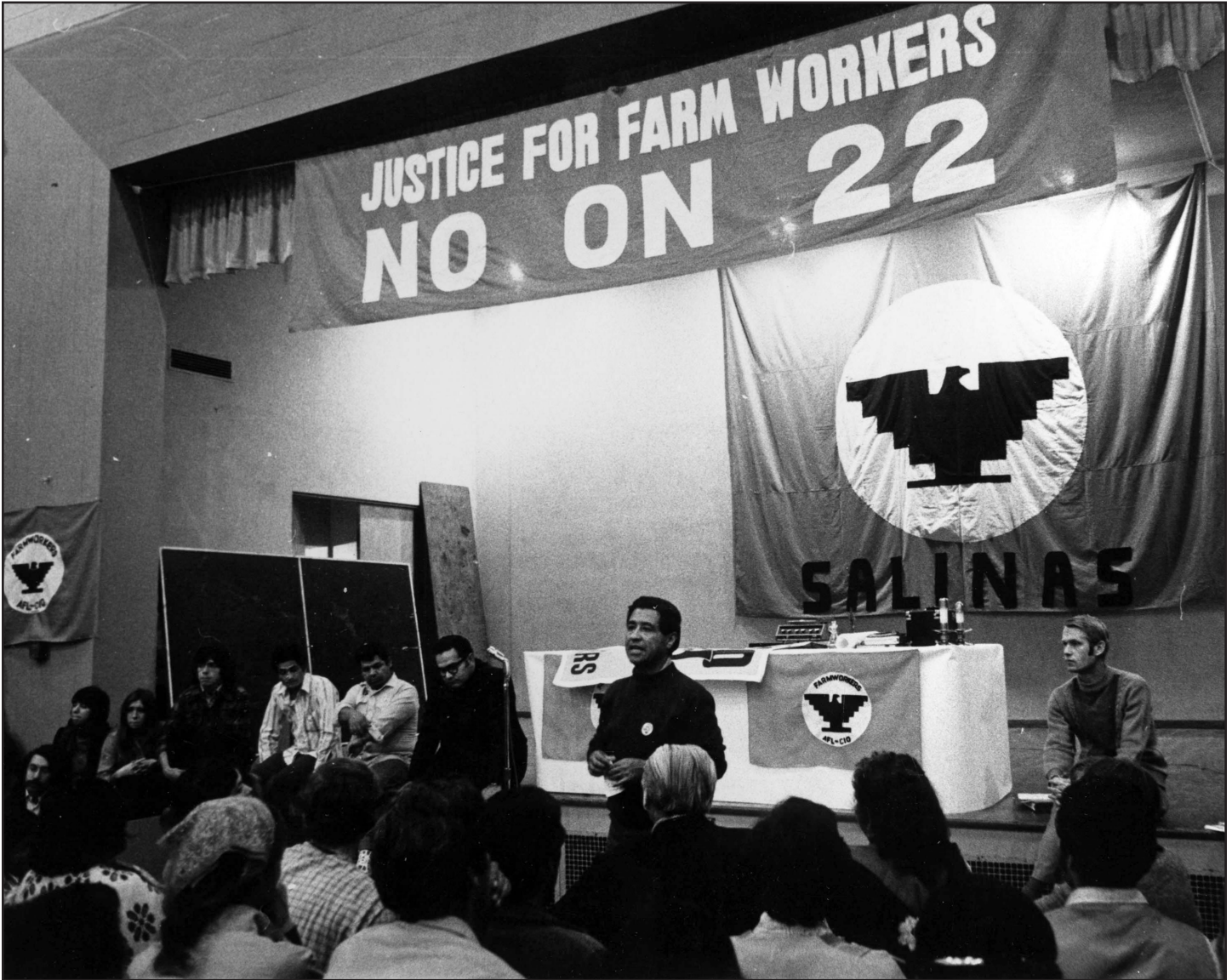


The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual  
North American Labor History Conference

# THE NATURE OF WORK



October 22-24, 2015

McGregor Conference Center/Manoogian Hall

Wayne State  
University

## **Conference Notes**

### **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 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Book Display and Sale**

Books on labor history and related topics will be available on Thursday and Friday (Oct 22-23) in Room A of the McGregor Conference Center. Featured books will be sold in the lobby at the time of the reception on late Friday afternoon.

