System's Gerald J., Myrna F., and Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Series for the Support and Discussion of American History, Diplomacy, and Foreign Affairs sponsors the keynote event. The Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) provided several graduate student travel grants. This year's conference is a National Council on Public History (NCPH) Mini-Con and meet with Network Detroit and the Michigan Labor History Society's Labor Weekend.

2017 NALHC Steering Committee

Coordinator: Tracy Neumann

Assistant Coordinator: Lillian Wilson Szlaga

Members: Elizabeth Faue, Jennifer Hart, Thomas Klug, Janine Lanza, Marick Masters, Erik Nordberg, Alexandra Sarkozy, and Michael Stauch

Special thanks to Marilyn Vaughan, and the graduate student volunteers from the History Graduate Student Association

Thank you to our core sponsors:



Labor History and Public History
39th Annual North American Labor History Conference
October 19-21, 2017—Wayne State University



Cover Photograph

Pat (Cletch) Williams, Transcending Sculpture. © 2009 Pat Williams (CC).

THURSDAY

THURSDAY, October 19, 2017 at the Wayne State University Student Center

REGISTRATION & BOOK EXHIBIT | 8:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. (HILBERRY F)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

A1 Cultural Relations: Art, Creativity, and Labor (Hilberry C)

Chairs:

Sarah E.K. Smith, Carleton University and Stephanie Grace Anderson, Western University

- The Let Down Reflex: Art, Labor, and Parenthood, *Amber Berson, Queen's University, and Juliana Driever, Independent Researcher/Curator*
- "Almost a Union": Canadian Artists and the Collective Working Identity, *Kelly Flinn, York University*
- Deadbeats and Dark Matter: Arts Labour and Productive Forms of Refusal, *Theresa Carlesimo, Queen's University*

A2 Roundtable: The 1916 Mesabi Iron Range Strike (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Allyse Freeman, Minnesota Discovery Center

- Allyse Freeman and Jason Scorch, Minnesota Discovery Center
- Brooke Boulton, Rainy River Community College
- Gary Kaunonen, Independent Scholar, Documentarian, and Exhibit Researcher, Minnesota Discovery Center

A3 Dockworkers, Shipbuilders, and Steelworkers: Ideology, Immigration, and Long-Term Welfare Security, 1941-1949 (Hilberry E)

Chair:

Marc Sanko, West Virginia University

- Maltese Labor in the Maelstrom: How People Remember Their War Experiences in the Context of Migration, *Marc Sanko, West Virginia University*
- Fascist Piecework: Fascist Era Managerial Practices and Visions of the Postwar Workplace in Monfalcone, Italy, *Luke Gramith, West Virginia University*
- The United Steelworkers of America and the Pursuit of Long Term Welfare Security, 1941-1949, *Henry Himes, West Virginia University*

10:45 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

B1 The Challenges of Documenting and Interpreting Working Class History (Hilberry C)

Chair:

Conor M. Casey, Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

- For Liberty, Justice, and Equality: Unions Making History in America, *Ben Blake, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Maryland*
- Workplace Desegregation of the Rural Southern Apparel Manufacturing Industry: A Case Study of Bowdon, Georgia, *Chanell Pajaro Lowery, University of West Georgia*
- Hawaiian Plantation Employee Records: Understanding the Complexity of Simple Documents, *Sonia Pacheco, Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth*

B2 Labor on Film (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Simon Orpana, University of Alberta

- The Passaic Textile Strike Documentary: The Silent Film that Gave Voice to the Voiceless, *Jacob A. Zumoff, New Jersey City University*
- Salt of the Earth: New Mexico's Blacklisted Labor Film, *Roberta Brown, Western New Mexico University*
- "They Just Use Your Mind and You Never Get Credit": 9 to 5's Impact on the Working Women's Movement, *Amanda Walter, Wayne State University*

B3 Revolutionary Subjects: Working Class Radicalism Around the World (Hilberry E)

Chair:

