40th Annual North American Labor History Conference October 18-19, 2018 Wayne State University



Labor and History in the 21st Century

Conference Site

Conference sessions will take place on Thursday, October 18, and Friday, October 19, on the campus of Wayne State University. On Saturday, October 20, tours are planned of the Rivera Murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts and of labor history sites in Detroit.

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.

Book Display

Books on labor history and related topics will be available for viewing on Thursday, October 18 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), and Friday, October 19th (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 conference exhibit room and designing the conference program.

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 lecture.

LAWCHA Travel Grants

The Labor and Working Class History Association provided student travel grants to the following individuals: Gracelin Baskaran (University of Cambridge), Stephanie Fairchild (University of California, San Diego), Olivia A. Kurajian (McGill University), Andreas Meyris (The George Washington University), Caroline Propersi-Grossman (State University of New York, Stony Brook), and Manuela Rienks (Institute for Contemporary History, Munich-Berlin).

2018 NALHC Steering Committee

Coordinators: Thomas Klug and Elizabeth Faue Assistant Coordinator: James McQuaid Members: Jennifer Hart, Janine Lanza, Marick Masters, Tracy Neumann, and Erik Nordberg.

Special thanks to the following people

Marilyn Vaughan and the graduate student volunteers from the WSU History Graduate Student Association, Cindy Krolikowski for developing the Working Class in American History book exhibit in the Undergraduate Library, and Alison Stankrauf, Meghan Courtney, and Mary Wallace for creating the NALHC exhibit at the Reuther Library.

Labor and History in the 21st Century

40th Annual North American Labor History Conference October 18-19, 2018—Wayne State University



Cover Photograph Striking teachers and their allies in Newark, New Jersey, 1971. Photo courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NALHC

The North American Labor History Conference was first held at Wayne State University in October of 1979 under the direction of Stanley Shapiro and History Department committee members Robert Zieger, Christopher H. Johnson, and Philip Mason. In eight sessions over three days, the NALHC hosted leading labor scholars in U.S. and European history, including Alexander Saxton, David Montgomery, Louise Tilly, Leslie Moch, William Sewell, Joan Scott, and John Merriman. A small but growing group of historians participated in wide-ranging discussions of working-class politics, labor organization, and sources for the new labor history.

Over the next few years, then-department chair Melvin Small dedicated important resources toward the building the nation's first and only annual labor history conference. Its original committee rotated the conference directorship throughout the 1980s. When Bob Zieger left for a new position at the University of Florida, the History Department was unable at first to replace him. Only in 1990, when Elizabeth Faue arrived at Wayne State University to teach labor and working class history and coordinate NALHC, did the conference again flourish.

Since 1991's highly successful Men, Women, and Labor conference, NALHC has hosted well-attended conferences on themes in labor and working-class history, including labor, citizenship, and the state; workers and the city; memory and the retelling of working-class lives; labor, migration and the global economy; labor, law, and justice; class, social movements, and the new politics; technology, work and environment; geographies of labor, the nature of work, and labor and revolution. After 2003, conference leadership passed to Janine Lanza (2004-11); Fran Shor (2012-14); Tom Klug (2015-16, 2018). In 2017, Tracy Neumann organized NALHC as a national conference on labor and public history.

In 1996-1997, the NALHC helped to organize and host the founding meetings of the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA), with which it has a strong and continuing working relationship. While LAW-CHA now has its own bi-annual labor history conference and co-sponsors other panels and meetings, it maintains a close connection with NALHC in hosting an annual luncheon and offering graduate student travel grants. NAL-HC also supported the creation of the Working Class Studies Association. It has continued to work with its peer conferences in furthering labor history and working class studies nationally and internationally.

Since 1979, the NALHC has maintained its commitment to showcasing the best research in labor and working-class history in the United States and across the globe. Over 3,000 scholars have presented their research in panels, plenary sessions, poetry readings, and workshops. Annual attendance at NALHC averaged between 150 and 200, with a diverse audience that bridges international and disciplinary divides. Participants range from independent scholars and public historians to senior academics, union officers, policy-makers, and community activists, reflecting the current diversity of the field. All in all, the NALHC has much to be proud of in its forty years of promoting and presenting the histories of working people.