### **Parking**

For parking for the conference days of October 22 and 23 can be found around the Wayne State campus for a charge. Credit cards are accepted. The closest parking structure to the McGregor Conference Center is Parking Structure #1, located on the corner of Cass Avenue and Palmer Street, just north of the conference center. Right across the street from it on Palmer, next to the WSU Law Library, is a small surface lot that is helpful for participants who have difficulty walking. For Saturday, October 24, the only parking structure available near the Manoogian Building is Parking Structure #2.

### **Cover Photograph**

The UFW campaign over Proposition 22 in California, 1972. Photograph by Chris Sanchez, courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther of Labor and Urban Affairs.

### **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.

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Labor History Conference**  
**October 22-24, 2015—Wayne State University**  
(version 10/7/2015)

**THURSDAY, October 22, 2015 @ McGregor Conference Center**

**Registration**

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., McGregor Lobby

**Book Display**

9.00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 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 NALHC registration table in McGregor 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 – McGregor**

**1.1 Book talk: *The Communist International and US Communism, 1919-29* – Room B/C**

Chair: Amy Bromsen, Wayne State University

Author: Jacob Zumoff, Prometheus Research Library

Commentators:

Michael Goldfield, Wayne State University

Daniel Clark, Oakland University

**1.2 Labor and Working Women's Struggles, 1960s-90s -- Room G/H**

Chair/Commentator: Nancy Gabin, Purdue University

*Strawberry Fields Forever? The UFW's Fight for California Strawberries*

Nora Schillinger, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

*The Centrality of Labor to the Women's Liberation Movement*

Jessica Birch, Case Western Reserve University

*Challenges, Choices, and Change: Technological Unemployment in the Clerical Workplace*

Amanda Walter, Wayne State University

*Title VII and Women's Activism in West Virginia, 1964-1970*

Virginia C. Young, Shawnee State University

**2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. SESSION 2 – McGregor**

**2.1 Book Talk: *Managing Inequality: Northern Racial Liberalism in Interwar Detroit* – Room B/C**

Chair: John Bukowczyk, Wayne State University

Author: Karen R. Miller, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

Discussants:

Angela Dillard, University of Michigan

Karen J. Miller, Oakland University

**2.2 Reds on Trial – Room G/H**

Chair: Chris Johnson, Wayne State University

*“A Road to Peace and Freedom”: The International Workers Order and the Fight for a Popular Front at Home and Abroad*

Robert M. Zecker, St. Francis Xavier University

*“In the Capitalist Courts”: Legal Strategies of the State and the Communist Party of Canada in the Trial of the Communist Eight, 1931*

Scott Eaton, Simon Fraser University

*Hanging In: American Communists Face Legal Repression*

Joshua Morris, Wayne State University

Commentator: John Bachtell, CPUSA National Chairman

**4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Break**

**Keynote Address**

**4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m., McGregor B/C**

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: Fran Shor, Wayne State University

*Honduras: The Empire in Real Time*

Dana Frank, University of California, Santa Cruz

**FRIDAY, October 23, 2015 @ McGregor Conference Center**

**Registration**

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. McGregor Lobby

**Book Display**

8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. McGregor Room A

**8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. SESSION 3 - McGregor**

**3.1 Revisiting Cedric de Leon's *The Origins of Right to Work: Antilabor Democracy in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Chicago* – Room B/C**

Chair and Moderator: Marick Masters, Wayne State University

Discussants:

Chad E. Pearson, Collin College  
Sam Mitrani, College of DuPage  
Cedric de Leon, Providence College

**3.2 Digital Humanities and Labor History – Room G/H**

Chair: Adam Arenson, Manhattan College

*What we talk about when we talk about labor and the law: Text mining JSTOR articles*  
Vilja Hulden, University of Colorado, Boulder

*Debating, Defining, Interdisciplining: A Brief History of Digital Humanities*  
Alix Keener, University of Michigan

