

In Critical Solidarity

Vol. 12, No. 6

December 2014

ASA Labor and Labor Movement Newsletter

CONTENTS

Notes from the Chair	2
Notes from the Newsletter Editor	2
Fairpoint Strikers Run Over	3
Rights of Pregnant Workers	6
December 2: Day to Abolish Slavery	7
Right to Organize at Mercedes Affirmed	8
Fast Food Workers to Strike in 180 Cities	9
RHI Monofrax Strike	9
UC Berkeley Ignores City's Minimum Wage Policy	10
Paid Sick Leave	10
Black Lives Matter	11
Books for Review	12
News from Members	23
Forthcoming Conferences	25
Labor Section jumps into the 2014 ISA in Yokohama	29
2014 LLM Scholarly Exchange Delegation to China takes shape	30

Editor's note:

*We need more articles, book reviews, conference notifications, and member news for the next issue. Please send your submissions for the next issue to markdsherry@yahoo.com by Monday 26 January. Likewise, if you have a topic you'd like to see covered, please email Mark Sherry. **The next issue will have a longer article on contingent faculty organizing...** if you are involved, please share your experiences.*

Notes from the Chair, Shannon Gleeson



Hi,

As Chair of the Section, I would like to remind you about a few important things.

I would like to encourage members to nominate for Section leadership positions.

We need to fill the roles of Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Section Council members, and Student Representative.

I would also like to remind you that it is time to submit your papers for the ASA Conference. The ASA 2015 meeting Call for Papers can be found here:

<http://www.asanet.org/meetings/callforpapers.cfm>

The ASA Conference Submission system opens this Friday, Dec 5th and closes Jan 7th.

Finally, it is time to renew your ASA membership. You can do that through this link:

<http://www.asanet.org/members/joinasa.cfm>

Thanks,
Shannon.

Notes from the Newsletter Editor, Mark Sherry



There are so many things which are going on right now, or which have gone on in the last month, this newsletter can barely do justice to them. The minimum wage campaign and rises to the minimum wage in Massachusetts and San Francisco (among others), protests over Ferguson, the ongoing campaign against Wal-Mart, the campaigns against working on Black Friday and on Thanksgiving Thursday, the Fairpoint strike, the rights of pregnant workers, new laws about the rights of retail workers, both Amazon and Facebook workers engaging in unionization campaigns, the industrial disputes at West Coast Ports, the unionization campaigns of student athletes and of contingent faculty (which will be discussed in the next Newsletter) and much more.

Since I have discussed the OUR Wal-Mart campaign in previous issues, I won't discuss it here, except to say there were 80 actions at Walmart stores in 37 states over Thanksgiving. I have tried to address a broad range of issues in this newsletter, but am acutely aware that there are many more which haven't been addressed. Perhaps we can have some more contributions from members and discuss more issues next time. I would love that.

FAIRPOINT STRIKERS RUN OVER

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

Three FairPoint Strikers Hit on Picket Line

- A FairPoint replacement worker driving across a picket line in Keene, N.H., hit three striking workers at roughly 3 p.m. Nov. 2. The three strikers are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Fairpoint Communications strike is the biggest strike in the country right now, with 1700 workers on strike. The people who are on strike build, maintain, and repair telecommunication systems. The dispute started when the employer, Fairpoint Communications, asked for \$700 million in concessions from the employees, who are represented by IBEW/CWA. I spoke to people involved in the strike, after hearing that three of the striking workers were hit by a car driven by a replacement worker on December 2.

The replacement worker drove into our strikers pushing one up on the hood, hitting one with his mirror, and another with his bumper. (Please note, I would normally call “replacement workers” scabs, but I am following the lead of the union and using their language, out of respect for their strike).

The workers were picketing at the FairPoint garage in Keene when the replacement worker first crossed the line without incident in a red pickup truck. But then he abruptly did a U-turn and tried to pull back out of the lot while strikers were lawfully picketing. Immediately after the incident, the replacement worker pulled his truck to the curb, fixed his mirror, and waited for FairPoint’s security guards to come out and meet him. The strikers called police to report the incident. But before police arrived, the replacement worker left the scene.

The IBEW believes that police did later follow and stop the replacement worker. They state that “The police have been responsive and have begun what we believe will be a thorough investigation.”

IBEW Local 2320 Business Manager Glenn Brackett issued an immediate statement which said that "Today's near tragedy in Keene shows just how reckless FairPoint has become. It's outrageous that they'd hire people who would hit workers standing up for their families and the customers we serve. FairPoint is hiring clearly unqualified contractors, and we have no idea if these people have had proper background checks. And that's not just a concern to us. It's a serious concern to the public. FairPoint is telling the public to let these people into their homes. But we don't know who they are or whether they can safely serve the people of New England."



Background on the Strike and the Situation at FairPoint

This background to the strike was provided by people involved in the strike.

The negotiations for a new contract at FairPoint began in April, and from the outset company officials pressed to cut pay for new workers and slash benefits for all employees. The workers have offered more than \$200 million in cost-saving compromises during the talks. But the company has not altered its initial demand for \$700 million in deep and damaging cuts.

Since the strike began on October 17, FairPoint has been struggling to maintain its northern New England systems with replacement workers hired from out of state. Those replacement workers have been involved in a number of controversial incidents. On Nov. 15, the Eagle Times reported on a worker in Claremont, N.H. who improperly pressured a FairPoint customer to pay him directly for services. Police were called in and FairPoint officials admitted it was "a gross violation of company policy."

