

In Critical Solidarity

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February 2015

ASA Labor and Labor Movement Newsletter

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Please remember to send any announcements (including job ads, publication announcements, notes from the field, etc.) to our editor, Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com

Notes from the Chair, Shannon Gleeson



Dear members,

Happy New Year to you all!

We are beginning 2015 with both victories and ongoing battles ahead of us.

A majority of states now have minimum wages that are higher than the federal minimum, President Obama has announced his support for paid/sick leave, home care workers in Minnesota have reached an agreement with the state, Kaiser mental health workers in California have hit the picket line, *mercado* workers in LA have called for a boycott, and shuttle drivers in Silicon Valley are launching a fight to unionize.

Meanwhile, businesses keep fighting local attempts to strengthen the minimum wage, the federal courts have challenges federal protections for home health care workers, across the country workers are shouldering more of the cost of their health care premiums, and Republicans in Congress are threatening to defund the President's efforts to provide deportation relief and work authorization to a wider pool of undocumented youth and parent immigrants.

Surrounded by commemorations of Dr. Martin Luther King this weekend, I am reminded of his demand for labor rights and economic justice, a radical legacy that is often glossed over.

It is in that spirit that I wish you all a healthy and productive new year for your scholarship, teaching, and worker rights.

In Solidarity,

Shannon Gleeson

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Quote from Unifor Local 649, Canada "For trade unionists, Black History Month offers an opportunity to listen, to learn, and to participate in special events, programs and conversations that highlight the struggles and resistance of Black workers... Black lives matter – yesterday, today, and tomorrow".

Notes from the Newsletter Editor, Mark Sherry



I hope this Newsletter finds you happy and well. In this edition, we have submissions from both new regular contributors, important stories about labor and union struggles, many recent publications, and so on. I hope you find it both informative and enjoyable. I want to particularly thank two of my graduate assistants, Anna Neller and Mara Martinez, for their help in producing this newsletter.

I've made less of an effort to find internet links for you about struggles (I figured you could Google more recent ones for yourself, if you like) and have instead placed more emphasis on my own personal interactions with the people involved, and quoting what they've said to me. This is not about egotism – just trying to reflect more of what people are saying when I contact them.

I'm still recruiting many grad students to do book reviews or stories... if you have someone who wants to get more writing practice by doing a news story or a book review, send them my way please.

I had hoped to do a special issue on adjunct labor for this issue, but that was not possible. I hope to do it in the future. But on that topic, I was pleased to hear that adjuncts at Boston University voted in favor of unionizing at a ratio of 2/1. The struggle for adjunct rights is one of the most important issues in education today.

I have a lot going on right now, so if I've missed anyone's contributions for any reason, I apologize, and I will be happy to put them in the next issue.

New Way of Handling Gift Memberships for Graduate Students

Gifted section memberships for graduate students has become very popular in the last several years. In response to popular demand, the ASA membership department has rolled out a new mechanism for gift student memberships.

Instead of writing to the membership department with a list of members, individuals can log into our membership site (<http://asa.enoah.com/Home/My-ASA/Gift-Section>) and pay for them directly.

Please consider this ... a gift membership for students is a great way to mentor them and give them access to information about the section.

Diamond Trucking Strike

Teamster Local 135 on strike

Mark Sherry

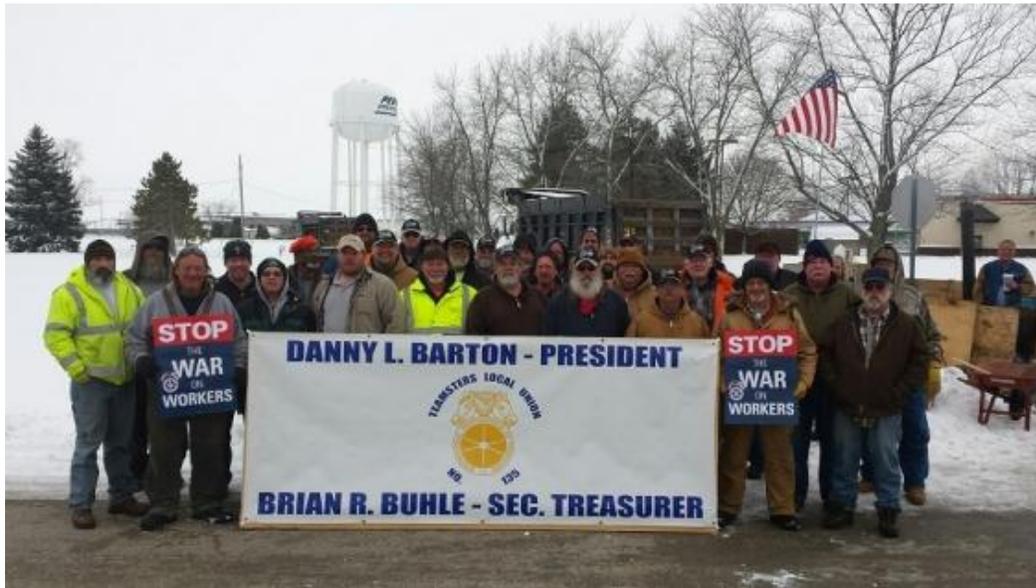
Diamond Trucking is attempting to make members of Teamsters Local 135 in Kokomo and Peru, Indiana to accept a \$7/hour pay cut for hauling work.