WEDNESDAY, October 17, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wayne State University Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Walter P. Reuther Library

Organizing Auto Workers, Organizing their History The UAW and the Walter P. Reuther Library

Welcoming Ceremonies: Wayne State—The Workers' University

• Welcome to the Library that Reuther Built, Mary Wallace, Interim Director, Reuther Library

• Brief Comments on Labor@Wayne, Marick Masters, Moderator, Director of Labor@Wayne

• Brief Comments on Education and Labor, Mark Gaffney, Teamsters Local Union #214,

• Wayne State Board of Governors, former President, Michigan AFL-CIO

• Brief Comments on the Future of the UAW, Gary Jones, President, UAW

• Presentation by Louis Jones of Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Philip P. Mason, Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, Former Director, Reuther Library

Presentations

• Highlights of the Historical Struggle by the UAW to Organize Auto Workers, *Steve Babson, author of* Working Detroit, *Wayne State University, and labor activist*

• The UAW and the Reuther Library's Partnership through the Years, Gavin Strassel, Reuther Archivist

• Importance of the UAW Collection to the Modern Labor Movement, Cindy Estrada, UAW Vice President

Comments from the Audience

8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Reception with light refreshments

THURSDAY

THURSDAY, October 18, 2018 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 Labor Attacked, Undermined, and Betrayed (Hilberry C)

Chair: Daniel Clark, Oakland University

• The Sit-Downs and the Making of Anti-Union Culture, Gregory Wood, Frostburg State University

• Forty Years after Prop 13: The Past, Present, and Future of Public Sector Anti-Unionism, *Joseph E. Hower, Southwestern University*

• Bill Clinton, the Labor Reform Bill of 1977 and 1978, and the Democratic Abandonment of Labor: An Arkansas Story, *Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas*

A2 Variations of Workers' Control, Union Control (Hilberry D)

Chair: Janine Lanza, Wayne State University

Who Commands the Police? The Fight Against Civilian Review and the Origins of Modern Police Unionism, *Aaron Bekemeyer, Harvard University*Babysitters and Butlers: Railway Narratives and North American Sleeping Car Porters, *Olivia A. Kurajian, McGill University*Four Decades of Workers' Control in the Arts, *Teresa Carlesimo, Queens University, and Michael DiRisio, Independent Scholar*

A3 Radicalism and Working-Class Identity (Hilberry E)

Chair: Marc Kruman, Wayne State University

• Ribbon Societies in Pennsylvania? The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Diasporic Working-Class Culture, *Daniel Zylberkan, Florida State University*

• Working-Class Radicalism in Colonial Madras: the Growth of Working-Class Consciousness, 1920-1947, K. Venugopal Reddy, Pondicherry University

• The Seed: Philip Stevenson's Prose Epic about the Gallup Coal Strike of 1933-34, *Roberta Brown*, *Western New Mexico University*

THURSDAY

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

B1 Archivists as Consultants, Co-Creators, and Collaborators: Bringing Functional and Subject Expertise to Projects with External Stakeholder Communities (Hilberry C)

Chair: Conor Casey, University of Washington, Seattle

• Beyond the Interview: Oral History Curation Best Practices and Project Management tools in Collaborative Oral History Projects at the Labor Archives of Washington, *Conor Casey, University of Washington, Seattle*

• American Federation of Teachers Projects at the Walter Reuther Library and Archives of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, *Dan Golodner, Wayne State University*

• Digital Archives: A New Path to Integrating Historical Records and Historians into Archival Programs Documenting Social Movements? *Ben Blake, University of Maryland*

B2 Women Workers in the Garment, Retail, and Construction Sectors (Hilberry D)