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) System Council T-9 includes local unions in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont and represents nearly 1,700 employees at FairPoint Communications. The Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1400 represents nearly 300 FairPoint employees in the three states.

Some other interesting aspects of this strike which I learned about from people involved in the strike:

- These are skilled workers, and the replacement workers don't have the experience necessary to keep the system up and running at a satisfactory level. For instance, on Friday 28 November, the replacement workers weren't able to fix a problem in the 911 system for 6 hours! As a result, 83 people who called 911 were not able to get through to emergency services.
- The expertise of the striking workers will be needed even more in the winter, when problems with the lines are more common and often more urgent.
- On Nov. 15, the Eagle Times reported that a worker in Claremont, N.H. improperly pressured a FairPoint customer to pay him directly for services. Police were called in and FairPoint officials admitted it was "a gross violation of company policy."

If you want to know more about the Fairpoint strike, go to the following union sites:

<http://fairnessatfairpoint.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fairnessatfairpoint>

PLEASE DONATE

Please consider contributing to the IBEW-CWA Solidarity Fund for striking workers with financial hardships. You can contribute by:

- Sending a check payable to *IBEW-CWA Solidarity Fund* to: 21 Gabriel Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
- Visiting www.gofundme.com/IBEW-CWA-Strike-Relief and using a credit or debit card to contribute



RIGHTS OF PREGNANT WORKERS

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

The Supreme Court today began hearing a case brought by Peggy Young, a former UPS employee who had asked for workplace accommodations, based on doctor's orders, because she was pregnant. She had been ordered not to lift more than 20 pounds and asked for a workplace accommodation; UPS responded by saying that they would not make such an accommodation. Peggy Young had to take unpaid leave while she was pregnant, losing her medical coverage as a result.

The case before the Supreme Court may lead to a broader determination on the parameters of the Pregnancy Determination Act, which requires employers to treat pregnant workers the same as nonpregnant workers who are "similar in their ability or inability to work."

Unions, as well as the ACLU, have been mobilizing around the following theme: **No woman should have to choose between having a healthy pregnancy and a paycheck.**

One of the cases that unions took up involved Tiffany Beroid, an African American employee of Wal-Mart who had to take two months off before giving birth to her child Ameyah. Her experiences have been highlighted by the OURWalmart campaign. Under such pressure, Wal-Mart announced changes to their pregnancy accommodation policies in May.

There were over 5300 pregnancy-related discrimination complaints to the Employment Opportunity Commission in 2013.

For more information on how others are supporting the rights of pregnant workers, please see the Twitter hashtag: #IStandWithPeggy

Photos of Peggy Young and Poster in favor of rights of pregnant workers



DECEMBER 2: DAY TO ABOLISH SLAVERY – FOCUS ON QATAR AND FIFA

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

According to the UN, there are over 21 million people in forced labor around the world. The AFL-CIO estimates that they generate \$150 billion in illicit profits. A report in late November by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime indicated that one in three known victims of human trafficking is a child, and girls and women are particularly targeted and forced into modern slavery.

Another report, by the Australian human rights group The Walk Free Foundation, estimates a much larger number of slaves globally: 36 million. These workers are either born into servitude, trafficked for sex work, trapped in debt bondage or exploited for forced labor. According to Walk Free, the 10 countries with the greatest prevalence account for 71% of the overall global total. It estimated that there were 14 million slaves in India, 2.1 million slaves in Pakistan, and 1.2 million in Uzbekistan. In terms of the highest percentage of the overall population, Mauritania had the highest concentration per capita. There are an estimated 155,600 people in modern slavery in Mauritania – this is equivalent to 4% of the entire population. You can find The Walk Free Foundation report at <http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>

In terms of union actions in the US against slavery, there are (of course) ongoing actions against various forms of slavery, including debt bondage and human trafficking, in the sex industry, domestic workers, and farm workers, among others. But one event by the leadership of the national union movement gained the most attention.

Labor activists and human rights campaigners protested on December 2 outside the Qatar Embassy in Washington DC in opposition to the experiences of construction workers who are building the World Cup 2022 infrastructure in Qatar. The International Trade Union Federation estimates that over 4000 workers have died building these stadiums, many of whom were victims of human trafficking and forced labor, from countries such as Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Although FIFA organizes the World Cup, its President, Sepp Blatter has refused to take responsibility for these abusive working conditions.



Photo: International Day
for the Abolition of Slavery

RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AT MERCEDES AFFIRMED

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

In late November, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued an order that Mercedes Benz US International (MBUSI) had violated federal labor law in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

The MBUSI plant in Alabama is the only Daimler plant in the world that does not offer employee representation.

The National Labor Relations Board ordered Mercedes Benz US International to post the following “Notice To Employees”:

FEDERAL LAW GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO

- Form, join, or assist a union
- Choose representatives to bargain with us on your behalf
- Act together with other employees for your benefit and protection
- Choose not to engage in any of these protected activities.