The workers haul asphalt, topsoil, fill dirt, sand, gravel, and stones, rocks and gravel to other cities in Indiana, such as Lafayette, Muncie, Laporte and Goshen.

They have a strike fund, through the Teamsters, and they are not looking for donations. However, they are looking for people to come and visit the picket lines to offer support. Such moral support is a part of the campaign to tell the workers to “stay strong.”

I spoke to Jeff Combs, who is one of the local organizers, and he told me that the workers are “sticking together strong,” with “100% participation.”

(Picture below supplied by Teamsters Local 135).



**You can find past issues of the ASA Labor & Labor
Movement Newsletter here:**

<http://asalabormovements.weebly.com/newsletter.html>

Labor-Environmentalist Alliance takes on Big Electric Company in CT

Todd Vachon



The Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs – an innovative partnership between Connecticut labor, environmental, and religious groups – has announced a legislative campaign to reduce and cap the maximum flat rate that monopoly electric provider Connecticut Light and Power can charge consumers. The initiative to cap the flat charge at \$10 per month is in response to a recent increase from \$16 to \$19.25 per month (the electric company had requested an increase to \$25, but was denied the full amount by the state utility regulatory agency PURA). With surprising candor, the company has admitted that it wants to reverse the downward trend in revenue resulting from increased energy efficiency and distributed generation.

The Roundtable has argued that the flat rate increase does not serve the public interest for several reasons:

- 1) It would place an undue burden on low-income customers;
- 2) It would reduce the incentive for energy efficiency and rooftop solar, which are critical elements of a comprehensive climate protection plan; and
- 3) It would discourage the expansion of a clean energy sector that provides green jobs for workers in Connecticut.

For the typical residential customer who uses about 700 kWh a month, nearly half of the distribution charge will become fixed rather than variable, thereby reducing the customer's control over their monthly bill. The annual increase in the fixed fee will hit hardest those with the least ability to pay—including low-income families and seniors—and have a proportionately greater impact on the electric bills of those who use less energy.

Since the higher fixed fee reduces the financial return on energy-saving investments, it contradicts the state's long-established policy goals of increasing energy efficiency and conservation; expanding the proportion of electricity that comes from renewable sources; and reducing emissions of carbon dioxide. CL&P customers support those policy goals with tens of millions of dollars each year through the programs of EnergizeCT. And those goals are more than just good public policy, they are necessary steps toward a climate-safe economy—one which will provide good jobs in a thriving clean energy sector.

At a press conference in December, the Roundtable was joined by State Representative Lonnie Reed, co-chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, and several other legislators to announce the campaign to cap the residential fixed charge for electricity at \$10 per month. Noting that CL&P requested the rate increase to compensate for reduced consumer demand, Rep. Reed asserted: "This is a Punishment Fee for ratepayers...It is time that we all begin transitioning to a new economic model that values the contributions made by conservation, renewables, micro-grids and other upgrades to the diversity, reliability, environmental compatibility and security of the entire electric system."

CL&P's parent company, Northeast Utilities, recently announced a 12% increase in third quarter profits (compared with 2013). CL&P currently employs fewer linemen per capita than it did twenty years ago and is in the process of closing a dozen of its maintenance garages across the state. In addition to the boost in the residential fixed fee, CL&P is also seeking to increase its guaranteed rate of return to 10.2%. Since no other state in New England has a major electric company with a residential fixed rate charge of more than \$14 per month, it seems like the public interest is taking a back seat to corporate profits in CL&P's proposals.

In addition to this legislative campaign, the Roundtable has recently launched an education initiative—hosting workshops at union halls around the state about the dangers of climate change and what unionized workers can do to help combat it. To learn more about the CT Roundtable, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/ctroundtableonclimateandjobs/home>

Todd Vachon is a PhD candidate in the sociology program at UConn and a member of the organizing committee of the GEU-UAW as well as a participant in the CT Roundtable.

United Steelworkers Union on Strike

By Mara Martinez, University of Toledo

Oil workers at Royal Dutch Shell, the largest petrochemical chemical complex in the world, have gone on their largest strike since 1980. For five days nearly 4,000 workers have been on strike.

There have been six offers for a new contract from the company but the United Steel Workers, which represents workers at 63 U.S. refineries, has rejected each offer as inadequate.

Workers from seven refineries in California, Kentucky and Texas began protesting just after midnight on Sunday morning.

