

## Labor and Freedom in Global Perspective

Twenty-Ninth Annual  
North American Labor History Conference  
Wayne State University  
October 18-20, 2007

The Program Committee of the North American Labor History Conference invites proposals for sessions and papers on "Global Connections and Unfree Labor" for our twenty-ninth annual meeting.

The challenges and changes presented by globalization have represented a visible and pressing issue for workers over the past several decades. However, the development of a global trade and labor network dates back centuries and has often depended on the contributions of unfree labor – slaves, indentured servants, impressed sailors, serfs. This year's conference wishes to explore the issue of unfree labor in the global economic system both as a historical phenomenon and as an element of our increasingly international economic environment.

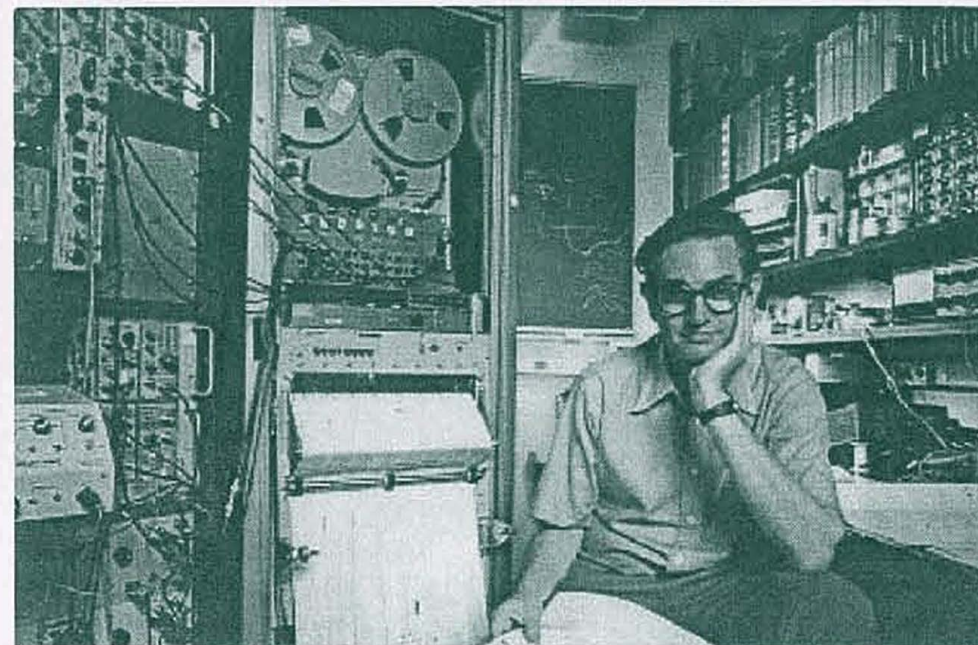
The program committee encourages comparative and interdisciplinary scholarship from a range of national and international contexts, the integration of public historians and community and labor activists into conference sessions, and the use of differing session formats (workshops, roundtable discussions, 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 1-2 page abstracts and brief vitas or biographical statements for all participants) by **March 1, 2007**, 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: ao1605@wayne.edu

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

## Technology, Environment and Work



The Twenty-Eighth Annual  
North American Labor History Conference

McGregor Conference Center  
Wayne State University  
October 19 – 21, 2006

## Program Notes

### Sponsors for the North American Labor History Conference

The Conference is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of History, and the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, and by the Labor and Working Class History Association.

### North American Labor History Conference Program Committee

Janine Lanza, coordinator and chair; Catherine Bogosian Ash, John Bukowczyk, Elizabeth Faue, Marc Kruman, Andrew Port, Aaron Retish, and Beth Bates.

### Cover Art

This year's cover features an unpublished photo of Marshall Nirenberg, 1968 Nobel Prize Winner in Physiology or Medicine for his work in cracking the code of DNA. Photo taken by John Neubauer for National Geographic magazine.