WE WILL NOT maintain a rule prohibiting employees who are not on working time from discussing the union, or other matters relating to wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment, with other such employees in work areas of our plant. WE WILL NOT prohibit employees who are not on working time from distributing literature to other such employees in nonwork areas and mixed use areas of our plant, including team centers and atriums. WE WILL NOT, in any like or related manner, interfere with, restrain, or coerce you in the exercise of the rights listed above. WE WILL rescind the rule in our employee handbook that prohibits solicitation of employees not on working time by other employees not on working time in working areas. WE WILL supply you with an insert for the current employee handbook that (1) advises that the unlawful provision has been rescinded, or (2) provides a lawfully worded provision on adhesive backing that will cover the unlawful provision; or WE WILL publish and distribute revised employee handbooks that (1) do not contain the unlawful provision, or (2) provide a lawfully worded provision.

In October, MBUSI employees in Alabama formed UAW Local 112 to represent any interested employees who join as members.

You can find this, and any other NLB decision, at the following website:
www.nlr.gov/cases-decisions/board-decisions

For the related campaign of the UAW’s efforts to unionize Nissan in the South of the US, see
<http://www.dobetternissan.org/>

NATIONAL FAST FOOD WORKERS STRIKE

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

Fast food workers in somewhere between 150 and 190 cities across the US are expected to strike on Thursday December 4, demanding higher wages and the right to organize. The walkouts are supported by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Over 10 million people in the US work in the restaurant industry, where the average pay is \$10 an hour, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

In a new development, airport employees (including cleaners, ticket agents and baggage handlers) will join in these national actions for pay rises. Previously they had not participated in such actions.



For more information see the following links:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/food-fight-work-stoppages-planned-at-many-fast-food-restaurants/>

<http://www.epi.org/publication/restaurant-workers/>

<http://strikefastfood.org/>

RHI MONOFRAK STRIKE

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

For more than two months, approximately 170 workers have been on strike at RHI Monofrak in Falconer, New York. They are striking over employees' share of health care costs, and a company proposal to replace the pension plan with a 401(k). Most of these workers belong to the National Conference of Firemen and Oilers Local 266, an affiliate of SEIU.

The strikers have received some support from unions in Western New York on December 2. A solidarity rally was held outside the Chautauqua County manufacturing plant. Two thousand dollars was donated to the strikers, as well as nonperishable foods.

Some of the strikers and their families speak on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyvpYDqsZgY>

One of the union stewards talks about the strike on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyvpYDqsZgY>

UC BERKELEY IGNORES CITY'S MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

UC Berkeley is the biggest employer in the city of Berkeley, but it is using its constitutional autonomy to refuse to adhere to the city's decision to raise the minimum wage. The City of Berkeley raised its minimum wage to \$10 an hour (\$1 above the state minimum) this year and to \$12.53 an hour by 2016. But UC Berkeley is staying with the state minimum, with many student employee positions being paid between \$9 and \$9.50.

As of December 3, the Berkeley Human Resources website states "Effective July 1, 2014, the minimum salary rate for the Berkeley campus Student Assistant I (4922U: PSS) position will be moved from \$8.00/hour to \$9.00/hour."

For more information, see the following article:

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/cal-refuses-to-pay-berkeley-minimum-wage/Content?oid=4135701>

PAID SICK LEAVE

Mark Sherry, December 3, 2014

There is a lot of pressure, nationally, for the introduction of paid sick leave.

California's new Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 requires most employers to allow employees to accrue up to three days of paid sick leave per year based on an accrual of at least one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Employees may use the paid sick leave to care for themselves or other family members.

In New Jersey, the State Assembly has passed a bill that would require all New Jersey employers to provide mandatory paid sick leave to employees.

This week, the Philadelphia Mayor's Task Force on Paid Sick Leave also recommended that Philadelphia should mandate businesses with 15 or more employees to provide paid sick leave, and Mayor Nutter (sic), who has twice vetoed bills requiring private employers in Philadelphia to give their workers paid sick leave, says he is now prepared to sign a bill with such a mandate.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Mark Sherry, 3 December 2014



Today, a Staten Island jury on Wednesday failed to indict New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo over the death of Eric Garner, who he choked until Garner stopped breathing. Garner, who had asthma and yelled “I Can’t Breathe” 13 times, died as a result. The chokehold which Pantaleo used is prohibited. Garner was initially stopped by police for allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes. This failure to indict comes on top of the failure to indict Officer Darren Wilson over the death of Mike Brown in Ferguson.

Much has been said about the death of Mike Brown, and I don’t need to rehash it here. Needless to say, there were injustices throughout the entire process, and the appointment of a biased and compromised prosecutor alongside a jury dominated by white people almost guaranteed, from the start, that Wilson would not be indicted.

Instead of focusing on the details of the case, which have been covered elsewhere, I would like to recommend a resource that you may not have seen. First, please sign up for this newsletter, which is produced by some young Ferguson activists. If you want to know about protests before they happen, this is one way.