The United Steel Workers Union is seeking a tighter policy to improve work conditions and decrease fatigue. Previously, several workplace accidents have been tied to fatigue. The workers are also fighting for an annual six percent pay increase. The former contract only offered a three percent pay increase. The workers are also seeking reduced out of pocket payments for healthcare.

Royal Dutch Shell has hired trained non-union workers to keep the plants running at a nearly normal capacity causing the tough negotiations.



AFL-CIO: Major Victories across the US

By Anna Neller, University of Toledo

According to the AFL–CIO, workers across the country earned major victories for both better wages and working conditions within the past month.

Over 12,000 workers including employees at hotels, airports, and casinos have organized through the UNITE HERE — surpassing their goal of 10,000 members. Companies such as Harrah’s Hotel and Casino located in New Orleans entered contract negotiations as a result of employees joining with UNITE HERE. This win doubles the amount of organized hospitality workers in the state.

Nurses in California earned critical victories when they reached a tentative contract agreement with Kaiser Permanente. For the next three years, approximately 18,000 Californian nurses will receive a 14 percent pay increase, additional workplace protection, and further contributions from employers. In addition, Kaiser has promised to hire hundreds of new nurses and provide training.

12,000 election cards were filed by Delta Flight Attendants with the National Mediation Board to formally request a union representation election. These requests could result in over 20,000 workers joining the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). If workers win, this would be the largest ever victory for transportation sector workers.

Earlier this month, members of the Louisville Metro Council voted in favor of raising the minimum wage to \$9 an hour by 2017. This increase would be the first in the South to raise minimum wage and the 12th in the country in 2014.

Late 2014, approximately 250 Sodexo cafeteria workers at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport have united with AFSCME Local 2649. According to the staff, they are experiencing disrespectful and poor working conditions.

Flight attendants at Silver Airways (a Fort Lauderdale airline partnered with United) voted to become members of the Association of Flight Attendants (CWA). With a new contract, attendants will work to improve working conditions and safety policies.

Also, at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, over 400 part-time adjunct professors have voted to form a union. The union goals of the professors are to increase wages, job security, and benefits.

Finally, in December 2014, over 400 Sysco drivers, warehouse employees, fleet and facility maintenance workers, and shuttle yard drivers united due to unfair working conditions and uncertain job security.

Allegiant Pilots Picket

Mark Sherry

Approximately 60 pilots for Allegiant Air protested outside the company's corporate offices at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas in January and another 80 attended a picket at the Summerlin corporate office. Other pickets occurred in Fort Lauderdale and Clearwater, Florida.

The company has steadfastly refused to negotiate – even failing to meet for scheduled negotiations. Such negotiations were scheduled to include salaries, training and work schedules.

Allegiant Air is an incredibly successful, profitable venture. It has had profits for 47 consecutive quarters, and reported \$265 million operating revenue for the third quarter last year.

I interviewed Gregory Unterseher, from the Teamsters Airline Division, and he told me the support from the pilots was “unbelievable,” with 98% of them voting in favor of strike action – and only 8 pilots voting against it. “It is a resolute group,” he said.



ASA-LLM CALL FOR AWARDS

Section on Labor and Labor Movements Call for Awards Nominations

http://www.asanet.org/sections/labor_awards.cfm

Remaining Key Deadlines

3/31/15: Distinguished Scholarly Article Award

4/1/15: Distinguished Student Paper Award

Distinguished Scholarly Article Award

The Labor and Labor Movements section gives an annual award for the Distinguished Scholarly Article. For 2014, the distinguished scholarly article award will go to the best article published between January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014. The article is open to both qualitative and quantitative orientations and can reflect work that is U.S.-based or global in scope. Section members are strongly urged to nominate articles for the prize. Self-nominations are always welcomed. **All nominations must be received no later than March 31, 2015.** Please send all nominations to the chair of the awards committee, Marcos Lopez at mlopez@bowdoin.edu.

Distinguished Student Paper Award, Co-Sponsored by *Critical Sociology*

The Labor and Labor Movements section sponsors the Distinguished Student Paper Award, Co-Sponsored by Critical Sociology as an award for the best paper written by a graduate student in the previous year. Published papers, papers under review, and unpublished article-length manuscripts are eligible. The paper must have been written between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014, and the author must have been enrolled as a graduate student at the time the paper was written. Those that have won the student paper award in the previous 3 years are not eligible. The winner receives \$500 (\$250 of which is funded by Critical Sociology). The winning paper and runners-up will receive editorial feedback from the committee and are encouraged to submit the paper to Critical Sociology for the standard review process. All methodological orientations and substantive topics related to labor and/or labor movements are welcome. Section members are encouraged to self-nominate and faculty to encourage graduate students to submit promising work. Nominations must include an electronic copy of the paper and must be sent no later than April 1, 2015 to the Distinguished Student Paper Award, Co-sponsored by Critical Sociology, committee chair, Jeff Sallaz at jsallaz@email.arizona.edu.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, DUE 2/28/15

Job ID: 10951

The Department of Social Sciences in the College of Letters and Sciences at National University in San Diego, CA invites applications for a FULL-TIME Sociology position at OPEN RANK (Assistant/Associate/Professor) determined by experience. Initial full-time appointment with benefits is for two years, renewable for longer-term contracts. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in sociology, university-level teaching experience, and evidence of an active research agenda. While areas of specialization are open, we have particular interest in science/technology/medicine, sustainability/environment, and/or globalization. To apply, please send as attachments a current CV, cover letter, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Margaret Greer (mgreer@nu.edu<mailto:mgreer@nu.edu>).