Chair: Jane LaTour, Independent Scholar

On the Cutting Edge of Organized Labor: Female Black Garment Workers and the ILGWU in Early Twentieth Century New York City, *Janette E. Gayle, Hobart William Smith Colleges*Women's Worlds: Gender as a Neglected Aspect of German Labor History, *Manuela Rienks, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich-Berlin*

B3 Labor Past and Present: China, India, and South Africa (Hilberry E)

Chair: John Bukowczyk, Wayne State University

• The Invisibility of Gender in Scholarship on South Asian Labor Migration: A Global Historical Perspective, *Sagarika Naik, University of Delhi*

• Challenges Facing the Labour Movement in Post-Apartheid South Africa, Gracelin Baskaran, University of Cambridge

• Worker Mobility and Geographies of Resistance in China, Sarah Swider, Wayne State University

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. OPENING PLENARY LUNCHEON: Forty Years of Labor History: the Working Class in American History Series, NALHC, and the State of the Field (Hilberry A/B)

Chair: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University • Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University (emerita) • Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library • James Engelhardt, University of Illinois Press • Ryan Murphy, Earlham College

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

C1 The Repression of Labor and Radicals in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries (Hilberry C)

Chair: Vilja Hulden, University of Colorado, Boulder

From the Law-and-Order Leagues to the Citizens' Alliance Movement: Re-Thinking Anti-Unionism in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, *Chad Pearson, Collin College*"Red Finns": Finnish-American Radicals, the Finnish Civil War, and Political Repression in Finland and the United States, *Aaron Goings, University of Tampere, and Matti Roitto, University of Jyväskylä*The Ludlow Massacre Reconsidered, *Anthony DeStefanis, Otterbein University*

C2 Producing Unionists (Hilberry D)

Chair: Amanda Walter, Wayne State University

"The Most Tenacious Apostle:" A French Anarchist's Pennsylvania Tour, Spencer Austin, State University of New York, Stony Brook
Masculine Reproductive Labor in New York City's Stagecraft Union, Caroline Propersi-Grossman, State University of New York, Stony Brook
Praxis Makes Perfect: A Political Philosophy of Organizing, Andrew Dobbyn, State University of New York, Stony Brook

C3 Labor and the Fate of Democracy (Hilberry E)

Chair: José Cuello, Wayne State University

- AIFLD's Role in Latin America, 1964-1981, Frank Hammer, Independent Scholar
- How is Democracy Possible in the Twenty-First Century? Richard Hudelson, University of Wisconsin, Superior
- Trumpism and the Crisis of US Democracy, Fran Shor, Wayne State University

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

D1 Workers Confronting Plant Closings and Deindustrialization (Hilberry C)

Chair: Christopher Johnson, Wayne State University

• Deindustrialization and Gender in the Upper Midwest, David LaVigne, The College of Idaho

• "Workers Want Wages, Not Welfare": U.S. Textile and Apparel Worker Import Protests, 1930s-1980s, *James Benton, Georgetown University*

D2 Teachers, the Law, and Labor Activism (Hilberry D)

Chair: Joseph Hower, Southwestern University

THURS / FRI

• Detroit Teachers' Fight to Finance Schools, 1947-1974, Kelly Goodman, Yale University

• The "Golden Age" of the NLRB: How the Early Decisions Changed the Past, Present, and Future of

Faculty Unions in the United States, Daniel Underwood, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

• Educators Teaching How to Revive the Labor Movement: Lessons from West Virginia's Teacher Strikes of 1990 and 2018, *William Hal Gorby, West Virginia University*

D3 Sports and Labor (Hilberry E)

Chair: Mel Small, Wayne State University

• Needles and hoops: Sports Programs in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Socialist Party, and their Communist Rivals, *James Robinson, Northeastern University*

• Communist at Play: the CPUSA's Labor Sport Union 1928-1935, *Gabe Logan, Northern Michigan University*

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

Book Reception Co-Sponsored by University of Illinois Press and the Walter P. Reuther Library to honor the publication of Alice Kessler-Harris, *Women Have Always Worked* (Second Edition)

FRIDAY, October 19, 2018 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

El Education, Mass Culture, and Workers' Mobilization (Hilberry C)