John Pat Leary, Wayne State University

- The Living Theatre's Lumpenproletariat: Historicizing National and Class Boundaries in Brazil 1971, *Chelsea Roberts, Independent Researcher*
- The Erasure of Industry, The Erasure of Work, *Simon Vickers, University of Toronto*
- The Color of Hours in the Empire of Time: Fordism, Race, and Resistance in Postwar Detroit and Turin, *Paul R.D. Lawrie, University of Winnipeg*
- "Down with the Rebels Against the Bill of Sale!" Guy Endore's Radical Re-Imagining of Haiti and Revolution, *Joseph G. Ramsey, University of Massachusetts Boston*

**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. OPENING PLENARY LUNCHEON:
RETHINKING THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT (HILBERRY A/B)**

Welcome | Tracy Neumann, 2017 NALHC Coordinator

Introduction | Tom Klug, 2018 NALHC Coordinator

Plenary Lecture | Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

THURSDAY

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

C1 Conversation: The Mother Jones Museum and Heritage Project (Hilberry C)

Moderator:

Tom Klug, Marygrove College

- Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University/Mother Jones Museum
- Kate Klimut, Project Designer, St. Louis Missouri

C2 Creative Approaches to Telling Workers' Stories (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Joseph Cialdella, Rackham Program in Public Scholarship, University of Michigan

- Guitar Shop, *Gerald Ronning, Minneapolis College of Art and Design*
- The Dramaturgy of Deindustrialization in Lynn Nottage's "Sweat," *Fran Shor, Wayne State University*
- Revamping the Workers' City in Hamilton, Ontario: Reflections on Readapting a Workers' History Project to Digital and Graphic Media, *Robert B. Kristofferson, Wilfrid Laurier University and Simon Orpana, University of Alberta*
- Drawn to Change: Making Graphic Histories of Working-Class Struggle, *Julia Smith, The Graphic History Collective/Rutgers University*

C3 Mexican Labor Migration in U.S. History and Memory (Hilberry E)

Chair:

Roberta Brown, Western New Mexico University

- Communism and Antiracism: Tejanx Radicals, Labor Organizing, and Mass Politics in South Texas, 1926-1940, *Paco Martín del Campo, University of California-Berkeley*
- Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Immigration, Labor, and the Rechanneling of Tijuana River, *Dan Elkin, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*
- Culture and Labor Immigration: Mexican-Americans in the Dutch-American Town of Holland Michigan, *Katelyn Bosch, West Virginia University*

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

D1 Mine Wars and Museum Tours: Public History in West Virginia Today (Hilberry C)

Chair:

Rebecca J. Bailey, Northern Kentucky University

- Recreating the Mine Wars on Celluloid: Collaborating on PBS’s Documentary “The Mine Wars,” *William Hal Gorby, West Virginia University*
- We’re Left Here Trying to Rebuild Our Community and They’re Gone: The West Virginia Mine Wars Museum and Community Development, *Lou Martin, Chatham University*

D2 Roundtable: Labor Archives—Communities and Collaboration (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Traci JoLeigh Drummond, Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University

- Conor M. Casey, Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries Special Collections
- Traci JoLeigh Drummond, Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University
- Catherine Powell, Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University
- Robin Walker, International Longshore and Warehouse Union

D3 New Directions in Progressive Era Labor History (Hilberry E)

Chair:

Thomas Henthorn, University of Michigan-Flint

- ‘Fighting Bob’ Looks Abroad: Transatlantic Labor Politics and the Progressive Party of 1924, *Andreas Meyris, George Washington University*
- Applied Visual Anthropology in the Progressive Era: The Influence of Lewis Hine’s *Child Labor* Photographic Series, *Ashley Cerku, Oakland University*

**5:30 p.m. –7:00 p.m. OPENING RECEPTION
(WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY)**

Welcome

Wayne Raskind, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University

Exhibit Notes

Meghan Courtney, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

FRIDAY

FRIDAY, October 20, 2017 at the Wayne State University Student Center

REGISTRATION & BOOK EXHIBIT | 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M. (HILBERRY F)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

E1 Conversation: Labor History In and Out of the Classroom (Hilberry C)

Moderator:

Christine D'Arpa, Wayne State University

- David A. Zonderman, North Carolina State University
- Peter Rachleff, Macalester College/East Side Freedom Library

