

**American Sociological Association
Section on Labor & Labor Movements**

Business Meeting Minutes (by Jeffrey Rothstein)
Monday, August 13, 2018
11:30am-12:10pm
(41 members in attendance)

- I. Call to Order (Belinda Lum)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Thanks outgoing council members Chris Rhomberg, Josh Blum, Luke Elliot-Negri
 - c. Notes absence and thanks Outgoing Chair Sarah Swider
 - d. Welcomes new members of council: Gay Seidman (Chair Elect), Venessa Ribas (Council Member), Amelia Fortunato (Graduate Student Representative)

- II. Membership Report (Belinda Lum)
 - a. YTD Numbers =387
 - i. Low Income: 20
 - ii. Student: 119
 - iii. Regular: 248
 - b. Final Date to join section is September 30
 - c. Need 400 for three section panels in 2019

- III. Treasurer's Report (Jeffrey Rothstein)
 - a. Dues increase passed raising dues from \$10 to \$12, which will give the section an addition \$800 annually
 - b. Current balance of \$4037
 - c. Estimated end-of-year balance is \$1387
 - d. Expectation are that the 2019 meetings will be more expensive because they are in New York

- IV. Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Race and Gender (Chris Tilly – co-chair)
 - a. Committee Membership - Chris Tilly; Belinda Lum, Pablo Gastón, Jeffrey Rothstein, Carolina Bank Muñoz, Sarah Swider(ex-oficio)
 - b. Committee drafting a report for delivery to council soon
 - i. Looked at membership, panels, award, etc.
 - ii. Most glaring finding that black membership very low
 - iii. There are other area of under-representation
 - iv. Looked at other section bi-laws (Collective Behavior & Social Movements in particular) CBSM more affirmative action stance
 - c. Some preliminary thoughts on what to do include a larger member survey on climate, processes, broader sense of program, etc.
 - d. Next steps after direction from Council

- I. Committees (volunteer sign-up sheets passed)
 - a. Nominations Committee – Sarah Swider (chair)
 - b. Awards Committee
 - i. Distinguished Scholarly Book Award -- Penny Lewis (chair);
 - 1. need 6-8 people
 - ii. Distinguished Scholarly Article Award – Jasmine Kerrisey (chair)
 - 1. need 4-6 people
 - iii. Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award – Vanesa Ribas (chair)
 - 1. need 4-6 people
 - c. Membership Committee - Belinda Lum (chair)
 - d. Mentorship Committee - Gay Seidman (chair)
 - e. Program Committee – Belinda Lum (chair)

- V. Program Ideas for 2019
 - a. Theme: Engaging Social Justice for a Better World (8/10-8/13)
 - b. Already have a Regional Spotlight panel for the People’s Guide to New York
 - c. Organizing in higher education
 - d. Links of labor and housing movement & issues
 - e. Post-Janus organizing outside the workplace
 - f. Community engaged research around (e)
 - g. Platform based work organizing (Uber, etc.)
 - h. Lessons from Right-to-Work states re/Janus
 - i. International labor
 - j. Global linkages b/n labor movements
 - k. Cutting edge organizing strategies
 - l. Role of academic activism in labor organizing

- VI. Discussion of ASA Meetings at non-union hotels
 - a. Dan Clawson report of ASA business meeting
 - i. ASA claims that Preference of union hotels is one factor in determining where to meet, but union hotels are not mandatory
 - ii. ASA currently negotiating contracts for conventions thru 2026
 - iii. ASA appears more sympathetic to consumer arguments that members have a right to know whether hotels are union but not the collective argument that ASA should take a stand and use unionized hotels
 - b. Ruth Milkman says we have a document about the agreement to use unionized hotels
 - c. Need a resolution in ASA council
 - i. Erin Kelly is on council and will discuss
 - d. Discussion of need to point out to new people at ASA that the use of non-union hotels has caused problems in the past
 - i. San Francisco

- e. Chris Rhomberg pointed out that ASA in Chicago is held at the anti-union Hyatt
- f. Agreement is reached to take a two prong approach
 - i. Get a list of future ASA Meeting locations (Carolina Bank Muñoz)
 - ii. Begin a membership petition to demand ASA only use unionized hotels (Dan Clawson)

VII. Section Awards (awards presented as section reception)

- a. Distinguished Scholarly Book Award

Ching Kwan Lee, 2018. *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor and Foreign Investment in Africa*, University of Chicago Press.

