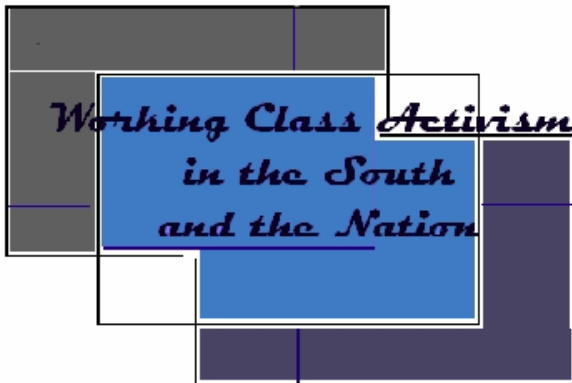


Labor and Working-Class History Association
And
Southern Labor Studies Association
present



May 17, 18, and 19, 2007
Terry Sanford Institute for Public Policy
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

Working Class Activism in the South and the Nation: Contemporary Challenges in Historical Context

Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy
Duke University
May 17-19, 2007

Sponsored by
The Labor and Working-Class History Association
Southern Labor Studies Association*

Conference Program Committee:

Robert Korstad, Duke University
Gunther Peck, Duke University
Max Krochmal, Duke University
Lisa Kannenberg, College of St. Rose
Daniel Katz, Empire State College, SUNY

Conference Coordinators:

Robert Korstad, Duke University
Rachel F. Seidman, Duke University

Labor and Working-Class History Officers:

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

[Note: this program is not final; there will be additional panels, and not all chairs and comments are confirmed.]

*A meeting to consider formalization of an association will be held at this conference.

Registration:

Register online at www.lawcha.org

Fees:

General admission: \$50

LAWCHA members: \$40

Students, labor & community activists: \$25

Student LAWCHA members: \$15

For more information contact

lawcha-conference@duke.edu

or call Rachel Seidman at 919-613-7305

Lodging, Travel, and Parking Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$99.00 per night at the **Hilton in Durham near Duke University**. For more information about the hotel, including driving directions, see www.durhamneardukeuniversity.hilton.com. Please make your reservations as early as possible by calling **1-800-445-8667** or **1-800-HILTONS** and asked for the group code: **LAB**

The hotel offers shuttle service anywhere within a five-mile radius of the hotel. This includes downtown Durham and the Duke campus, but not the airport.

There is a limited supply of **free housing and airport transportation available** for those who prefer to stay with graduate students in the Triangle area. Please email orion.teal@duke.edu for more information.

Travel:

By air: Book flights to Raleigh Durham Airport (RDU). You can rent a car at the airport, or take a taxi to Durham. The drive from the airport to Duke is approximately half an hour, and costs approximately \$30-40 by taxi cab.

By train: There is an Amtrak station in Durham. For more information, visit www.amtrak.com.

For Driving Directions to Sanford Institute at Duke:

<http://www.pubpol.duke.edu/about/location.php>

Map of Duke University

<http://map.duke.edu/>

Information about Visiting Duke University

<http://www.duke.edu/visiting.html>

Parking:

Parking will be available on campus.

Food:

Your registration fee includes two bag lunches, for Friday and Saturday, which will be supplied by Bon Vivant Catering. Bon Vivant is a local company owned by two sisters, Geri Seibert and Laura Hall. In addition to catering, Bon Vivant runs the Refectory at the Duke Divinity School, which has made a successful business out of serving locally grown food in an environmentally friendly eatery by staff that make a living wage.

Information about Durham, including lists of restaurants

<http://www.durham-nc.com/>

Friday, May 18

10:00 am - 12:00 pm LABOR Editorial Board Meeting
Rhodes Conference Room
Room 223

9:00 - 10:30 am **Working-Class On the Move:
Room 03** **Three Late 19th-Century
Examples**

Chair: Dorothy Fujita-Rony

Presenters: Lauren H. Braun, University of Illinois at
Chicago *Farmers are not Workers: Italian
Immigrants and their Embassy in the Cotton
Fields of Sunnyside Plantation, Arkansas*

Gregory L. Wilson, University of Illinois at
Chicago *'They Took off their Aprons':
Community, Strike[break]ing, and Black
Chicago Waiters, 1887-1893*

Jacob Remes, Duke University, "Moveable
Type: Toronto's Transnational Printers, 1866-
1872."

