

Labor, Slavery and Freedom in a Global Age



**29th Annual North American
Labor History Conference**

**McGregor Conference Center
October 18 - 20, 2007**

**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Program Notes

Sponsors for the North American Labor History Conference

The 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 the Labor Studies Center, Wayne State University.

North American Labor History Conference Program Committee

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

Cover Art

"World in Chains" by Carmen Martínez Banús.

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 15, 2007	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, October 16, 2007	11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17, 2007	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Thursday, October 18, 2007	9:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Friday, October 19, 2007	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, October 20, 2007	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tour Of Chrysler Plant

There will be a tour of the Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly Plant for those who register in advance. Time and day to be announced shortly, dependent on the resolution of the current UAW strike.

The 29th Annual North American Labor History Conference

PROGRAM

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Registration and Coffee Hour

9:30 - 11:00, McGregor Lobby

Immigration, Politics, and Workplace Culture, 1855-1930

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

Chair and Comment

Greg Wood, Pennsylvania State University, Erie

'Obnoxious Despotism: Anglo-American Reaction to Foreign-Born Immigrants and the Rise of Unionism in Pre-Haymarket Square Chicago

Richard Junger, Western Michigan University

Reluctant Revolutionaries: Finnish Iron Miners and the Failure of Radical Labor and Socialism on the Marquette Iron Range, 1900-1917

Marcus Robyns, Northern Michigan University

Sex and the Motor City: The Bachelor Culture of Migrant and Immigrant Auto Workers, 1910-1930

Steve Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Roundtable on Labor and Radicalism in the 1930s

Co-Sponsored by the Working Class Studies Association

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair

Daniel Clark, Oakland University

Panelists

Immanuel Ness, Brooklyn College

Peter Rachleff, Macalester College

Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

Dionicio Valdes, Michigan State University

Global Industry and Labor Regimes

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Brad Markell, UAW Research Department

Expanding the Market Empire: Free Labor and Development in the 1960s

Michael J. Murphy, Stony Brook University

Emergent Design: The International Research Network on Autowork in the Americas

Steve Babson, Wayne State University

Workers and Political Institutions in Modern America

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor I

Chair

Andrew Port, Wayne State University

Freedom of Labor Under the United States Constitution, 1866-2007

James Gray Pope, Rutgers University School of Law

Americanism and Shop-floor Power in the UAW: Nation, Class, and Rank-and-File Militancy during World War II

Charles Williams, University of Washington, Tacoma

A Reluctant Embrace: The Congress of Industrial Organizations, Harry S. Truman and his 'Surprise' 1948 Victory

Chris Hickman, George Washington University

Lunch

On Your Own

Movie Showings

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., McGregor B/C

Historic UAW Contract Settlement

Maquilapolis: City of Factories

Working Classes and the War on Poverty

2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor B/C

Chair and Comment

Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

From the Field to the Classroom: The Child Development Group of Mississippi and Opposition to the War on Poverty, 1965-1967

Crystal R. Sanders, Northwestern University

We Do Not Profess to Be Angels: the T.W.O. Youth Project, the Chicago Red Squad, and the End of the War on Poverty

Fernando Carbajal, Northwestern University

LAWCHA Graduate Student Paper Competition Winner

New Perspectives on the Freedom Struggle: Black Working-Class Activism, Martin Luther King, and the Memphis Strike

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair

Carolynn Davis, Walter P. Reuther Library of Metropolitan and Urban Affairs and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Movement
(University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

Laurie Beth Green, University of Texas, Austin

Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign (W.W. Norton, 2007)
Michael Honey, University of Washington, Tacoma

Class Theory and Labor Republicanism
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., McGregor I

Chair and Comment
Marc Kruman, Wayne State University

The Persistence of Republicanism
Graham Cassano, Oakland University
Troy Rondinone, Southern Connecticut State University

Beyond 'Rebuilding the Labor Movement': Re-examining the Class-Gender Nexus in U.S. Society, Past and Present
Michael Hillard, University of Southern Maine