E2 Organizing and Activism by Public Employees (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Meghan Courtney, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

- *Running the Rails: A History of Capital and Labor in the Philadelphia Transit Industry*, James Wolfinger, DePaul University
- *Library Worker Activism and the Politics of Class in Public Sector Unions*, Jeffrey S. Wheeler, University of Illinois at Chicago
- “We Can Move Mountains if We’re Organized”: Baltimore Service Workers and the Living Wage Movement in Neoliberal America, Dennis Deslippe, Franklin & Marshall College

E3 Roundtable: Memphis 1968—Using Archives to Bring the Sanitation Workers’ Strike to a Modern Audience (Hilberry E)

- Stefanie Caloia, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University
- Dan Golodner, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University
- Naomi Walker, AFSCME

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY WORKING GROUP: THE PUBLIC HISTORY OF LABOR (Walter P. Reuther Library)

Facilitators:

Rachel Donaldson, College of Charleston and Richard Anderson, Princeton University

All conference participants are welcome to attend and observe the working group’s discussion.

Discussants:

- Maleya Caro, University of California, Riverside /Smithsonian National Museum of American History
- Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University
- Leonard Riley, International Longshoremen’s Association, 1422
- Kiernan Taylor, The Citadel
- Leah Worthington, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston

10:45 a.m – 12:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS F**F1 Conversation: Challenges and Opportunities for Labor Archives in the Digital Age (Hilberry C)**

Moderator:

Marcus Robyns, Northern Michigan University

- Cheryl Beredo, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives, Cornell University
- Erik Nordberg, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

F2 Telling the Life Stories of Radical Women (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Gregory Wood, Frostburg State University

- Soapbox History: The Life and Lessons of Mother Jones, *Autumn Guillotte, University of Rhode Island*
- Immigrant Girl, Radical Women: The Story of Matilda Rabinowitz, *Robbin Légère Henderson, Artist and Author*

F3 Film Screening: Mill Stories—Remembering Sparrows Point Steel Mill (Hilberry E)

- William Shrewbridge, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Michelle L. Stefano, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

**12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. WEINBERG LECTURE & AWARDS LUNCHEON
(HILBERRY A/B)**

Welcome | Erik Nordberg, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

LAWCHA Travel Awards | Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University/LAWCHA Board

Introduction | Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

Weinberg Lecture | Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS G**G1 Building the Engine, 1932-1937: A Collaborative Effort to Celebrate Auto Labor History
(Partrich Auditorium)***Sponsored by the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.*

Chair:

Lisa M. Fine, Michigan State University

- John P. Beck, Michigan State University
- Gregory Miller, Special Collections and University Archives, Kettering University
- David Elsila, Michigan Labor History Society
- Brian Yopp, MotorCities National Heritage Area
- Christine McNulty, Sloan-Longway Museum

FRIDAY

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS G (continued)

G2 Workers' Education Programs, Past and Present (Hilberry D)

Chair:

Jane Slaughter, Labor Notes

- Whose University Is It? The Workers' Education Service at the University of Michigan, 1944-1949, *Juli Highfill, University of Michigan*
- Equity, Power, and Politics at Work: Training for Construction Supervisors, *Richard Wells and Sharon Szymanski, Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies, SUNY/Empire State College*
- Building Hope in Dark Times: Reigniting Historical Memory in the Steelworker 'Public', *Lisa Michelle Jordan and John W. Lepley, United Steelworkers*

G3 Roundtable: Community Collaboration—Ethnic Communities and Public Historians (Hilberry E)

Chair:

Marc Sanko, West Virginia University

- Dan Brock, Independent Historian
- Marc Sanko, West Virginia University
- Mark Trzeciak, Maltese-American Benevolent Society of Detroit

4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. KEYNOTE: LABOR AND THE ARTS (PARTRICH AUDITORIUM)

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

Artists-Activists Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge in conversation with Sarah E.K. Smith, Carleton University

Welcome | Jon Cawthorne, Dean, Wayne State University Library System

Introduction | Tracy Neumann, Wayne State University

Sponsored by The Wayne State University Library System and the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AT THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Take a free guided tour of the Detroit Institute of Arts, followed by musical performances in the Rivera Court at 7 PM and 8:30 PM.