Comment: Dorothy Fujita-Rony

9:00 - 10:30 am **Black Labor and the Politics of
Room 04** **Knowledge: African-American
Intellectuals and the Training of
Black Workers, 1900-1950**

Chair: Jonathan Holloway, Yale University

Presenters: Francille Wilson, University of Maryland,
Creating a Cadre of Black Labor Scholars,
1895-1905: Race and Gender Politics

Yvette Richards Jordan, George Mason University, *Better Mammies, Mothers and Wives: Black Women and Industrial Education*

James Levy, Rethinking the Industrial School: Du Bois's *Negro Artisan* and the Black Progressive Idea of Worker Training

Comment: Jonathan Holloway, Yale University

9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 05

Re-examining the History of Death, Disability, and Working-Class Identity in the United States: Past Lives, Past Deaths, and Contemporary Implications

Chair: Arwen Mohun, University of Delaware

Presenters: Michael K. Rosenow, University of Illinois, *"Every New Grave Brings a Thousand Members": The Rituals of Dying and the Politics of Death in Southern Illinois Coal Communities, 1894-1924*

Sarah Rose, University of Illinois at Chicago, *Unproductive Citizens?: Industrial Efficiency, Workmen's Compensation, and the Invention of Disability, 1900-1930*

John Williams-Searle, College of Saint Rose, *"An Altogether Different Class": The Railroad Men's Home and the Shifting Meaning of Disabled Manhood, 1870-1910*

Comment: Arwen Mohun, University of Delaware

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Room 04

Roundtable Discussion
The American Working Class
Behind Bars: Problems and
Possibilities for Building the
Labor Movement Then and
Now

Chair: Heather Ann Thompson, UNC Charlotte

Presenters: Heather Ann Thompson, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, *Prison Labor Then and Now, Issues for Consideration: the National Perspective*

Robert Chase, University of Maryland, *Prison Labor in Texas Then and Now: Issues for Consideration*

John Russo, Director, Center for Working Class Studies. Youngstown, *Ohio Prison Guards, Councilors and the CCA: Unionization and Deunionization at the Northeast Ohio Correctional Facility*

Thomas Petersik, Labor Economist, International CURE (Citizens United For Rehabilitation of Errants), *Why Prison Labor Matters: A National Activism Report*

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Room 03

**Striking Politics: From the
Great War to the Great Society**

Chair: Mary Wingerd, St. Cloud State University

Presenters: Jennifer E. Brooks, Auburn University, '*A Dilatory Stratagem*': *Taft-Hartley and Replacement Hiring in the Postwar South, 1948-1952*

Liesl Orenic, Dominican University, "*I don't care if you use a pen, or ink or if you use blood. Vote No!*" *The U.S. Airlines Strike of 1966*

Michael Pierce, Univ. of Arkansas, *The Fort Smith General Strike: The Poll Tax, Women's Suffrage, and Fighting for Democracy during the Great War*

Comment: Mary Wingerd, St. Cloud State University

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Room 05

**Growing Civil Rights and the
Grass Roots in the 1960s and
early 1970s**

Chair: Ruth Needleman, Indiana University

Presenters: Andrea Johnson, California State University, Fresno, *Turning the Other Cheek: The Philosophy of Nonviolence in the California Farm labor Movement, 1965-1970*

Trevor Griffey, University of Washington, *Confronting "The Silent Sellout": Black Power, Community Action, and the Enforcement of Affirmative Action in Seattle's Construction Industry, 1970-72*

Gordon Mantler, Duke University, "*Jobs or income*": *Welfare, Work and the Challenge to Anti-poverty Coalition-building in the 1960s*