### 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 17, 2005	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, October 18, 2005	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, October 19, 2005	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Thursday, October 20, 2005	9:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Friday, October 21, 2005	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, October 22, 2005	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Labor History Conference

### PROGRAM

#### Thursday, October 19, 2006

##### Registration and Coffee Hour

9:30 – 11:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

##### Labor Radicalism, Spirituality, Scholarship and Activism: Reactions to Paul Le Blanc's *Marx, Lenin, and the Revolutionary Experience: Studies in Communism and Radicalism in the Age of Globalization: An Author Meets His Critics*

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

##### Panelists:

Geoffroy de Laforcade, Longwood University  
Immanuel Ness, CUNY and WorkingUSA: *A Journal of Labor and Society*  
Gloria Albrecht, University of Detroit Mercy  
Joseph Marks, La Roche College  
Bryan Palmer, Trent University

Comment: Paul Le Blanc, La Roche College

##### Preserving the Historical Memory of the Labor Movement

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association  
11:00 a. m. -1:00 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair/Comment: Daniel Walkowitz, New York University

##### *History Promotes Solidarity*

Michael Nash, Tamiment Library

##### *Managing Union Records*

William LeFevre, Walter P. Reuther Library

##### *How the AFT and the Reuther Library Build a Collection Together*

Daniel Golodner, Walter P. Reuther Library

##### *SEIU 925 and the Reuther Library: Preserving the Historical Memory*

Louis E. Jones, Walter P. Reuther Library

##### Luncheon

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

##### Documentary Showing

*Knock Off: Revenge on the Logo*  
A film by Anette Baldauf and Katharina Weingartner  
McGregor F/G

**Views of Labor in Three Cultural Media**  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor B/C

Chair/Comment: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

*Señor Rivera's Detroit: Limits of Working Class Formation in the Motor City, 1929-1934*  
Jacob Hall, University of Iowa

*Bare Knuckle Justice: the Perennial Appeal of the Private Eye*  
Tim Sheard, Independent Scholar

*"Excuse the Mess, But We Live Here": Late 1980s Working-Class Family Sitcoms and the American Dream*  
Melissa Williams, University of Minnesota

**Disability and Workplace Safety**  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair/Comment: Jonathan Rees, Colorado State University, Pueblo

*John L. Lewis: Coal Mining Technology, Workplace Safety and Partisan Politics, 1909-1937*  
Mark A. Sloboda, Eastern Michigan University

*Who Can Be a Worker? Mechanization, Industrial Efficiency, and Disability, 1890-1930*  
Sarah Rose, University of Illinois, Chicago

*"Don't Make Us a Separate Class": Industrial Workers and Disabilities in Ohio, 1880-1917*  
Halle Lewis, SUNY, Binghamton

**Union Strikes and Community Relations**  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor E

Chair/Comment: Michael Smith, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library

*Taftville and the Stuggles of Labor at the Beginning of the Gilded Age*  
Jeffrey Powell, Wayne State University

*A Most Unlikely Group of '60s Militants: The PATCO Air Traffic Controllers*  
David Sapadin, Northern Illinois University

*Internation Union of Electrical Workers' 1969 Strike of General Electric: Community Values and Worker Disillusionment in Local 931*  
Anita VanTil, Grand Valley State University

**Finding Work: Youth and Technology**  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor I

Chair/Comment: Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

*Changing Technology and Youth Work: The Australian Experience during the Late Nineteenth Century*  
Bradley Bowden, Griffith University

*Communication Technology and Labour: The Unionization of Canadian Teaching Assistants and Graduate Students*  
Anne F. MacLennan, York University

**Conference Reception**

*In The Fields/En Los Campos*  
A photographic exploration of the lives of  
teenage migrant workers