Application deadline: February 28, 2015.

Applications considered until position is filled. National University is a private, non-profit university accredited by WASC and an equal opportunity employer.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP:

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The School of Labor and Employment Relations at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for the position of Post-Doctoral Scholar with the Center for Global Workers' Rights. This is a twelve-month position that begins on August 14, 2015. The Center for Global Workers' Rights was established in the fall of 2012 with the goal of promoting scholarly research and scholar-practitioner exchanges on issues related to workers' rights. It has a broad focus that includes, but is not limited to, sweatshops, precarious work, labor standards, international labor and employment law, worker organizing, and strategic corporate research and campaigns. Candidates should possess a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline, or a J.D., earned in the last three years, as well as evidence of an emerging research program relevant to the Center's interests. Scholars will receive salary, benefits, and a research/travel fund to support their work. Postdoctoral candidates will be expected to teach one course each semester. This may include teaching for a new Labor and Global Workers' Right MPS program, which is part of the Global Labour University network. Review of applications will begin on March 15, 2015, and continue until the position is filled.

For more information, see: <http://lser.la.psu.edu/gwr>

**States and Society Network,
Social Science History Association Meeting
Baltimore, 12-15 November**

We invite you to submit panels, papers, and book sessions proposals to the States & Society network for the 40th annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, November 12-15, 2015, in Baltimore. For more information on the meeting as well as the call for proposals, please refer to the SSHA website: www.ssha.org. **The deadline for submissions is February 14, 2015.**

The theme for this year's conference is "Pluralism and Community: Social Science History Perspectives." We welcome proposals on this theme and on any topic of interest to scholars of states, societies, and the relations between them throughout history and around the globe. Book panel ("Author meets Critics") proposals are also warmly welcomed.

Submissions should be made via the SSHA web conference management system at <http://conference.ssha.org/>. Paper title, brief abstract, and contact information should be submitted on the site www.ssha.org, where the general SSHA 2015 call for papers is also available. In addition to single papers, we also welcome full panel proposals, which should include at least 1) four papers, a 2) discussant, and a 3) chair.

It is also possible and useful to identify a paper not only by the States & Society network, but also by some other co-sponsoring networks. Co-sponsored panels and papers are encouraged by the SSHA Program Committee as a means of broadening the visibility of the various networks.

If you have any questions, please contact either of the States & Society co-chairs (Aaron Major amajor@albany.edu; or Mike McCarthy michael.mccarthy@marquette.edu).



Call for Papers: 40th Annual Meeting of the
Social Science History Association
Baltimore, MD November 12-15, 2015

Submission Deadline: February 14, 2015

“Pluralism and Community: Social Science History Perspectives”

Southern Labor Studies Association

Connecting Students to the Labor Movement

Annual Conference, March 6–8, 2015, Washington, DC
The George Washington University

Deadline: February 9, 2015 (Papers not necessary)

We invite labor activists and academics alike to participate in a panel to discuss how they have used the classroom as a conduit to engage students in the labor movement. This session, open to activists and academics, will offer lessons for new or emerging collaborative projects and can serve as a bridge between activists/scholars working independently but with similar goals. Participants may wish to address such questions as: What do unions need from student volunteers? What can students, faculty, and universities gain from working with unions? What can students contribute to fights for economic justice, both when workers on campus are seeking student support and when students contribute to campaigns removed from their campus? What obstacles do academic-activist collaborations present and how can they be overcome?

If you have questions or are interested in joining us in Washington, DC this March, contact **Jeff Larson** (jl Larson@towson.edu) or **Kate O’Neil** (k8oneil@gmail.com).

Join SLSA!

Members receive our biannual newsletter, steep discounts on conference registration, and access to other members via our listserv. Annual membership rates are \$25.00 for regular members and \$10.00 for student and unemployed members.

Visit the following website:

<http://southernlaborstudies.org/join-slsa/>



LRAN Conference

The logo for the Labor Research & Action Network (LRAN) is displayed on a green background with a sunburst pattern. The text "LABOR RESEARCH & ACTION NETWORK" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

The 2015 Labor Research and Action Network national conference will be held June 15th and 16th at Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C. The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor will host the conference, which will explore how labor unions and other worker-based organizations can effectively collaborate. The conference will examine methods of building worker power and advancing a new social movement in an economy where collective bargaining is imperiled, and where employer-employee relationships are increasingly fragmented. Scholars, labor practitioners and activists from across the country will convene to reflect on this core theme, share news ideas and lessons learned, and connect around research and campaign work.