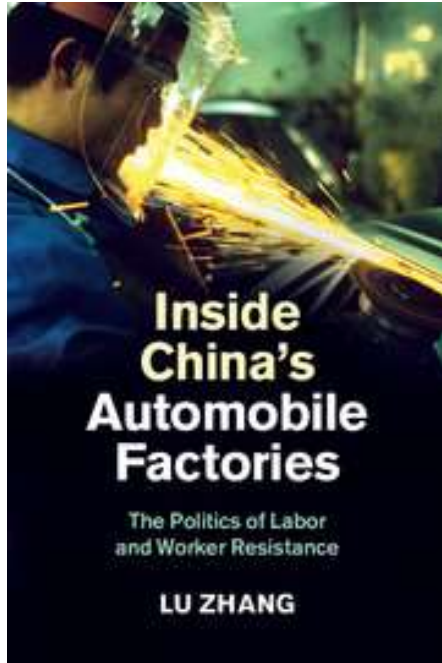
<http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=81643c9592bb041cc8a4ea614&id=389b94819d>

By following this newsletter, you can get a much better insight into the minds of local Ferguson activists who have been protesting since August.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW:

Lu Zhang, *Inside China's Automobile Factories: The Politics of Labor and Worker Resistance*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN-13: 9781107030855

Publisher's description



In *Inside China's Automobile Factories*, Lu Zhang explores the current conditions, subjectivity, and collective actions of autoworkers in the world's largest and fastest-growing automobile manufacturing nation. Based on years of fieldwork and extensive interviews conducted at seven large auto factories in various regions of China, Zhang provides an inside look at the daily factory life of autoworkers and a deeper understanding of the roots of rising labor unrest in the auto industry. Combining original empirical data and sophisticated analysis that moves from the shop floor to national political economy and global industry dynamics, the book develops a multilayered framework for understanding how labor relations in the auto industry and broader social economy can be expected to develop in China in the coming decades.

- The first ethnographic study of Chinese autoworkers, based on years of fieldwork and extensive interviews
- Sociological analysis paired with fine-grained ethnographic detail
- Multilayered framework of interactions of shop-floor, national and global processes for understanding the major transformations taking place in China's labor front as well as its economic society

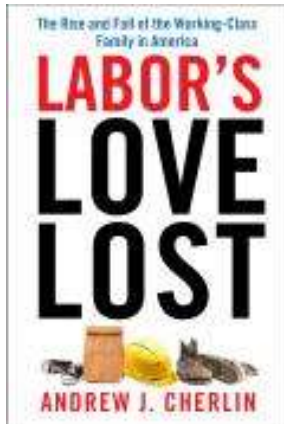
DISCOUNT CODE: The publisher currently has a 20% discount running through 31 December. If you think it's suitable to include, the discount can be claimed here:

www.cambridge.org/ICAF2014

If you would like to review this book, or any other book described here, please email markdsherry@yahoo.com

Andrew J. Cherlin, *Labor's Love Lost: The Rise and Fall of the Working-Class Family in America*, Russell Sage Foundation, ISBN-13: 978-0-87154-030-0

Publisher's description:



Two generations ago, young men and women with only a high-school degree would have entered the plentiful industrial occupations which then sustained the middle-class ideal of a male-breadwinner family. Such jobs have all but vanished over the past forty years, and in their absence ever-growing numbers of young adults now hold precarious, low-paid jobs with few fringe benefits. Facing such insecure economic prospects, less-educated young adults are increasingly forgoing marriage and are having children within unstable cohabiting relationships. This has created a large marriage gap between them and their more affluent, college-educated peers.

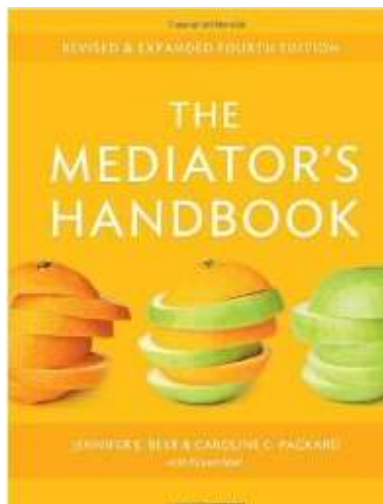
In *Labor's Love Lost*, noted sociologist Andrew Cherlin offers a new historical assessment of the rise and fall of working-class families in America, demonstrating how momentous social and economic transformations have contributed to the collapse of this once-stable social class and what this seismic cultural shift means for the nation's future.

Drawing from more than a hundred years of census data, Cherlin documents how today's marriage gap mirrors that of the Gilded Age of the late-nineteenth century, a time of high inequality much like our own. Cherlin demonstrates that the widespread prosperity of working-class families in the mid-twentieth century, when both income inequality and the marriage gap were low, is the true outlier in the history of the American family. In fact, changes in the economy, culture, and family formation in recent decades have been so great that Cherlin suggests that the working-class family pattern has largely disappeared.

Labor's Love Lost shows that the primary problem of the fall of the working-class family from its mid-twentieth century peak is not that the male-breadwinner family has declined, but that nothing stable has replaced it. The breakdown of a stable family structure has serious consequences for low-income families, particularly for children, many of whom underperform in school, thereby reducing their future employment prospects and perpetuating an intergenerational cycle of economic disadvantage. To address this disparity, Cherlin recommends policies to foster educational opportunities for children and adolescents from disadvantaged families. He also stresses the need for labor market interventions, such as subsidizing low wages through tax credits and raising the minimum wage.

Labor's Love Lost provides a compelling analysis of the historical dynamics and ramifications of the growing number of young adults disconnected from steady, decent-paying jobs and from marriage. Cherlin's investigation of today's "would-be working class" shines a much-needed spotlight on the struggling middle of our society in today's new Gilded Age.

Jennifer E Beer and Caroline C. Packard, *The Mediator's Handbook*, Fourth Edition, New Society Publishers, ISBN: 9780865717220



Publisher's description

The popular Mediator's Handbook presents a time-tested, adaptable model for helping people work through conflict. Extensively revised to incorporate recent practice and thinking, the accessible manual format lays out a clear structure for new and occasional mediators, while offering a detailed, nuanced resource for professionals.