4:45 - 6:00 p.m.  
Reuther Library Lobby

**Plenary Session**

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m., McGregor B/C

*Is This Labor History's Global Age? Re-Imagining Spaces of Resistance and Collective Action  
in an International Context*  
Shelton Stromquist  
University of Iowa

**Post-Plenary Reception**

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m., McGregor Lobby  
(Cash Bar)

**Friday, October 20, 2006**

**Registration and Coffee Hour**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

**Brown in the Cold War**

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

8:30-10:30, McGregor B/C

Chair: Anne M. Martínez, University of Texas, Austin

*A Border in the Making: The INS and Agricultural Relations in South Texas during the Mid-Twentieth Century*

Cristina Salinas, University of Texas, Austin

*Braceros/Braceras of a Different Kind: Mexican and Puerto Rican Labor Migration in Comparative Perspective, 1943-1964*

Lilia Fernandez, Ohio State University

Comment: Steve Rosswurm, Lake Forest College

**Changing Views of Industrial Relations**

8:30-10:30, McGregor F/G

Chair, Dan Golodner, Walter P. Reuther Library

*Whatever Happened to "Shorty"? Power, Knowledge, and Industrial Espionage in an American Steel Mill*

Mark R. Finlay, Armstrong Atlantic University

*Their "Friend and Champion"? The Rockefeller Plan and an Early Company Union in Steel and Mining*

Jonathan Rees, Colorado State University, Pueblo

*Clubbing the Christ Out of Christianity: Bouck White's "Invasion" of Calvary Baptist Church and Police Brutality in Progressive Era New York*

Dave Burns, Northern Illinois University

**LAWCHA Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., McGregor L/M

*Gendering Labor History*

Colleen O'Neill, Utah State University, Chair

Joan Sangster, Trent University

Ileen DeVault, Cornell University

**The Figure of Work in Popular Culture**

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor B/C

Chair/Comment: Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University

*Reforming Labor and Leisure: the Grand Order of Recreation and the American Origins of the Bohemian Persuasion*

Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati

*"I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night": The IWW's Lost Legacy in American Popular Culture*

Ron Briley, Sandia Preparatory School

*Nativism and Indigenismo: Mexican Arts and Mexican Immigrants in the United States, 1919-1939*

Anna Pegler-Gordon, Michigan State University

**Workers Using Strikes**

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor F/G

Chair/Comment: Jeffrey Powell, Wayne State University

*Labor under Siege: The Galveston Longshoreman's Strike, 1920-21*

Joseph Abel, Rice University

*Mutiny from Victoria to Vladivostock, December 1918: British Columbia Labour and the Siberian Expedition*

Benjamin Isitt, University of New Brunswick

(LAWCHA Paper Winner)

*Toward the Two-Hour Work Day: Weimar Anarchists in Search of Alternatives to Fordism and Bolshevism*

Martin Kley, University of Texas, Austin

**Women Pushing into the Work Force**

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor E

Chair/Comment: Janine Lanza, Wayne State University

*Sisters in the Brotherhood: Organizing for Equality*

Jane LaTour, District Council 37, Public Employees Press, AFSCME

*They Saw Themselves as Workers: African-American Women and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in New York City, 1910-1935*

Julia Oestreich, Temple University

**Bringing Labor Studies into the Classroom**

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor I

Chair/Comment: Janet Zandy, Rochester Institute of Technology

*The Rise of Union Conservatism and the Decline of the Western Federation of Miners*  
Robert F. Bosworth, Wayne State University

*Anti-Communist Liberals in McCarthy Era Pittsburgh: Judge Michael A. Musmanno and  
Msgr. Charles Owen Rice*  
Elizabeth Williams, La Roche College

**Workers, Politics and Class Consciousness**

3:00 – 5:00, McGregor B/C

Chair/Comment: Lisa M. Fine, Michigan State University

*Edging Toward Conservatism: Steel and Pottery Workers in Northern West Virginia, 1945-1965*  
Louis Martin, West Virginia University