This year we are organizing the conference around a set of four tracks:

1. Developing New Membership Models and Sustainability (i.e., worker center/union collaborations, building membership in open shops, minority unionism)
2. Innovating Campaign Strategies That Build Power (i.e., bridging racial and economic justice fights, strike strategies, supply chain organizing, coalition building, ‘common good’ bargaining)
3. Advancing Worker Rights in a Changing Economy (i.e., regulating an app-based economy, expanding joint liability, community based enforcement, addressing safety and health)
4. Holding Corporations Accountable (i.e., municipal finance reform, global coordination and solidarity, executive compensation, environmental coalition building)

We invite those interested to submit ideas that fit within at least one of the above tracks. We encourage a wide range of formats, including panels, workshops, trainings, film showings and strategy sessions. Submissions are due by March 6th. Proposals are being collected through this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_8JNrji3dfnWNN8HKCtypt6n9glNIQm4bcSq49XMVw4/viewform

For more information about LRAN, see <https://iranetwork.org/>



CBTU Founders:

Nelson "Jack" Edwards (UAW)
Charles A. Hayes (UFCW)
Cleveland Robinson (District 65 UAW)
William Lucy (AFSCME)
William Simons (AFT)

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, 44th International Convention

Greetings,

I am pleased to issue the official convention call to the 44th International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). This year the convention will be held in Chicago, Illinois at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60601 from May 20-25, 2015. The theme is Owing Our Future - Building Our Community. All general convention sessions will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

We always use convention as a way to highlight the work and build for the next chapter. To accentuate our unity and history we are asking that on Thursday participants dress in Afro-Centric garb to commemorate our lineage, and on Saturday we all wear our CBTU 2015 T-Shirts.

For our 44th International Convention we are diversifying our agenda and offer more trainings and workshops than ever before. As always we plan on keeping participants busy, but engaged. We will be challenging attendees to be ever present and active in all parts of the program. I invite you to join us and our distinguished speakers, panelists, presenters, and facilitators.

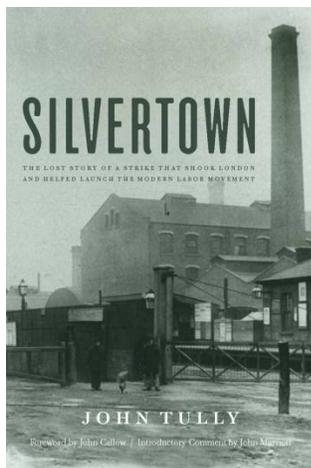
Registration for the 2015 convention can be done online at the CBTU website, www.cbtu.org. Simply click on the "Registration" link on the cbtu.org home page.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call the CBTU International office at 202-778-3318 or email us at cbtu1@hotmail.com.

See you in Chicago!

In Solidarity,
Rev. Terrence L. Melvin, President

BOOK REVIEWS



John Tully (2014) *Silvertown: The Lost Story of a Strike That Shook London and Helped Launch the Modern Labor Movement*, Monthly Review Press, ISBN: 978-1-58367-434-5

**Reviewed by Danielle Tscherne,
University of Toledo.**

John Tully is an Australian writer who wrote *Silvertown* in the form of a novel, to tell the story of the strike, rather than taking the route of writing as most academic or history books are written, making it more accessible.

Tully tells the story of a great strike at the India-Rubber, Gutta-Percha & Telegraph Works in the East End of London in 1889. The firm's founding family was the Silver family, which is where the term Silvertown came from. He uses historical recordings and writings of active strike members and strike leaders as reliable documentation of what actually took place. Strike leaders included Tom Mann, Will Thorne, Eleanor Marx, Pete Curran, and Frederick Ling. Eleanor Marx, daughter of Karl Marx, fought for equal rights for women workers, she is known as a "Champion of Socialism." Tom Mann was a huge figure in the international labor movement.

In the preface, the author writes of historians establishing that the Victorian era was a time of endless pain for the British working class. The Silvertown strike was an effort made by workers to get fair working conditions and pay. It is considered by many to have helped change the face of British society by winning important rights for the working class, by standing up for their rights against the bourgeoisie. The average worker was making 4 pence an hour with the very skilled workers making 4 ½. Tully wrote of "starvation wages" which were that they were paid so little that it was impossible for any man to raise a family respectably on such wages. Along with the slight increase in pay strikers demanded better working conditions in the factory, stating they were being treated more like machines than men. They were only being paid for 59 hours when in actuality they were working closer to 70-80 hours a week.