Moderator: John Beck, Michigan State University

• Brookwood College, American Labor, and the Global Left of the 1920s, Andreas Meyris, The George Washington University

• The Right to a Life of the Mind: Workers' Education in the United States, 1920-1949, *Juli Highfill, University of Michigan*

• Maurice Sugar: Detroit's Labor Union Intellectual, Ryan Pettengill, Mountain View College, with music by Tony Paris, Sugar Law Center

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m CONCURRENT SESSIONS E (continued)

E2 Labor Reform: Opportunities and Limitations (Hilberry D)

Chair: Chelsea Roberts, Northwest Public Broadcasting, Tacoma, WA

• The Roots of the Justice for Janitors (JfJ) Campaign: The Development of JfJ as an Experimental, Adaptive Response to Neoliberal Restructuring and Union Decline, 1980-1985, *Stephanie Fairchild, University of California, San Diego*

• Insurgents and the Limits of Reform in Organized Labor, Jane La Tour, Independent Scholar

• Progressive Labor in Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania Social Services Union, *James A. Young, Edinboro University*

E3 Labor Organizing and Exclusion during World War II (Hilberry E)

Chair: Gregory Wood, Frostburg State University

• Labor Organizing and Civil Rights during World War II, Patrick Crowley, University of Rhode Island

• "Going Across the Line": Basque Immigrants, the Exclusion of Mexicans, and the Sheepherder Labor Shortage in the American West during World War II, *Iker Saitua, University of California, Riverside, and University of the Basque Country*

• "Klansmen" and "Thugs": Demonizing Defense Workers in Wartime Detroit," Karen A.J. Miller, Oakland University

10:45 a.m - 12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS F

F1 Labor and the Politics of Memorialization (Hilberry C)

Chair: Cecelia Bucki, Fairfield University

• Labor Martyrs, Martyred Laborers: Memorials to Maritime Workers on the Great Lakes and Beyond, LisaMary Wichowski, Independent Scholar

• The Memory of Memphis and the (Un)Making of the Modern Public Sector Labor Movement, *Joseph E. Hower, Southwestern University*

• Pop Solidarity: Twenty-First Century Narratives of 1980s Labor, Chelsea Roberts, Northwest Public Broadcasting, Tacoma, WA

F2 Visions of Industrial Society (Hilberry D)

Chair: Shelton Stromquist, University of Iowa

• Visualizing Labor and Business at Congressional Hearings, Vilja Hulden, University of Colorado, Boulder

• "The Cause and Cure of Strikes": Walter Reuther's UAW and the Utopian Promise of Postwar Social Science in Political Thought, *Matthew Mettler, Upper Iowa University*

F3 Book Talk: Disruption in Detroit: Autoworkers and the Elusive Postwar Boom (Hilberry E)

Chair & Moderator: Dominique Daniel, Oakland University Author: Daniel Clark, Oakland University Discussants: Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library and Lisa Fine, Michigan State University

12:20 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. CONFERENCE LUNCHEON (HILBERRY A/B)

Awarding of Student Travel Grants from the Labor & Working Class History Association Cecelia Bucki, Fairfield University and National Secretary, LAWCHA Shelton Stromquist, University of Iowa and Past President, LAWCHA

Reflections on the First Twenty Years of the Labor & Working Class History Association

Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University and Past President, LAWCHA Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University and former Board Member, LAWCHA Shelton Stromquist, University of Iowa and Past President, LAWCHA Cecelia Bucki, Fairfield University and National Secretary, LAWCHA Thomas Klug, Marygrove College and former Treasurer, LAWCHA

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

G1 Film Screening—Divided We Fall (Hilberry C)

Chair: Anthony DeStefanis, Otterbein University

• Labor History as Public History in the Digital Media Era: The Case of the 2011 Wisconsin Uprising, *Katherine M. Acosta, filmmaker*

G2 Contemporary Arab American Literature and Authors: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class (Hilberry E)