Starting with a new chapter on assessing conflict and bringing people to the table, the first section explains the process step-by-step, from opening conversations and exploring the situation, through the phases of finding resolution -- deciding on topics, reviewing options, and testing agreements.

The "Toolbox" section details the concepts and skills a mediator needs in order to:

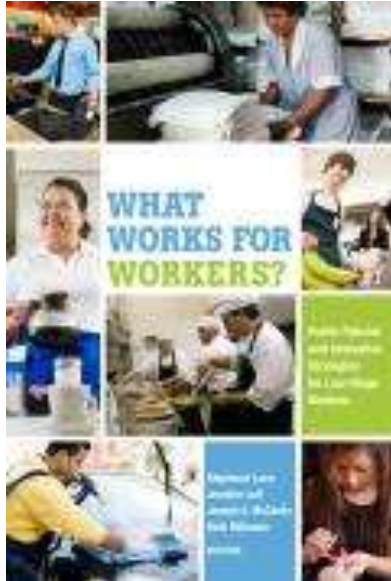
- * Understand the Conflict
- * Support the people
- * Facilitate the process
- * Guide decision-making.

Throughout the book, the emphasis is on what the mediator can do or say NOW, and on the underlying principles and core methods that can help the mediator make wise choices.

Long a popular course textbook for high schools, universities, and training programs, *The Mediator's Handbook* is also a valued desk reference for professional mediators, and a practical guide for managers, organizers, teachers and anyone working with clients, customers, volunteers, committees or teams.

Stephanie Luce, Jennifer Luff, Joseph A. McCartin & Ruth Milkman (Eds.) What Works For Workers? Public Policies And Innovative Strategies For Low-Wage Workers, Russell Sage Foundation, January 2014, ISBN-13 978-0-87154-571-8, 364 pages

Publisher's description:



The majority of new jobs created in the United States today are low-wage jobs, and a fourth of the labor force earns no more than poverty-level wages. Policymakers and citizens alike agree that declining real wages and constrained spending among such a large segment of workers imperil economic prosperity and living standards for all Americans. Though many policies to assist low-wage workers have been proposed, there is little agreement across the political spectrum about which policies actually reduce poverty and raise income among the working poor. What Works for Workers provides a comprehensive analysis of policy measures designed to address the widening income gap in the United States.

Featuring contributions from an eminent group of social scientists, What Works for Workers evaluates the most high-profile strategies for poverty reduction, including innovative “living wage” ordinances, education programs for African American youth, and better regulation of labor laws pertaining to immigrants. The contributors delve into an extensive body of scholarship on low-wage work to reveal a number of surprising findings. Richard Freeman suggests that labor unions, long assumed to be moribund, have a fighting chance to reclaim their historic redistributive role if they move beyond traditional collective bargaining and establish new ties with other community actors. John Schmitt predicts that the Affordable Care Act will substantially increase insurance coverage for low-wage workers, 38 percent of whom currently lack any kind of health insurance.

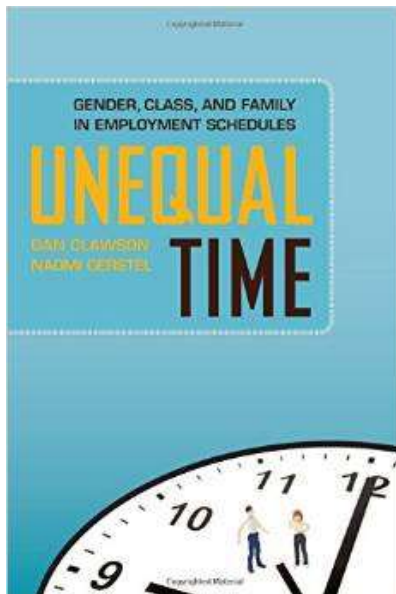
Other contributors explore the shortcomings of popular solutions: Stephanie Luce shows that while living wage ordinances rarely lead to job losses, they have not yet covered most low-wage workers. And Jennifer Gordon corrects the notion that a path to legalization alone will fix the plight of immigrant workers. Without energetic regulatory enforcement, she argues, legalization may have limited impact on the exploitation of undocumented workers. Ruth Milkman and Eileen Appelbaum conclude with an analysis of California’s paid family leave program, a policy designed to benefit the working poor, who have few resources that allow them to take time off work to care for children or ill family members. Despite initial opposition, the paid leave program proved more acceptable than expected among employers and provided a much-needed

system of wage replacement for low-income workers. In the wake of its success, the initiative has emerged as a useful blueprint for paid leave programs in other states.

Alleviating the low-wage crisis will require a comprehensive set of programs rather than piecemeal interventions. With its rigorous analysis of what works and what doesn't, *What Works for Workers* points the way toward effective reform. For social scientists, policymakers, and activists grappling with the practical realities of low-wage work, this book provides a valuable guide for narrowing the gap separating rich and poor.

Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel (2014) *Unequal Time: Gender, Class, and Family in Employment Schedules*, Russell Sage Foundation. ISBN 13: 978-0-87154-014-0

Publisher's Description:



Life is routinely unpredictable. Control over one's time is a critical resource for managing that unpredictability, keeping a job, and raising a family. But the ability to control one's time, much like one's income, is determined to a significant degree by both gender and class. In *Unequal Time*, sociologists Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel explore the ways in which social inequalities permeate the workplace, reverberating through a web of time in which the schedules of one person shape the schedules of others in ways that exemplify and often exacerbate differences between men and women, the privileged and disadvantaged.