Tully writes that because of the lack of unity between skilled tradesmen and the so-called unskilled tradesmen, the Silvertown strike was undermined from the start. The ASE men who remained on the job were mainly skilled metal mechanics; they worked mostly on the refurbishment, installation, maintenance, and dismantling of the factory's machinery. Those who continued to work were referred to as "blacklegs" or scabs. A local publication "named and shamed" a number of the Silvertown blacklegs.

After the strike collapsed the engineers, or "the richest trade union in England," were blamed for the loss by refusing to call their members out – they had "lent their aid to one of the worst

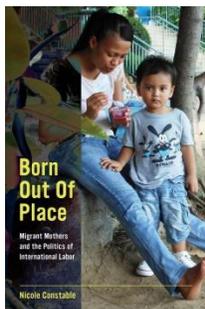
sweating firms in London.” Employers tried to have picketers prosecuted by putting immense pressure on police and the government to step in and take action. Picketing was used to turn blacklegs away from the factory gates.

On November 7, 1889, a meeting occurred in which Tom Mann gave a fiery speech at the gates of the factory and strike pay was distributed, which had dwindled to 4 shillings for men and 3 for women. Because of the little pay, hunger set in and some women began resorting to sex work.

A month after that meeting, some of the strikers began returning to work. Unfortunately not all could return as some were blacklisted and even faced prosecution. Employers not only used the courts to prosecute and punish strikers and to criminalize picketing, but they also used the willing press to depict the strikers as thugs who deprived “free laborers” of their right to work.

John Tully wrote in his epilogue, “Those who today resist what is in effect the declaration of class war by a feral ruling class may find inspiration in the story of these forgotten laborers over 120 years ago.”

I would recommend *Silvertown* to anyone interested in labor or strike relations. It would be a good look back in history for individuals looking to see how far the working class has come and a reminder to never go back.



Nicole Constable. *Born Out of Place: Migrant Mothers and the Politics of International Labor* 2014. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. 259 pages, ISBN 978-0-520-28202-5

Reviewed by Sean Tennant, University of Toledo

Born Out of Place: Migrant Mothers and the Politics of International Labor continues Nicole Constable’s previous sociocultural studies on migrant workers, cross-border marriages, migrant parents, and labor protests initiated by migrant workers and their advocates. In this latest work, Constable addresses the subject of female migrant workers who become pregnant while abroad, and the related governmental policies, social implications, and personal emotional ramifications. This ethnographic study is not undertaken as a detached, passive observer, but, as a self-proclaimed “feminist-ethnographer-activist”. This study is centered in Hong Kong, and involves migrant workers primarily from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Constable outlines her arguments in a refreshingly worthwhile preface. Her argument is that the receiving country’s expectations that the incoming migrant workers will be workers and nothing else, is not only unreasonable, but impossible. Governmental policies which attempt to insure that migrant workers do not overstay their visas and do not work illegally are not only ineffective, but can actually encourage the activities that they are meant to restrict. Furthermore,

when the migrant workers return to their home countries as single mothers, they are socially stigmatized. Social and economic pressures force them into what Constable refers to as the “migratory cycle of atonement”. These arguments clearly show how capitalist and neoliberal policies, social and religious expectations, and personal choices work in concert to trap migrant workers in a system which is clearly not designed with their best interests in mind.

Constable used race, religion, age, education, and gender to analyze and differentiate between migrant worker experiences in Hong Kong and in their home countries, after they return. She found the majority of workers who became pregnant were from Indonesia. However, she acknowledged that this may not hold generalizable throughout Hong Kong, as she had initiated most of her connections through one particular nongovernmental organization (NGO) called Pathfinders.

The workers from Indonesia tended to be younger and less educated, making them less likely to make informed decisions regarding their activities while abroad. Gender was utilized as a tool to discern between attitudes relating to relationships, marriage, and children. Chapter 3, entitled “Women”, and chapter 4 entitled “Men” highlighted many of the different views held by the men and women involved in intimate relationships in Hong Kong’s migrant worker communities. Attitudes expressed by both men and women related to status, security, and gain.

Race and religion were addressed together to express differing expectations held by people from different regions. According to Constable, many of the fathers of the children of migrant mothers were Islamic men from Pakistan and Africa who had obligations in their home countries; most importantly, marriages were arranged by their families.

Constable’s use of rich narratives greatly enhanced the overall impact of the book. Her well-researched knowledge of the government policies, and methods used to circumnavigate them, combined with an intimate look into the conditions of the workplace (legal and illegal), living environments (legal and illegal), and the relationships, created a full and satisfying picture of these experiences.

The only downside to the organization of the book that I found was that the narrative of each mother was slit up over a few different chapters, so I found myself having to reference previous chapters to confirm the experiences of particular people. This fact did not detract greatly from the overall reading experience, and I believe that some of the major concepts would have been blurred if this work had just been a collection of narratives.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Born out of Place: Migrant Mothers and the Politics of International Labor*. This work is well-researched and written in such a way as not to be a cold rendering of the facts; rather, it invites the reader to become intimately involved with the experiences of real people. I would recommend this book to anyone with an interest in social inequality, worker exploitation, or simply a curiosity about life as a migrant worker in this region of the world.