Chair and Facilitator: Frank D. Rashid, Marygrove College

• Lawrence Joseph, St. John's University School of Law and Dunya Mikhail, Oakland University

4:20 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library)

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

Welcome | Jon Cawthorne, Dean, Wayne State University Library System Introduction | Thomas Klug, Marygrove College

• Slaves, Coolies, Guestworkers, and the Perils and Prospects of Writing Global Labor History, Cindy Hahamovitch, The University of Georgia

10:45 a.m. Tour of the Diego Rivera Murals, Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)

10:45 a.m.—enter the DIA through the John R group entrance where you will be met by the tour guide, Steve Babson.

No charge for the tour—but a reservation is required

Note: the DIA will not permit you to bring backpacks into the building, nor will they store them for you.

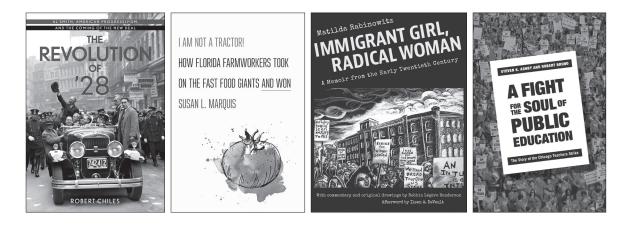
1:30 p.m. Labor History Tour of Detroit (via bus and foot)

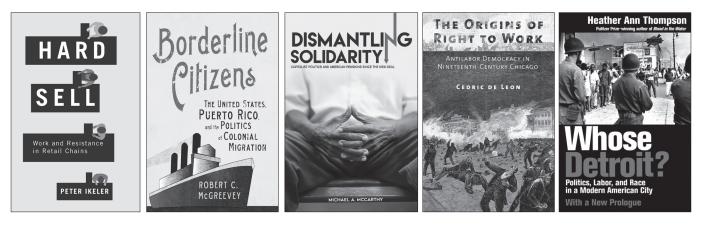
Tour of Detroit labor history sites conducted by the Michigan Labor History Society No charge for the tour—but a reservation is required 1:30 p.m. Bus departs from the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) 4:00 p.m. Bus returns to the MotorCity Casino Hotel and the DIA



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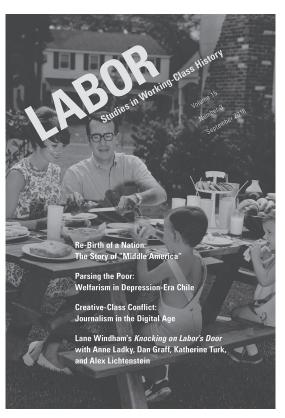
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LABOR Studies in Working-Class History



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).

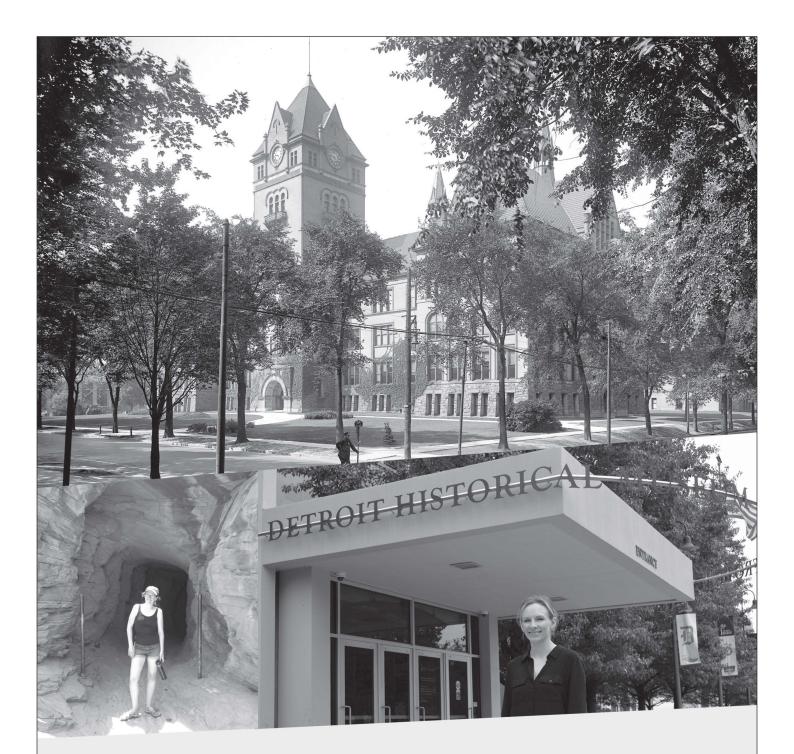
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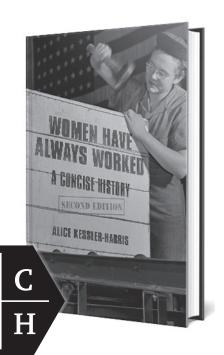
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ALICE KESSLER-HARRIS