Lee has produced an excellent work that masterfully weaves together interviews, field work, labor and organizational studies, national development agendas, and globalization. Each component is essential to understanding the labor regimes associated with foreign capital investment in this new global era. Lee compares three cases of foreign direct investment (FDI): a Chinese State Owned Enterprise (SOE), a Chinese firm (in the construction sector), and a foreign private mining firm. All three enterprises are cases of global expansion. All three invest under the same neoliberal labor environment of Zambia: permissive labor laws, poverty wage levels, fragmented unionism, and de facto criminalization of strikes. China, as others, was interested in copper extraction, but more sensitive to Zambia's political agenda. Lee demonstrates how the Chinese SOE differs from the others in terms of its labor and managerial regimes. The Chinese mining SOE was more open to collective bargaining and Zambia's resource nationalism. The SOE, for example, granted more concessions to workers, maintaining the workforce intact during the downturn in copper prices. In response to Zambia's long-term national developmental goal of returns from foreign investment, the Chinese SOE established economic development zones and agreed to windfall taxes.

Honorable Mentions:

John Krinsky and Maud Simonet, 2017. *Who Cleans the Park? Public Work and Urban Governance in New York City*, University of Chicago Press.

Krinsky and Simonet deftly connect the "micro" to the "macro," in this case the micro of labor processes in the park to the macro of neoliberalism, via the "meso" of city politics. The book also makes strong contributions to the way we think about paid and unpaid labor and labor segmentation.

Michael McCarthy, 2017. *Dismantling Solidarity: Capitalist Politics and American Pensions since the New Deal*, ILR Press.

McCarthy is a stand-out, fascinating book on what might otherwise be a somewhat dry topic; it's well-researched, thoughtfully rendered, empirically and theoretically strong, and holds important relevance for the way we understand contemporary capitalist crises

in their myriad forms. McCarthy's careful attention to political and historical context also sheds light on the politics of solidarity amid privatization and increased marketization more broadly, as well as the future role of the labor movement's response(s).

b. Distinguished Scholarly Article Award

Katy Fox-Hodess, 2017. "(Re-)Locating the Local and National in the Global: Multi-Scalar Political Alignment in Transnational European Dockworker Union Campaigns," *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 55:3.

Given the global nature of the assaults unions face today, and the urgent needs for international solidarity, Fox Hodess's article asks, under what conditions can unions overcome barriers to effective international coordination? She examines this question through a comparison of European-level international solidarity with Portuguese, Greek and English affiliates of the International Dockworkers Council involved in labor disputes. Among other points, she finds compelling evidence that such international campaigns succeed best when global campaigns are linked to local struggles.

The committee noted the excellence of the article's research design and its clear writing; we also noted that Fox-Hodess's findings represent an original extension of the literature on transnational global struggles, as well as the important strategic implications of her work for unions themselves.

Honorable Mention:

Hae Yeon Choo, 2016. "In the Shadow of Working Men: Gendered Labor and Migrant Rights in South Korea," *Qualitative Sociology*, 39:4.

Choo's article is based on ethnographic research in South Korea, where she observed two groups of Filipina women: factory workers and hostesses at American military camptown clubs. She identifies distinct labor regimes for these migrant women that were each shaped in the shadow of working men, and she observes divergent forms of civil society mobilization that sustained these regimes. Through close attention to the interaction between these workplaces and the outside rights organizations working with them, Choo makes sense of the discrepancies between the labor rights demanded and achieved by these different groups of migrant workers.

Like the first article, committee members noted the strength of the article's research design and strong writing, as well as the nuanced understanding the article communicates of the mutually constitutive nature of race, class and gender. We believe Choo's article makes important contributions to our understanding of timely topics, including precarious work, immigration, and the important and at times problematic role of organizations in their support of migrant workers. One reader noted, "this was one of the articles that stayed with me the most after I'd read it."

c. Distinguished Best Student Paper Award 2018 co-winners

Katy Fox-Hodess, *Worker Power, Trade Union Strategy and International Connections: A Cross-National Comparison of Dockworker Unionism in Latin America*

Fox-Hodess tackles a central question in labor sociology: how do workers build power in different conditions? Her research design is excellent. She analyzes workers who share a common position in the economic system— dockworkers— but work in different state contexts— Chile and Colombia. She finds that Colombian dockworkers had far less shop-floor power than their Chilean counterparts. In response, they developed a different set of strategies, what Fox-Hodess terms “human rights unionism.” This paper makes important contributions to our understandings of workers’ structural power.

Pablo Gastón, *The Strike and the Moral Economy of Care: The Moral Dilemmas of Economic Conflict in California Hospitals, 1946-1974*

Gastón presents a theoretically rich and practically important analyses of the “moral economy” and strikes. Using archival data, Gastón traces nurses’ dramatic change from a moral rejection of strikes in the post war years to a moral embrace of strikes by the 1970s. With careful attention to detail, he traces how nurses used a moral economy of care as a tool to enable collective action. Gastón’s compelling writing makes the case come alive, and readers will find it instructive in understanding changing orientations towards strikes.

VIII. Meeting adjourned and membership headed to join action in support of Marriott Workers & UNITE HERE