Unequal Time investigates the connected schedules of four health sector occupations: professional doctors and nurses, and working-class EMTs and nursing assistants. While the work-

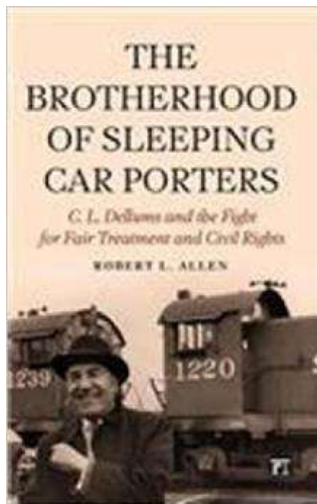
family literature mostly examines the hours people work, Clawson and Gerstel delve into the process through which schedules are set, negotiated, and contested. They show how workers in all four occupations experience the effects of schedule uncertainty but do so in distinct ways, largely shaped by the intersection of gender and class. Doctors, who are largely male and professional, have significant control over their schedules, though they often claim otherwise, and tend to work long hours because they earn respect from their peers for doing so. By contrast, nursing assistants, primarily female and working-class, work demanding hours because they face penalties for taking time off, no matter how valid the reasons. Without institutional support, they often turn to co-workers to help create more orderly lives.

Unequal Time shows that the degree of control that workers hold over their schedules can either reinforce or challenge conventional gender roles. When male doctors work overtime, they often

rely on their wives and domestic workers to care for their families. Female nurses are more likely to handle the bulk of their family responsibilities, and use the control they have over their work schedules to dedicate more time to home life. Surprisingly, the authors find that in the working class occupations, workers frequently undermine traditional gender roles. Male EMTs often take significant time off for child care, and female nursing assistants sometimes choose to work more hours to provide extra financial support for their families. Employers often underscore these disparities by allowing their upper-tier workers the flexibility that enables their gender roles at home, while low-wage workers are pressured to put their jobs before any unpredictable events they might face outside of work.

We tend to consider personal and work scheduling an individual affair, but Clawson and Gerstel put forward the provocative hypothesis that time in the workplace is both collective and highly unequal. A valuable resource for workers' advocates and policymakers alike, *Unequal Time* illustrates how social inequalities in the workplace shape the lives of workers and their families.

Robert L. Allen, *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters: C.L. Dellums and The Fight For Fair Treatment And Civil Rights*, Paradigm Publishers, ISBN: 978-1-61205-549-7



C. L. Dellums and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters helped to precipitate a sea of change in labor and race relations in California and the nation. Fundamental issues of unfair employment practices, discrimination, and segregation were confronted in new ways with consequences for all Americans. For the first time in U.S. history, a black labor union played a central role in shaping labor and civil rights policy.

Based on interviews and archival research, this new book tells the story of Dellums and the impact nationally of his groundbreaking work.

The BSCP, the first national union of black workers, was founded in 1925. C. L. Dellums, who worked as a porter in Oakland, became the West Coast organizer and was elected vice president in 1929. He held that position until 1968, when he succeeded A. Philip Randolph as president. In 1937, the BSCP made history when it compelled one of the largest U.S. corporations —the Pullman Company— to recognize and negotiate a contract with a black workers' union. This was unprecedented and almost inconceivable in the context of prior U.S. history.

In 1941, at the beginning of World War II, the leadership of the BSCP, with the support of civil rights leaders, pushed U.S. President Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802 requiring the

ending of racial discrimination in defense industries. Tens of thousands of black men and women would be hired to work alongside whites in wartime plants across the nation.

C. L. Dellums was not only a labor leader. In 1948, he was chosen to be the first West Coast Regional Director of the NAACP. He also led the long struggle to get a fair employment practices law passed in California. The successful struggle contributed to the emergence of civil rights activism nationally and to equal treatment legislative initiatives in California and elsewhere.

Amy L. Fraher, *The Next Crash: How Short-Term Profit Seeking Trumps Airline Safety*, Cornell University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-8014-5285-7, ISBN 10: 0801452856.

Publisher's Description:

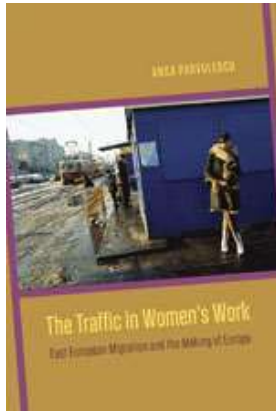


If you are one of over 700 million passengers who will fly in America this year, you need to read this book. *The Next Crash* offers a shocking perspective on the aviation industry by a former United Airlines pilot. Weaving insider knowledge with hundreds of employee interviews, Amy L. Fraher uncovers the story airline executives and government regulators would rather not tell. While the FAA claims that this is the "Golden Age of Safety," and other aviation researchers assure us the chance of dying in an airline accident is infinitesimal, *The Next Crash* reports that 70 percent of commercial pilots believe a major airline accident will happen soon. Who should we believe? As one captain explained, "Everybody wants their \$99 ticket," but "you don't get [Captain] Sully for ninety-nine bucks"

Drawing parallels between the 2008 financial industry implosion and the post-9/11 airline industry, *The Next Crash* explains how aviation industry risk management processes have not kept pace with a rapidly changing environment. To stay safe the system increasingly relies on the experience and professionalism of airline employees who are already stressed, fatigued, and working more while earning less. As one copilot reported, employees are so distracted "it's almost a miracle that there wasn't bent metal and dead people" at his airline. Although opinions like this are pervasive, for reasons discussed in this book, employees' issues do not concern the right people—namely airline executives, aviation industry regulators, politicians, watchdog groups, or even the flying public—in the right way often enough. In contrast to popular notions that airliner accidents are a thing of the past, Fraher makes clear America is entering a period of unprecedented aviation risk.