Comment: Ruth Needleman, Indiana University

12:30 - 2:00 pm
Fleishman Commons

Plenary Luncheon
Labor and Intellectuals

Chair: Michael Honey, University of Washington-
Takoma, Vice- President of LAWCHA

***Presentation of Distinguished Service to Labor and
Working-Class History Award to David Montgomery,
Farnam Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University***
by

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill, Founding President of LAWCHA

Past-President of the Organization of American Historians, David Montgomery worked for ten years as a machinist in New York and the Twin Cities, and was an active member of the IAM, the UE, and the Teamsters during those years. He is the author of many books and articles dealing with the history and current prospects of working people in the United States, and for many years he edited the journal *International Labor and Working-Class History*. His best known books are *The Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925* (Pulitzer Prize finalist nomination 1988), *Citizen Worker: The Experience of Workers in the United States with Democracy and the Free Market during the Nineteenth Century* (1993), *Workers' Control in America: Studies in the History of Work, Technology, and Labor Struggles* (1979), and *Beyond Equality: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872* (1967). His most recent book *Black Workers' Struggle for Equality in Birmingham* (2004), written in collaboration with Professor Horace Huntley of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is based on oral histories and examines the ways African American workers made use of a variety of different kinds of unions in their quest for equality and dignity on the job and in the community.

Comment: Leon Fink, University of Illinois-Chicago
David Montgomery

**2:15 - 3:45 pm
Room 04**

**Backlash Against Labor
History? Working-Class
History, the Job Market, and
the State of the Field. A
Roundtable Discussion**

Chair: Alex Morrow, University of Washington and
Chair, LAWCHA Graduate Student Committee

Panelists: Norman Markowitz, Rutgers University

Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William and
Mary

Roberta Gold, Wagner College

**2:15 - 3:45 pm
Room 05**

**Roundtable Discussion:
The Politics of Publishing
Labor History**

Chair: Joan Sangster, Trent University

Panelists: Leon Fink, Labor

Bryan D. Palmer, Labor/Le Travail

Craig Phelan, Labor History

**2:15 - 3:45 pm
Room 03**

**Integrating Immigrant Labor:
Civil Rights and Ethnic Friction**

Chair: Paul Ortiz, University of California, Santa Cruz

Presenters: LaGuana K. Gray, University of Houston, "*They
coming to take over*": *Black poultry workers'
responses to the growing Latino presence*

Kenneth M. Casebeer, University of Miami
School of Law. *Service workers, joint
employment, legal consciousness, and the
University of Miami*

Norman Caulfield, Fort Hays State University,
Hays Kansas, *Against All Odds: Labor Mobility
and the Struggle for Workers' Rights in the
NAFTA Era*

Comment: Paul Ortiz, University of California Santa Cruz

4:00 - 5:30

**Workshops: Documentary and
Activism, Exploring the Links**

Participants will choose two from a variety of
workshop/discussions, co-sponsored by the Center for
Documentary Studies, about the role of documentary methods
in fostering activism.

John Biewen, Center for Documentary Studies,
Audio Documentary

Charlie Thompson, Center for Documentary Studies, and Gary
Grant, Executive Director, Concerned Citizens of Tillery,
Video Documentary

Patrick Stawski and Linda McCurdy, Duke University Library,
Archival Resources and Labor History

Tony Macias, Student Action with Farmworkers, on
Documentary Photography

Michael Honey, University of Washington-Takoma, on
"Organizing Labor-Church-Community Alliances: The Spirit of
King and Movements of the Working Poor--Martin Luther King
and the Memphis Sanitation Strike of 1968."