*New England Fishers and the Crisis of Foreign Competition*  
Colin Davis, University of Alabama, Birmingham

*Have Degree, Will Travel: Engineers, Class Consciousness, and the Military-Industrial Complex in Bristol,  
Connecticut, 1960-1974*  
Philip Samponaro, Clark University

**Working Free Markets**

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association  
3:00 – 5:00, McGregor F/G

Chair/Comment: Gerald Ronning, Albright College

*Reconsidering Native American Women's Labor History*  
Carol Williams, University of Lethbridge

*Double Jeopardy: Navajo Weavers, Reservation Traders and the Spectre of Free Trade*  
Kathy McCloskey, University of Windsor

*The Making of the Indian and Metis Labour Force in the Mercantile Fur Trade*  
Ron Bourgeault, University of Regina

**Environmentalism and Workers' Experiences in the Auto Industry**

3:00 – 5:00, McGregor E

Chair/Comment: Kenneth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

*A Decent, Wholesome Living Environment for Everyone: The UAW and Modern Environmentalism*  
Chad Montrie, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

*The Degradation of Work Revisited: The Inhumane Work Conditions in the American Automobile Industry*  
Stephen Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

**Death on the Homefront**

3:00 – 5:00, McGregor I

Chair/Comment: Daniel Clark, Oakland University

*Death in the Factories: Worker Safety and the American Federation of Labor During  
World War II*  
Andrew Kersten, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

*Homefront Battlefield: Scotts Run Mine Disasters in World War II and the Lack of Public Demands for Change*  
Paul Rakes, West Virginia University Institute of Technology

**Conference Reception**

5:00 – 6:00 p.m., McGregor Lobby  
(Cash Bar)

**Book Signing**

during the reception,  
**Andrew Kersten**  
will be signing copies of his new book,  
*Labor's Home Front: The AFL during World War II*

**Plenary Session and Dinner**  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., McGregor L/M

*Views of Technology and Environment Stem from the Work You Do*  
Fred Quivik  
Historian of Technology  
Quivik Consulting Historian, Inc.

**Post-Plenary Gathering:  
Labor and Social Conscience**  
**The 16th Annual Bernard J. Firestone Memorial Tribute  
Labor Poets 2006**  
Sponsored by the Center for Labor Studies, Wayne State University

Bernath Auditorium  
WSU Undergraduate Library (middle of main campus)  
FREE – Go to the [Springfed Arts](#) website for information and directions.

7:00 p.m. until . . .

**Philip Levine**  
Labor Poet  
A Detroit native and the  
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award

**Anne Feeney**  
Labor Musician  
Winner of the Joe Hill Award

*Hosted by*  
**M.L. Liebler**  
WSU Faculty Member and Director of  
Springfed Arts: Metro Detroit Writers

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of English, the Writer's Forum, the Student Council, and the Library System, Wayne State University, and by The Springfed Arts: Metro Detroit Writers Organization

**Saturday, October 21, 2006**

**Registration and Coffee Hour**  
8:00 – 9:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

**Politics, Communities**  
Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association  
9:00 – 11:00, McGregor B/C

Chair: Michelle Brattain, Georgia State University

*Removing Reds from the Old Red Scar: Southern Appalachian Industrial Society and the Maintenance of an Industrial Peace during the Interwar Years*  
William Simson, Georgia Perimeter College

*Seeking the Lowest Level: The Apparel Industry Heads South, 1937-1980*  
Michelle Haberland, Georgia Southern University

*"Workingmen's Democracy" in the Deep South: The Knights of Labor and Georgia Politics, 1885-1894*  
Matthew Hild, Georgia State University

Comment: Kenneth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia State University

**A Roundtable on Workers and the Coal Industry**  
9:00 – 11:00, McGregor F/G

Chair: Caroline Waldron Merithew, University of Dayton

*A Conflict of Interests: the Struggle over Health and Safety in America's Coal Mines, 1968-1977*  
Richard Fry, Wayne State University