*Networked Labor Histories: Digital Metaphors and Social Movement Past*  
Toby Higbie, University of California, Los Angeles

**10:00 am – 10:15 am – BREAK**

**10:15 am – 11:45 am SESSION 4 – McGregor**

**4.1 Revisiting Stacey Smith's *Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction* (Co-sponsored by Labor & Working Class History Association) – Room B/C**

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

Discussants:

Adam Arenson, Manhattan College

Ikuko Asaka, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Jared Roll, University of Mississippi

Stacey Smith, Oregon State University

## **4.2 Labor and Rights in 19<sup>th</sup> century America – Room G/H**

Chair/Commentator: Anthony DeStefanis, Otterbein University

*Inheritors of the Revolution: The Legacy of 48ers within Texas Agrarian Radicalism*

Tom Alter, University of Illinois, Chicago

*Labor, Race, and Andrew Johnson's "Swing Around the Circle"*

Timothy Messer-Kruse, Bowling Green State University

*"As they are rich and we are poor, they seem to think that we are not protected by the Constitution": Labor's Unsuccessful Fight for the Right to Assemble*

Jon Bekken, Albright College

## **4.3 Higher Education Faculty: Precarious Solidarity – Room J**

Chair: Tom Anderson, Wayne State University

*"Good morning. I am Professor Staff"*

Michael Swope, Schoolcraft College

*Professional Bullying*

Dan Underwood, Ferris State University

*Who's On the Faculty?*

Marick Masters, Wayne State University

## **12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Conference Luncheon (Pre-Registration Required) - McGregor L/M**

Awarding of graduate student travel grants: Nancy MacLean, President, and Tom Klug, Treasurer, Labor and Working Class History Association

Luncheon Address

Co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the MA in Public History program, Wayne State University

Introduction: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

*Listening to the Post-Industrial City: Place-Based Storytelling and the Hipster Commodification of Misery*

Steven High, Concordia University

**Keynote Address**

**1:45 p.m.- 2:45 p.m. -- McGregor B/C**

Introduction and Moderator: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

*The Work of Death: Massacre and Retribution in Southampton County, Virginia, August 1831*  
Christopher Tomlins, University of California School of Law, Berkeley

**2:45 pm – 3:00 pm – BREAK**

**3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. SESSION 5 - McGregor**

**5.1 Steelworkers and Coal Miners: Fighting for Democratic Government, Healthcare, and Job-Training -- Room B/C**

Chair: Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University

*Southern West Virginia Coal Miners Fight the Corporate State, 1902-21*  
William Hal Gorby, West Virginia University

*Uncharted Territory: the 1986 LTV Bankruptcy and the Relationship between Independent Retiree Groups and the USWA*  
Henry Himes, West Virginia University

*Making Civil Rights Meaningful in a Human Capital Society: Black Steelworkers and the Struggle for Racial Justice in Mid-Century Houston*  
Bryant Etheridge, Southern Methodist University

Commentator: Steve Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

**5.2 Life, Legend, and Legacy of Joe Hill – Room G/H**

Chair and Moderator: Julie Herrada, University of Michigan

Panelists:

Francis Shor, Wayne State University  
Alexis Buss, independent scholar  
Paula de Angelis, University of Adelaide  
Jeff Ditz, IWW General Secretary (1989-90)

**4:30 pm – 4:45 pm Break**

**Roundtable Discussion**

**4:45 pm – 6:15 pm – McGregor B/C**

**The Past and Future of Labor History: Re-Thinking the Field's Past and Future**

Chair and Facilitator: Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William & Mary

Discussants:

Eric Arnesen, George Washington University

Julie Greene, University of Maryland, College Park

Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

Nancy MacLean, Duke University

**6:15 pm – 7:30 pm Reception – McGregor Lobby**

Co-Sponsored by the W.P Reuther Library and Archives

Music by Tony Paris and Len Wallace

**SATURDAY, October 24, 2015 @ Manoogian Hall**

**Registration – Manoogian Room 121**

8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

**9:00 am – 10:30 am SESSION 6 -- Manoogian**

**6.1 The Pew and the Picket Line: A Roundtable on Christianity and the Working Class in Industrial America** (Co-sponsored by Labor & Working Class History Association) –  
**Room 91**