5:30-7:30 Reception, Center for Documentary Studies

8:00-9:30

Evening Program

Plenary Session featuring Baldemar Velásquez, the founder and President of The Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

Saturday, May 19

9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 03

**Race, Labor and Liberalism at
the End of the Civil Rights Era**

Chair: *Eric Arnesen, University of Illinois-Chicago*

Presenters: Robert W. Widell, Jr., Emory University, *'Getting It Together': The Public Employees Organizing Committee and 'Civil Rights Unionism' in Post-1963 Birmingham, Alabama*

Jane Berger, Ohio State University, 'Threat to All Public Employees, Threat to All Public Services': AFSCME, the Democrats and the Rise of Neo-Liberalism

Lisa Gayle Hazirjian, Case Western Reserve University, Stinky Class Politics: The Sanitation Workers Strike of 1978 and Class Rifts in Rocky Mount, North Carolina's African American Community

Comment: Eric Arnesen, University of Illinois-Chicago

9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 05

**Organizing in a Union
Wasteland: Public Workers in
the South**

Chair: Kitty Krupat, City University of New York

Panelists: Jan Cornell, President, Staff Union at the University of Virginia, Communications Workers of America

Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William & Mary

Joseph E. Slater, University of Toledo

Ashaki Binta of UE 160 and the International Workers Justice Campaign

Debra Moore, President of UE 160, Virginia
Public Service Workers Union's Williamsburg
Chapter

9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 04

**Religion, Race and Class
in the Mid-Century South**

Chair: Ralph Luker, activist and unaffiliated scholar

Presenters: Rachel Clare Donaldson, Vanderbilt University,
*Boring from Within: Claude Williams' Guide to
Social Action*

Erik S. Gellman, Roosevelt University, *Religion
Applied to the Rural and Urban Labor Divide:
Black Migrant Workers and Interracial
Unionism, 1940-1948*

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf and Ken Fones-Wolf,
West Virginia University, *The Sacred in the
Southern Organizing Drive: Religion in
Operation Dixie*

Comment: Ralph Luker

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 pm
Room 05

**Roundtable Discussion:
Educating the “Intellectual”:
Workers, Politics, and
Radicalism**

Chair: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

Presenters: Tobias Higbie, University of Illinois, *American
Autodidacts: Print, Public Speaking, and the
Networks of Informal Working Class Education,
1900-1940*

Caroline Waldron Merithew, University of Dayton, *"You Showed Me First and Told Me Later": The Making and Forgetting of a Working Class Radical*

Tim Lacy, Loyola University, *Great Books and the People's Institute*

Comment: Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Room 03

**At the Point of Reproduction:
Home and Labor in the Post
War Era**

Chair:

Presenters: Thomas Jessen Adams, University of Chicago, *The Commodification of Housework and the Rise of the Service Working-Class in Postwar Los Angeles*

Emily LaBarbera Twarog, University of Illinois at Chicago, *'We Must Organize the Homes': Working-Class Housewives and the United Automobile Workers of America, 1936-1956*

Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara and Jennifer Klein, Yale University, *Memphis Comes to Chicago: Home Care, Public Employment, and ACORN Unionization*

Comment:

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Room 04

**Reflections on Scott Nelson's
*Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry:
the Untold Story of an
American Legend. Roundtable
Discussion***

Panelists: Kim Phillips, College of William and Mary

Dan Bender, University of Toronto,
Scarborough

Sherman James, Duke University

Scott Nelson, College of William and Mary

12:15 - 2:00 pm

Plenary Luncheon: “The Politics of Pork”

This session will bring together scholars, rank-and-file workers at Smithfield Foods, organizers from the United Food and Commercial Workers, and activists with the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network.

2:15 - 3:45 pm

Service Workers in the Public and Private Sector

This session will bring together scholars, labor activists, and rank-and-file workers to discuss ongoing organizing campaigns in North Carolina and the South.

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Workshops II: The Law, Public Policy and Civil Society

Participants will choose among a selection of workshops that will introduce them to ongoing organizing efforts in North Carolina around a variety of issues. These will include legal services, immigrants rights, farmworker health, education, community organizing, prison reform, and religion.

Mary Lee Hall, attorney, Farmworker Unit, Legal Aid NC and
Alexandria Jones, National Farmworker Ministry

Angella Dunston, Education Project, North Carolina Justice

Elizabeth Freeman-Lambar, North Carolina Farmworker Health Program

Ivan Parra, Durham CAN

[] Prison reform

8:00 pm

Shut Up and Dance