Conference Reception

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

Book Signings

Co-Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Struggle
Laurie Beth Green

*Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike,
Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*
Michael Honey

Plenary Session
7:00 - 8:30 p.m., McGregor B/C

Introduction
Janine Lanza, Wayne State University and
Michael Smith, Reuther Library and Archives

Global Organizing in the 21st Century
Tom Woodruff
Executive Vice President, SEIU

Friday, October 19, 2007

Registration and Coffee Hour

8:00-9:00, McGregor Lobby

Latin American Immigrants and Labor Identity

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor B/C

Chair and Comment

Jose Cuello, Wayne State University

The Concepts of Labor, Migration and Immigration in Chicano Studies and Historical Scholarship

Joseph Moreno, California State University, Channel Islands

Immigration, Identity and Service in the Recomposition of the American Working Class

Thomas Jessen Adams, University of Chicago

Union Beauty Contests, Consumption, Class, and Ethnicity

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor F/G

Chair and Comment

Christina Simmons, University of Windsor

Spectacles of Modernity: Debating Salesgirls' Bodily Appearances, 1890 to 1940

Donica Belisle, Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia

'Queen of the Picket Line': Beauty Contests and the Trade Union Movement in Post World War II Canada

Joan Sangster, Trent University

The Survival of the Fittest: The State, the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle and Social Reproduction in Canada

Sandra Ignagni, York University

Workers Struggle for Freedom

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Alex Lichtenstein, Florida International University

Freedom for All: Industrial Democracy versus Corporate Capitalism in a Baltimore Textile Community, 1916-1923

Robert C. Chidester, University of Michigan

The Mechanics of Little Rock: Free Labor Ideas in the Antebellum South

Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas

Freedom's Unlikely Foes: World War Two Veterans and Labor in the Postwar South

Jennifer E. Brooks, Auburn University

A Roundtable Discussion of Mike Davis' *Planet of Slums*

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor I

Participants

David Fasenfest, Wayne State University

Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Wayne State University

Fran Shor, Wayne State University

Luncheon

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor L/M

Introduction

Michael Smith, Reuther Library and Archives

Auturo Rodriguez

President, United Farm Workers

Prison Labor as Unfree Labor: A Comparative View

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor B/C

Chair and Comment

Aaron Retish, Wayne State University

The Political Economy of Southern Prison Labor in the Age of Jim Crow

Kurt Newman, University of California, Santa Barbara

Globalization and the Political Economy of Prison Labor

Sara Benson, University of California, Santa Cruz

Taking them to Court: Rethinking Sex Discrimination in the Long 1970s

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair and Comment

Nancy Gabin, Purdue University

The Way the World Was: The Telephone Company, the EEOC, and the Struggle for Equal Rights

Jane LaTour, District Council 37, AFSCME

Where Have All the Working Women Gone?: Gender and Class in EEOC v. Sears, 1973-1986

Emily Zuckerman, Rutgers University

Gendering Deindustrialization: Kyriazi v. Western Electric and the Kearny, NJ Works

Jennifer J. Armiger, University of Delaware

The Teacher Who Swallowed a Watermelon: Pregnant Teachers, School Boards and the Courts, 1964-1985

Ruth L. Fairbanks, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Gendering Labor and Labor History

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Janine M. Lanza, Wayne State University

The British Marxist Historians and the Making and Remaking of Feminist Labor History in Canada and the US
Wade Matthews, Trent University

'Mothers to the Streets': School Crossing Guards, AFSCME and the Gendering of Labor in Philadelphia, 1951-1968
Francis P. Ryan, Moravian College

Re-defining Work, Re-aligning Power: The Gendered Effects of Technology Change in the Telecommunications Industry

Michael Sacco, University of Chicago

Community, Ethnicity and Labor Resistance

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor B/C

Chair and Comment

Kenneth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

Blurring the Lines between 'Freedom' and 'Unfreedom': Criminalizing Everyday Life of Colonized/Peripheral Laborers in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World, Prussia and Italy
Zhandarka Kurti, Binghamton University