NETWORK DETROIT

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Registration (Prentiss Hall 0008)

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Digital Project Lightning Talks (Prentiss Hall 0008)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Networking Reception (Prentiss Hall 0008)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch (Prentiss Hall 0008)

1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Workshops

- Mapping (Prentiss Hall 0025)
Josh Akers, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Archiving (Prentiss Hall 0004)
Mark Souther, Cleveland State University
- Text Mining (Prentiss Hall 0027)
Wayne State University Librarians

**“WE BUILT THESE CITIES” | MICHIGAN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY
LABOR WEEKEND**

See “We Built These Cities” Brochure for a complete list of events

10:00 a.m. Film: Rivera’s Labor Legacy (Detroit Historical Museum Wrigley Auditorium)

11:00 a.m. Tour: Diego Rivera’s Detroit Industry Murals (Rivera Court, Detroit Institute of Arts)

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tell Your Story (Detroit Historical Museum DeRoy Room)

- Record your stories about your work life and union experiences.

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Labor Films (Detroit Historical Museum Wrigley Auditorium)

12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Discussion: Walter Speck WPA-era mural (Location: Reuther Library 3rd floor Reading Room)

12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Guided Tour: The Labor Legacy Landmark and Underground Railroad monuments (Hart Plaza)

SATURDAY

“WE BUILT THESE CITIES” | MICHIGAN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY LABOR WEEKEND (Continued)

1:30 p.m. Film: *The Southwest Detroit Auto Heritage Guide* (Detroit Historical Museum Wrigley Auditorium)

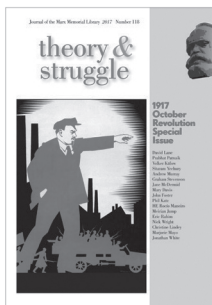
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Labor History Bus Tour (Leaves from John R entrance to DIA, advance reservations required)

7:00 p.m Musical: “The Forgotten Man’s Radio Hour” (Community Arts Auditorium)

9:00 p.m. Reception (Community Arts)

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Theory & Struggle (formerly 'Praxis'), will be published by Liverpool University Press from 2017.

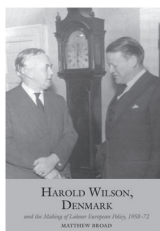
Theory & Struggle is the journal of the Marx Memorial Library, an independent charity dedicated, since its establishment in 1933, to the advancement of education and learning in all aspects of Marxism, labour and working class history.

Currently published annually, it features articles that grapple with debates taking place within Marxist circles as well studying critical developments in the labour and progressive movements in Britain and internationally, including movements for gender equality, for racial equality and for peace.

Online access at: online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/theory