NEW ARTICLES

Cassie L. Barnhardt (2015) “Campus Educational Contexts and Civic Participation: Organizational Links to Collective Action” *The Journal of Higher Education*, Vol. 86, No. 1, PP. 38-70.

Proponents of civic engagement extol the virtues of the college experience for enhancing students’ capacities for democratic participation, yet few studies have examined the organizational contexts of such actions. This article applies theory regarding social movements in organizations to highlight the relationship between campus curricular offerings and campus collective action.

Keywords: campus activism, undergraduate curriculum, diversity courses, student anti-sweatshop movement

Sam Friedman, Diana Rossi & Gonzalo Ralón (2015) Dignity Denial and Social Conflicts, *Rethinking Marxism: A Journal of Economics, Culture & Society*, 27:1, 65-84

Struggles over dignity and dignity denial are a central facet of class struggles and other struggles under capitalism. Marxist theory, however, has not developed an adequate understanding of dignity denial or of struggles against it as a crucial part of capitalism and its dialectic. This paper discusses dignity denial as inherent both in a society based on commodity production for profit and also in the political, ideational, and social implications of capitalist production. It shows how struggles against such dignity denial are also inherent in capitalism. Finally, the paper suggests that an enhanced appreciation for and theorization of dignity denial and the struggles around it can help when framing issues for concrete conflict situations and can also help the development of firmer and better visions of a future socialism.

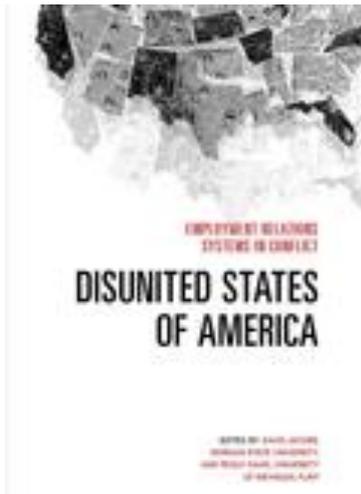
Friedman, Samuel R. Hegel’s Absolutes and Revolution: An expanded Review of: Eugene Gogol’s *Toward a Dialectic of Philosophy and Organization*. *Critical Sociology*, in press.

DOI: 10.1177/0896920513518949 published online 2 May 2014.

<http://crs.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/29/0896920513518949>

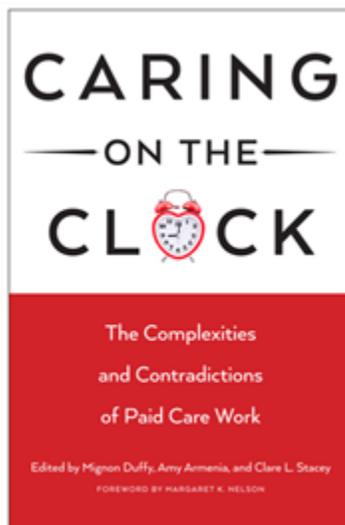
Friedman SR (2014) Yes, There is an Alternative!: A review of Peter Hudis, *Marx’s Concept of the Alternative to Capitalism*. *Against the Current* 169 (March/April). 2014, 169. <http://www.solidarity-us.org/node/4111>

NEW BOOKS



Disunited States of America: Employment Relations Systems in Conflict, Edited by David Jacobs and Peggy Kahn, ILR, Cornell Press

As a result of its size, history, immigration flows, and institutional complexity at the city, county, state, and national levels, the United States is characterized by disparate yet coexisting systems of political economy and labor policy. Some of the northeastern, midwestern, and western states have at times had a kind of "laborist capitalism" in which public policy and prominent employers acknowledged union power and legitimacy. In the South, things are different: Mississippi and South Carolina are among the states least hospitable to unionism. In such states, local business interests have preserved low taxes, lax regulations, and low wages. The authors of *Disunited States of America* describe several dimensions of labor policy differentiation across the states as well as examine the underlying dynamics.



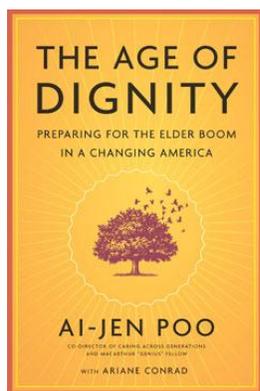
Caring on the Clock: The Complexities and Contradictions of Paid Care Work, Edited by Mignon Duffy, Amy Armenia, and Clare L. Stacey, Rutgers University Press

A nurse inserts an I.V. A personal care attendant helps a quadriplegic bathe and get dressed. A nanny reads a bedtime story to soothe a child to sleep. Every day, workers like these provide critical support to some of the most vulnerable members of our society. *Caring on the Clock* provides a wealth of insight into these workers, who take care of our most fundamental needs, often at risk to their own economic and physical well-being.