"More Than A Tea Party": Class, Gender, and Community in the IWA's Women's Auxiliaries, 1937-1948
Steven C. Beda, University of Washington

Waste Not, Want Not: Working and Living with the Solid Waste Industry in North America, 1930-1990
Robin Dearmon Jenkins, Ohio University

Roundtable on Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman, a Documentary Film

Co-Sponsored by the Working Class Studies Association

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor F/G

Film: *Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman*

Rosemary Feurer and Laura Vazquez, Northern Illinois University, Filmmakers

Anthony DeStefanis, University of South Florida

Barb Ingalls, Detroit area labor activist and former *Detroit News* reporter

Ray Sovereign, Indiana University at South Bend & American Federation of Musicians Local 1000

Coerced Labor, Contested Freedom in the Early Modern Atlantic World

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Jorge China, Wayne State University

Coerced Maritime Labor in the Eighteenth-Century Black Atlantic: Dark-Skinned Mariners as Prize Goods

Charles Foy, Eastern Illinois University

Sailors and Slaves: Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century British West Indies
Denver Brunzman, Wayne State University

Elizabeth Drinker's Haitian Revolution
James Alexander Dun, Princeton University

Labor in Global Contexts

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., McGregor I

Chair and Comment

James Barrett, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

A First Attempt of Truly World Wide Planning: The International Labour Organization's Road to the World Employment Program (WEP) 1960-1970

Daniel Maul, University of Munich

US Labor and the CIA in British Guiana

Robert Waters, Southern University at New Orleans

Conference Reception

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

Plenary Session and Dinner

6:00 - 7:30 p.m., McGregor L/M

Introduction

Fran Shor, Wayne State University

Workers of the Globe, Unite?

Verity Burgmann, University of Melbourne

Marcel Van der Linden, Institute for Social History, Amsterdam

Post-Plenary Gathering

Labor and Social Conscience The 17th Annual Bernard J. Firestone Memorial Tribute Labor Poets 2007

Sponsored by the Center for Labor Studies, Wayne State University

Center Galleries at the College for Creative Studies
301 Frederick Douglass (between John R and Brush Street)
FREE & OPEN TO ALL
7:30 p.m. until . . .

Tim Parrish

Author, *Red Stick Men*

Colleen J. McElroy

Maj Ragain

Judith Roche

Larry Smith

labor poets

John Sinclair

Working Class Blues Poetry
accompanied by guitarist Jeff "Baby" Grand

Scott Martelle

Author, *Blood Passion: The Ludlow Massacre and Class War in the American West*

Hosted by

M.L. Liebler

WSU Faculty Member and Director of
Springfield Arts: Metro Detroit Writers

This event is sponsored by the Center for Labor Studies and the Department of English,
Wayne State University, The Spring Field Arts: Detroit Metro Writers Organization,
Poets & Writers, Inc. of New York, The College for Creative Studies,
and the WSU Chapter of the AAUP/AFT

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Registration and Coffee Hour

8:00 - 9:00 a.m., McGregor Lobby

Occupational Health and Safety in the Coal Mining Industry

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor B/C

Chair

Robert Gordon, University of Michigan

Bad Top, Bad Roads, Bad Air: Southwestern Illinois Coal Miners and the Battle for Workplace Health and Safety in the Progressive Era

Carl Weinberg, DePauw University

A Co-opted State: The Colorado Bureau of Mine Inspection and the 1913-1914 Southern Colorado Coal Strike

Anthony Roland DeStefanis, University of South Florida

The Limits of Regulation: The U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Coal Industry, 1969-1977

Richard Fry, Wayne State University

Comment

Russell B. Olwell, Eastern Michigan University

The Politics of Workers' Bodies

Sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor F/G

Chair

Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University

Re-Working That Body: The Accident Crisis and Cultural Constructions of the Industrial Worker, 1877-1914

Michael Rosenow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

'Hygeia herself is ever the companion of true liberty': Contextualizing Antebellum Workingmen's Campaign for the Right of Person