Books



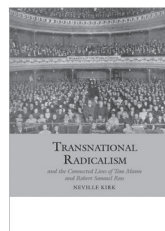
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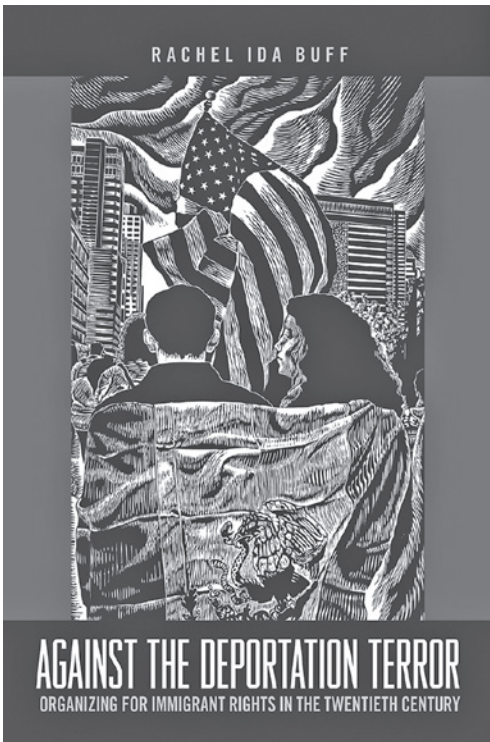
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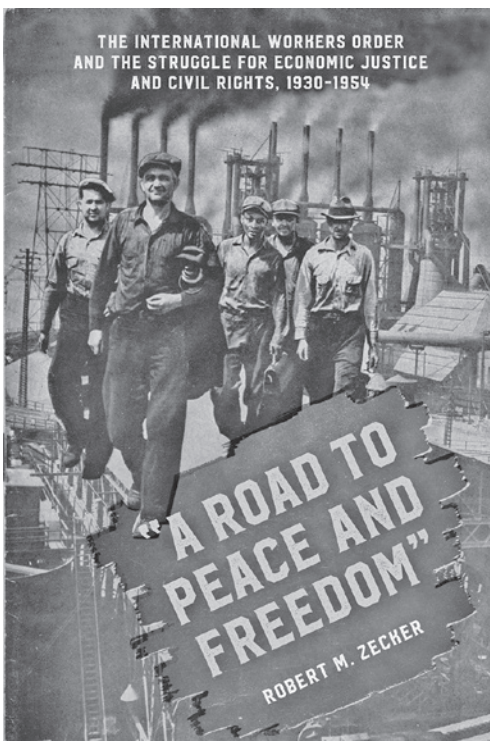
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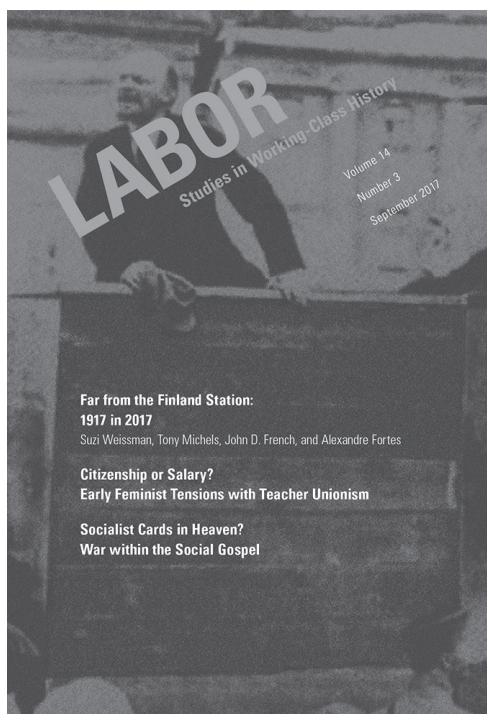
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Studies in Working-Class History



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).

Membership Information

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

Individuals: \$50

Students: \$25

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Thank you to the following publishers who have sponsored the book exhibit.

Please visit the book display in on Thursday and Friday in Hilberry F at the Student Center to view recommended titles from these publishers:

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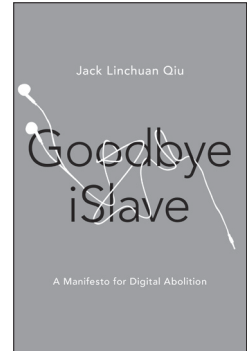
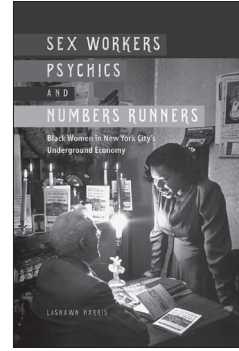
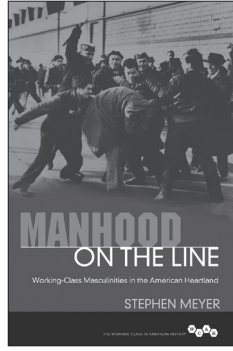
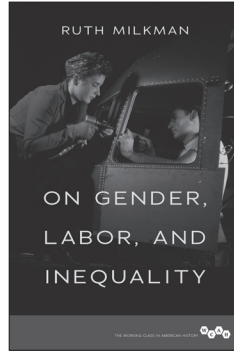
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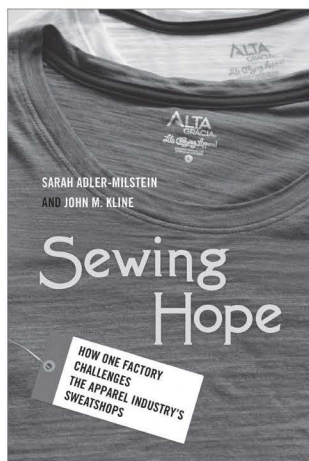