*"The Birmingham of the West": Hoosier Coal and the Clay County Riot of 1873*  
Laura E.C. Bergstrom, Purdue University

*What Do Workers Do in History: How Coal Miners Saved the World*  
Andrew B. Arnold, Kutztown University

**Teachers and Their Unions**  
9:00 – 11:00, McGregor E

Chair/Comment: Richard Greenwald, Drew University

*The Most Important Thing in the History of the Labor Movement since the Merger of the AFL and the CIO --  
The NEA-AFL-CIO Merger*  
Rich Gibson, San Diego State University

*Civil Rights and "Teacher Welfare": Growth and the Political Retrenchment of New York City Teachers Unions, 1954-1968*  
Jonna Perrillo, University of Texas, El Paso

*What Teachers Want: The Newark Teacher Strikes*  
Steve Golin, Bloomfield College

**Luncheon**  
11:00 – 1:00 p.m., McGregor L/M

**Alternate Program**  
*Corporate Technology's Negative Impact on Labor and the Environment: A Photographic Tour*  
Irwin Nack

**Hotel Labor in the Twentieth Century**  
1:00 – 3:00, McGregor B/C

Chair/Comment: Dorian T. Warren, University of Chicago

*"Statlerizing" the Back of the House: Labor Policy and Standardized Design for the Statler Hotel Chair, circa 1900-1927*

Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service

*Against Statler: Hotel Workers and Managers Forge Alternate Ideals of Service*

Daniel Levinson Wilk, Fashion Institute of Technology

*Technologies of the Self: Luxury Hotel Management at the End of the Twentieth Century*

Rachel Sherman, Yale University

**The Hollowing Out of the Unionized Sector of the U.S. Economy**

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor F/G

Chair/Comment: Mark McCulloch, CUNY, Queensboro Community College

*Damned by Good Intentions: Arbitrators, Longshoremen, and the Decline of the Port of New York*

Marc Levenson, CUNY Graduate Center

*"Everybody Was Happy": How the Compromises Signed after the 1959 Steel Strike Undermined the Industry*

Ron Schatz, Wesleyan University

**Views of Unionism From Three Different Workplaces**

1:00 – 3:00, McGregor E

Chair/Comment: Gregory Wood, Pennsylvania State University, Erie

*Illinois Miners Use of the Courts to Create a Statutory Regime, 1879-1911*

Zach Lutz, Northern Illinois University

*Life and Death of a PATCO Local*

Geoff Johnson, CUNY Graduate Center

*The Consequences of Victory: Detroit-Area Teacher Activism During the post-World War II Era*

Louis E. Jones, Wayne State University

## Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA)

### Officers

Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University - President  
 Michael Honey, University of Washington - Vice President  
 Cecelia Bucki, Fairfield University - Secretary  
 Thomas Klug, Marygrove College - Treasurer  
 Max Krochmal, Duke University - Executive Secretary  
 James Green, University of Massachusetts, Boston - Immediate Past President

### Program Committee

Daniel Katz (Empire State College, SUNY), co-chair  
 Lisa Kannenberg ( College of St. Rose), co-chair  
 Colleen O'Neill ( Utah State University )  
 Michelle Brattain ( Georgia State University )  
 Risa Faussette ( College of St. Rose )  
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 Dorothy Fujita Rony ( University of California , Irvine )  
 Francille Wilson ( University of Maryland )  
 Jennifer Klein ( Yale University )  
 Joseph McCartin ( Georgetown University )

### Graduate Essay Award Winner

*Mutiny from Victoria to Vladivostock, December 1918: British Columbia Labour and the Siberian Expedition*  
 Benjamin Isitt, University of New Brunswick

### Graduate Travel Grant Winners

TBA

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Beth Bates.	Page 1	Zach Lutz	Page 12
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Janine Lanza	Page 1, 6, 15	Francille Wilson	Page 13
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