and the 40th anniversary of the Working Class in American History series



40th .

5:30–7:00 p.m. North American Labor History Conference Thursday, October 18, 2018, Walter P. Reuther Library

Book Reception Co-Sponsored by University of Illinois Press to honor the publication of the second edition of Alice Kessler-Harris's *Women Have Always Worked*.

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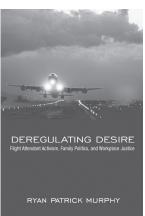
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Labor History @ Temple





The Cost of Being a Girl

Working Teens and the Origins of the Gender Wage Gap YASEMIN BESEN-CASSINO

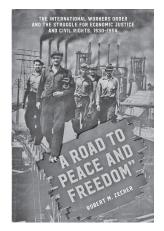
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The Story of Reo Joe

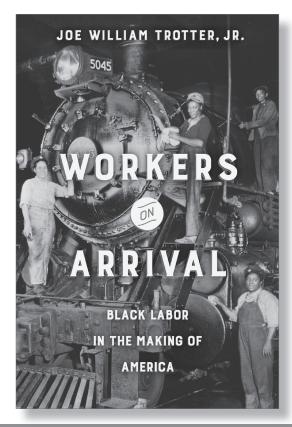
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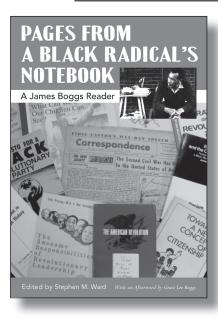
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CALL FOR PAPERS

41st Annual North American Labor History Conference LABOR AND DEMOCRACY

October 15-17, 2020 Wayne State University Detroit, Michigan

The North American Labor History Conference, which has been held annually since 1979, is taking a hiatus. We are moving toward a bi-annual schedule, with our next meeting being held October 15-17, 2020, on the theme of Labor and Democracy.

It is appropriate for us, in the year of the next US presidential election, to consider the relationship of the labor movement to democratic governance and the contribution of work and working people to the constitution of a democratic society.

The year 2020 is also the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which expanded suffrage to women in the United States. Part of a global movement toward the empowerment of women, women's suffrage was a right and a cause embraced by many working-class radicals and labor organizers, both men and women. Women's suffrage and women's political organization, especially through labor, is a subtheme of this conference. In other ways, 2000 represents the point at which the right to vote had to be confronted as it was practiced, sometimes struggling against restrictions and sometimes against indifference, apathy, and fear.

In 2020, NALHC will issue a call inviting panels, roundtable sessions, and papers discussing the experience of workers in democracies and the impact on democracies of organized labor and social movements of working people. We will have a plenary panel discussing the connections between labor reform (as envisioned by John Commons) and political activism throughout labor history, a panel on labor and emerging democracies, a panel on the connection between woman suffrage (globally) and labor and/or class struggle, and a panel on labor and current political activism. Other topics are welcome, but we hope you will save the dates and submit a proposal.

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 30, 2020** to Professor Elizabeth Faue, History Department, Wayne State University, at nalhc@wayne.edu.