Pat Reeve, Suffolk University

'Saving Something Invaluable for Our Country: Railroaders' Bodies, Citizenship, and the Politics of Accident Liability, 1870-1910

John Williams-Searle, College of Saint Rose

Comment

Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara

Ethnicity and the Struggle over Labor Ties

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

Ethnicity, Race & the Challenge of Universal Organization: The Case of Hugh Forbes & John Brown's Raid

Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati

Battles for Freedom: Murals of Maxo Vanka
Rachel A. Batch, Widener University

Organizing in the Interstices: The Difficult Politics of Ethnicity, Mobility, and Radicalism along the Pacific Coast, 1919-1941
Alex Morrow, University of Washington

4. Politics, Identity and Work in Twentieth-Century America
9:00 - 11:00 a.m., McGregor I

Chair
Mike Whitty, University of Detroit, Mercy

Counter-Organizing the Sunbelt: Right to Work Campaigns and the Rise of Western-Sunbelt Conservatism, 1943-1958
Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, University of California, Santa Barbara

Negotiated Paternalism and Marginalization Among Steel and Pottery Workers in Northern West Virginia, 1945-1965
Louis Martin, West Virginia University

Luncheon

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McGregor L/M

Alternate Program

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

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Photo Tour of Historic Sites
in Africa, Europe and the Americas
Irwin Nack
William Patterson University

Roundtable on Sweatshops, Labor, and Globalization

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor B/C

Chair
Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara

Richard Greenwald, Drew University
Immanuel Ness, Brooklyn College
Joel Stillerman, Grand Valley State University

The Suppression of Alternative Unionism in the 1930s: The Progressive Miners as a Case Study

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor F/G

Chair and Comment
Staughton Lynd, Independent Scholar

"Out of this Blood and Fire": The Marching Tradition and the Violent Birth of the Progressive Miners of America
Zach Lutz, Northern Illinois University

"Erased From Memory": John L. Lewis, the Federal Government and the Suppression of the Progressive Miners of Illinois, 1932-1941

Carl Oblinger, University of Illinois, Springfield

Comment

James Gray Pope, Rutgers University School of Law

The Imperial State and Unfree Labor in the Atlantic World, 1649-1840

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor E

Chair and Comment

Peter Way, University of Windsor

"No Mere Mercenary Army": Empire, Unfree Labor, and the English Revolution

John Donoghue, Loyola University, Chicago

Who Will Build the Empire? A Reflection on State Construction in Colonial Havana

Evelyn Jennings, Saint Lawrence University

Maintaining the Slave Trade: Free and Unfree Labor at Cape Coast, 1750-1807

Ty M. Reese, North Dakota State University

Contesting the Archeology of Empire

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., McGregor I

Chair

Alexander Day, Wayne State University

War in the 'Urban Jungle': Officer Jon Burge, the 'Vietnamese Treatment' and the Militarization of Domestic Space

Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

'Nothing Up to U.S. Standards': Race, Skill, and Nation in the Global Economy

Jason Kozlowski, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Guts, Gender, and Steel—Women of the IS: 'Sixties' Radicals Become Working-Class Revolutionaries

Martin Smith, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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Labor, Law and Justice

Thirtieth Annual North American Labor History Conference
Wayne State University, October 16-18, 2008.

The Program Committee of the North American Labor History Conference invites proposals for sessions and papers on "Labor, Law and Justice" for our thirtieth annual meeting.

From slave rebellions, to labor protests and strikes, to fights over justice in the global labor market, issues of legal norms and claims to social and political justice have shaped the experiences of the working and popular classes. This year's conference seeks to explore changing ideas of justice as they have been applied to the workplace, how workers and employers have used the concept of legality and fairness to stake out positions in the workplace and the labor market, how class (and by extension, race and gender) informs the experience of the criminal justice system and shapes the definition of justice in its various forms – legal, political, economic, and social.

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. We welcome 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 31, 2008**, 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
Faxed, mailed or emailed proposals accepted.

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, and Wayne State University.