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

Discussants:

Christopher D. Cantwell, University of Missouri, Kansas City

Heath W. Carter, Valparaiso University

Janine Giordano Drake, University of Great Falls

Erik Gellman, Roosevelt University

Matthew Pehl, Augustana College

Kerry L. Pimblott, University of Wyoming

Jarod Roll, University of Mississippi

Evelyn Sterne, University of Rhode Island



## **6.2 Labor in Prosperity and Depression -- Room 120**

Chair/Commentator: Ashley Johnson, State University of New York, Binghamton

*The Battle of Blair Mountain: A Struggle for "Americanism"*  
Aaron P. Duafala, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

*Defending the Unemployed in Prosperous Times: the 1927 Campaign for Social Insurance*  
Abigail Trollinger, St. Norbert College

*Texans in Trouble: How the New Deal Brought Relief to Unemployed Texans during the Great Depression, 1933-1941*  
David Park, University of North Texas

**10:30 am – 10:45 am Break**

## **10:45 am – 12:15 pm SESSION 7 -- Manoogian**

### **7.1 Revisiting Christopher Tomlins's *Freedom Bound: Law, Labor, and Civic Identity in Colonizing English America, 1580-1865* – Room 91**

Chair and Moderator: Sandra VanBurkleo, Wayne State University

Discussants:

Denver Brunzman, George Washington University  
Martha Jones, University of Michigan  
Christopher Tomlins, University of California School of Law, Berkeley

### **7.2 "Right to Work" in Michigan and Wisconsin – Room 120**

Chair/Commentator: Michelle Kaminski, Michigan State University

*Can Collective Bargaining Survive the Attacks by ALEC and Friends including the Tea Party?*  
Rick Hurd, Cornell University

*Overturing 100 Years of Progressivism: the Genesis of Anti-Unionism in Wisconsin*  
Ken Germanson, President Emeritus, Wisconsin Labor History Society

*How and Why Right to Work Laws Came to Michigan in 2012*  
John Revitte, Michigan State University

**Panel Discussion**

**12:30-1:30 p.m. – Room 91**

**Labor and the Sanders Campaign**

Chair and Moderator: Diane Feeley, retired UAW Local 22

Discussants:

Asar Amen-RA, UAW Local 1248

Al Cholger, Sub-District Director, USW, District 2

Jim Grabowski, IBEW Local 58

Elena Herrada, AFT Local 2000

## **Acknowledgements**

### **2015 NALHC Co-Sponsors**

Special thanks to the following individuals and institutions for providing helpful resources which facilitated programming for the 2015 NALHC:

John Beck, Associate Director, Labor & Industrial Relations, Michigan State University

Cynthia Krolkowski, Library and Bernath Fund, Wayne State University

David Elsila and Dave Ivers, Michigan Labor History Society

Marick Masters, Director, Labor@Wayne, Wayne State University

Erik Nordberg, Director, and Kathleen Schmeling, Walter Reuther Library, Wayne State University

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

Gail Presbey, James Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive, University of Detroit-Mercy

The Institute for Detroit Studies, Marygrove College

Nancy MacLean, Tom Klug, Ken Fones-Wolf, Jana Lipman, Dennis Deslippe, and Elizabeth Escobedo, Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA)

### **2015 NALHC Committee**

Tom Klug, NALHC Coordinator

Members: Elizabeth Faue, Chair, Department of History; Amy Bromsen, Jose Cuello, Mike Goldfield, Jennifer Hart, Janine Lanza, Marick Masters, Joshua Morris, Tracy Neumann, Fran Shor, Sandra VanBurkleo, and Aaron Retish, WSU

### **2015 NALHC Webpage and Facebook**

Joshua Morris and Tracy Neumann

### **Book Display and Sale**

Jamie Jones, Wayne State University Press

Janet Jones, Source Booksellers

### **Logistics**

Joshua Morris, Fran Shor, Marilyn Vaughan, and the graduate student volunteers from the History Graduate Student Association