Anca Parvulescu, *The Traffic in Women's Work: East European Migration and the Making Of Europe*, Chicago University Press, ISBN: 9780226118383

Publisher's description:

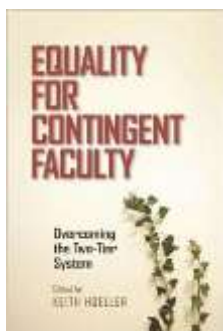


“Welcome to the European family!” When East European countries joined the European Union under this banner after 1989, they agreed to the free movement of goods, services, capital, and persons. In this book, Anca Parvulescu analyzes an important niche in this imagined European kinship: the traffic in women, or the circulation of East European women in West Europe in marriage and as domestic servants, nannies, personal attendants, and entertainers. Analyzing film, national policies, and an impressive range of work by theorists from Giorgio Agamben to Judith Butler, she develops a critical lens through which to think about the transnational continuum of “women’s work.”

Parvulescu revisits Claude Lévi-Strauss’s concept of kinship and its rearticulation by second-wave feminists, particularly Gayle Rubin, to show that kinship has traditionally been anchored in the traffic in women. Reading recent cinematic texts that help frame this, she reveals that in contemporary Europe, East European migrant women are exchanged to engage in labor customarily performed by wives within the institution of marriage. Tracing a pattern of what she calls Americanization, Parvulescu argues that these women thereby become responsible for the labor of reproduction. A fascinating cultural study as much about the consequences of the enlargement of the European Union as women’s mobility, *The Traffic in Women’s Work* questions the foundations of the notion of Europe today.

Keith Hoeller (Ed.) *Equality for Contingent Faculty: Overcoming the Two-Tier System*, Vanderbilt University Press, ISBN-13: 978-0826519504

Publisher's description:



Successful strategies for enhancing the lives of adjuncts and other contingent faculty

Vice President Joseph Biden has blamed tuition increases on the high salaries of college professors, seemingly unaware of the fact that there are now over one million faculty who earn poverty-level wages teaching off the tenure track. The Chronicle of Higher Education ran a story entitled "From Graduate School to Welfare: The PhD Now Comes with Food Stamps." Today three-

fourths of all faculty are characterized as "contingent instructional staff," a nearly tenfold increase from 1975.

Equality for Contingent Faculty brings together eleven activists from the United States and Canada to describe the problem, share case histories, and offer concrete solutions. The book begins with three accounts of successful organizing efforts within the two-track system. The second part describes how the two-track system divides the faculty into haves and have-nots and leaves the majority without the benefit of academic freedom or the support of their institutions. The third part offers roadmaps for overcoming the deficiencies of the two-track system and providing equality for all professors, regardless of status or rank.

Thomas Geoghegan, *Only One Thing Can Save Us: Why America Needs a New Kind of Labor Movement*, The New Press, ISBN: 978-1-59558-836-4

Publisher's description:



Is labor's day over or is labor the only real answer for our time? In his new book, National Book Critics Circle Award finalist and labor lawyer Thomas Geoghegan argues that even as organized labor seems to be crumbling, a revived—but different—labor movement is the only way to stabilize the economy and save the middle class.

But the inequality now reshaping the country goes beyond money and income: the places we work have become ever more rigid hierarchies. Geoghegan makes his argument for labor with stories, sometimes humorous but more often chilling, about the problems working people like his own clients—from cabdrivers to schoolteachers—now face, increasingly powerless in our union-free economy. He explains why a new kind of labor movement

(and not just more higher education) is the real program the Democrats should push—not just to save the middle class from bankruptcy but to revive Keynes's original and sometimes forgotten ideas for getting the rich to invest and reducing our balance of trade, and to promote John Dewey's vision of a "democratic way of life," one that would start in the schools and continue in our places of work.

A "public policy" book that is compulsively readable, *Only One Thing Can Save Us* is vintage Geoghegan, blending acerbic, witty commentary with unparalleled insight into the real dynamics (and human experience) of working in America today.

Lee H. Adler, Maite Tapia, Lowell Turner (Eds.) Mobilizing Against Inequality: Unions, Immigrant Workers, and the Crisis of Capitalism, ILR Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-8014-5279-6

Among the many challenges that global liberalization has posed for trade unions, the growth of precarious immigrant workforces lacking any collective representation stands out as both a major threat to solidarity and an organizing opportunity. Believing that collective action is critical in the struggle to lift the low wages and working conditions of immigrant workers, the contributors to Mobilizing against Inequality set out to study union strategies toward immigrant workers in four countries: Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and United States. Their research revealed both formidable challenges and inspiring examples of immigrant mobilization that often took shape as innovative social countermovements.