Caring on the Clock is the first book to bring together cutting-edge research on a wide range of paid care occupations, and to place the various fields within a comprehensive and comparative framework across occupational boundaries. The book includes twenty-two original essays by leading researchers across a range of disciplines—including sociology, psychology, social work, and public health. They examine the history of the paid care sector in America, reveal why paid-care work can be both personally fulfilling but also make workers vulnerable to burnout, emotional fatigue, physical injuries, and wage exploitation. Finally, the editors outline many

innovative ideas for reform, including top-down and grassroots efforts to improve recognition, remuneration, and mobility for care workers.

As America faces a series of challenges to providing care for its citizens, including the many aging baby boomers, this volume offers a wealth of information and insight for policymakers, scholars, advocates, and the general public.



The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America by Ai-jen Poo with Ariane Conrad, The New Press.

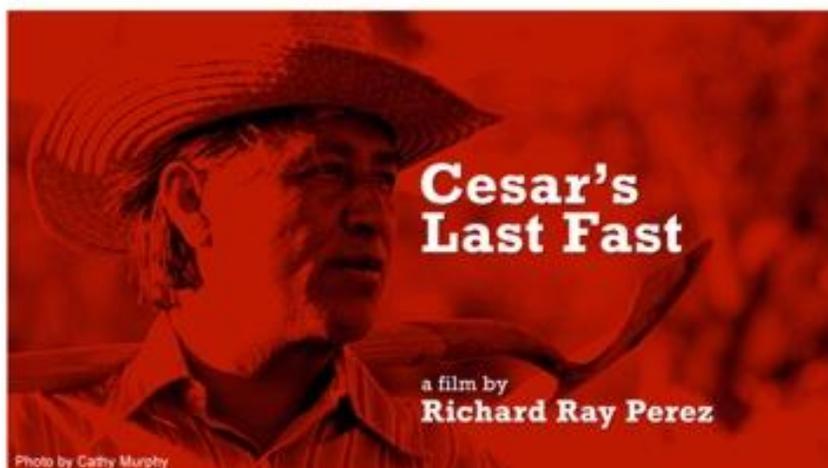
By 2035, 11.5 million Americans will be over the age of eighty-five—more than double today’s 5 million—and living longer than ever before. To enable all of us to age with dignity and security in the face of this coming Age Wave, our society must learn to value the care of our elders. The process of building a culture that supports care is a key component to restoring the American dream, and, as Ai-jen Poo convincingly argues in *The Age of Dignity*, will generate millions of new jobs and breathe new life into our national ideals of independence, justice, and dignity.

This groundbreaking new book from the director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance offers bold solutions, such as long-term care insurance and cultural change to get all of us to value care, which are already at the heart of a movement transforming what it means to grow old in the United States. At the intersection of our aging population, the fraying safety net, and opportunities for women and immigrants in the workforce, *The Age of Dignity* maps out an integrated set of solutions to address America’s new demographic and economic realities.



Grad students: writing a review is a good way of honing your skills and getting more confidence. Please consider writing for the newsletter! Email: markdsherry@yahoo.com

Authors: please consider submitting your work either for review or for mention in the ‘new works’ section of the Newsletter.



A man fasts so that the rest of us can eat! Richard Ray Perez's intimate, probing documentary on Cesar Chavez is a mirror on which our limitations today must be measured. His legacy is unfinished. As long as even one of us continues to be abused, as long as the color of our skin is an excuse for segregation, the rest is still in bondage.

—Ian Stavans,
Author of *United States of Mestizo*
General Editor of *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*

In the summer of 1988 Cesar E. Chavez embarked on a spiritual journey for which he was willing to give his life. Drinking only water, Chavez fasted for 36 days as an act of penance for not having done enough to stop the agricultural industry from spraying pesticides on American farm workers.

Using Chavez's 1988 "Fast for Life" as the dramatic arc, *Cesar's Last Fast* is a riveting documentary that illuminates the life and work of a man who co-founded a people's movement of poor, mostly Mexican-American farm workers. Chavez's courageous act of self-sacrifice is vividly brought to life through never-before-seen footage, and interviews with Dolores Huerta, Martin Sheen, Luis Valdez, and Chavez's family. This gripping portrait gives students of **American History, Civil Rights, Labor, and Environmental Studies** unprecedented insight into the life of the man who led the first movement of sustained Latino activism in the U.S.

Director Richard Ray Perez
Producer Molly O'Brien
54 & 93 minute versions, 2014

A remarkably relevant story today, *Cesar's Last Fast* is a crucial resource for today's farm workers and labor activists. For young people, the film is a moving introduction to a pioneering social justice movement, and the individuals and communities who continue to creatively confront the inequalities they face every day.



San Diego Latino Film Festival
Chicago Latino Film Festival
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