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Ranita Ray

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Steve Viscelli

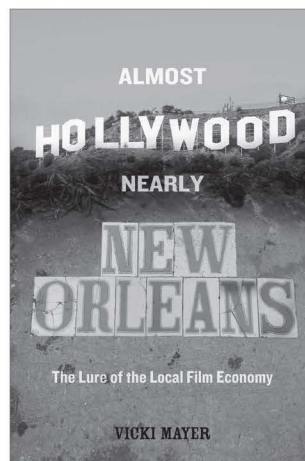
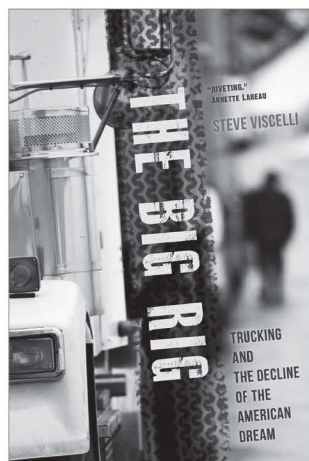
Invisible Labor: Hidden Work in the Contemporary World
Edited by Marion Crain, Winifred Poster, and Miriam Cherry

Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy
Victor Tan Chen

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Fred Glass

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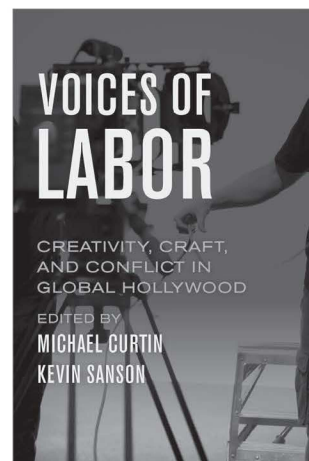
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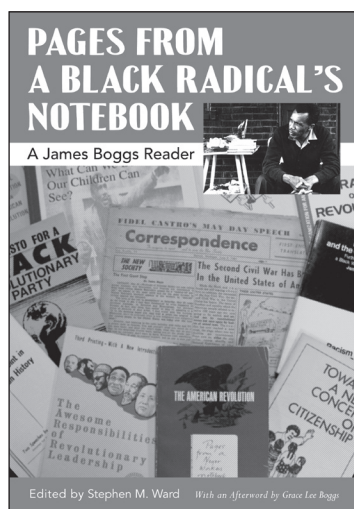
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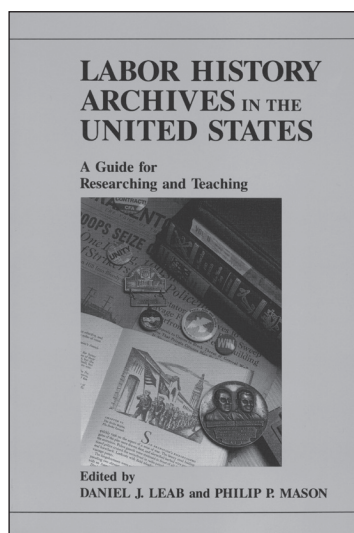
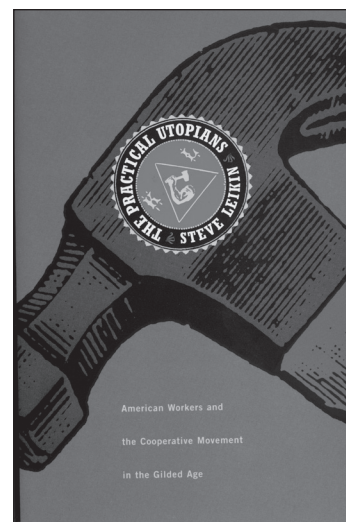
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