Using case studies from a carwash organizing campaign in the United States, a sans papiers movement in France, Justice for Cleaners in the United Kingdom, and integration approaches by the Metalworkers Union in Germany, among others, the authors look at the strategies of unions toward immigrants from a comparative perspective. Although organizers face a different set of obstacles in each country, this book points to common strategies that offer promise for a more dynamic model of unionism in the global North.

Companion Website

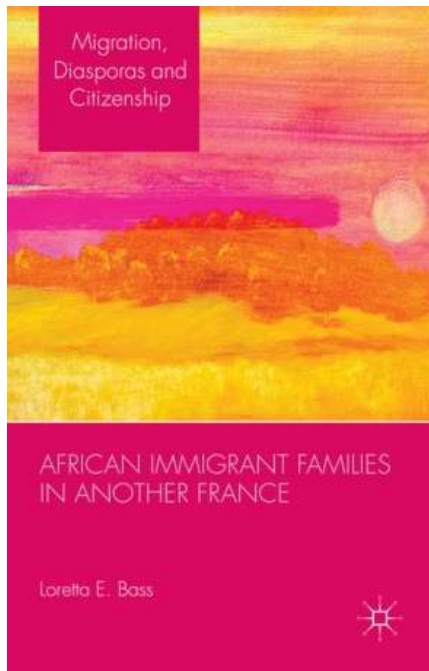
The editors have also created a companion website for the book, which features literature reviews, full case studies, updates, and links to related publications.

Visit it at www.mobilizing-against-inequality.info

This website, launched in April 2014 to coincide with the book Mobilizing against Inequality, creates a new online conversation about how unions and organizations have engaged in mobilizing and empowering the immigrant workforce.

This website project outlines the full case studies and country literature reviews from the book and identifies new networks and research documenting inspirational examples and strategies of immigrant mobilization and movement building.

**Loretta E. Bass African Immigrant Families in Another France,
Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN 780230361959**



Publisher's description:

The incorporation of Sub-Saharan African immigrant families is a key issue for France and Europe at large. Using the voices of first and second-generation immigrants, this book illustrates how racial and immigrant statuses are assigned simultaneously and inseparably for those of African-descent in France, and in turn limit employment and social cohesion, often irrespective of an individual's qualifications or citizenship documents.

First- and second-generation African youth report being, "French on the inside, African on the out," because they hold a French mentality but are continually treated as outsiders. At the same time, this research connects individual-level cultural and religious factors that shape varied levels of resilience and immigrant outcomes.

Racialization is inherent in the immigration process for African migrants, and a low immigrant status is granted, limiting their employment and social integration, and many times irrespective of their qualifications or citizenship documents. First- and second-generation African youth report being, 'French on the inside, African on the out' because they hold a French mentality but are continually put into an 'other' category. The 'power of skin' accords this status of 'immigrant other' which infiltrates all of their social interactions. Further, the practices of French universalism and secularism taken together have become in essence a straightjacket and 'ostrich policy' for France, as the difficulties of incorporation are obfuscated by data regulations that limit the ability to measure social inequalities patterned by ethnic or immigrant descent.

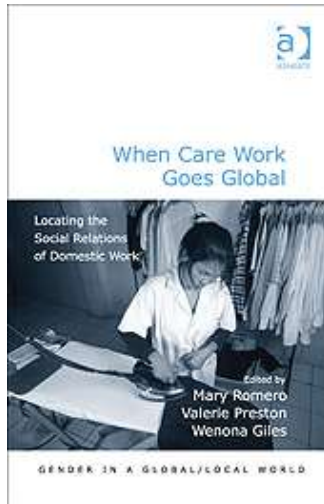
To read chapter one for free, visit: http://www.palgrave.com/resources/sample-chapters/9780230361959_sample.pdf.

Use the promotional code PM14THIRTY to get 30% off the price until Dec. 31, 2014.

For a review copy, send request on letterhead to: Fax: 212-674-6132 or St. Martin's Press, Publicity Dept., 175 5th Ave., NY, NY 10010.

Mary Romero, Valerie Preston and Wenona Giles (Eds.) When Care Work Goes Global: Locating the Social Relations of Domestic Work. Ashgate Publishing (2014). ISBN: 978-1-4094-3924-0

Publisher's Description:



Women who migrate into domestic labour and care work are the single largest female occupational group migrating globally at present. Their participation in global migration systems has been acknowledged but remains under-theorized. Specifically, the impacts of women migrating into care work in the receiving as well as the sending societies are profound, altering gendered aspects of both societies. We know that migration systems link the women who migrate and the households and organizations that employ domestic and care workers, but how do these migration systems work, and more importantly, what are their impacts on the sending as well as the receiving societies? How do sending and receiving societies regulate women's migration for care work and how do these labour market exchanges take place? How is reproductive labour changed in the

receiving society when it is done by women who are subject to multifaceted othering/racializing processes?

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

News from Mangala Subramaniam

New Article: Mangala Subramaniam, Robert Perrucci, and David Whitlock, "Intellectual Closure: A Theoretical Framework Linking Knowledge, Power, and the Corporate University." *Critical Sociology*, vol. 40, May 2014: 411- 430.

Abstract:

Scholars have recently called attention to the changing nature of the American university in the wake of the current economic downturn. Considering the transformative nature of knowledge production in the United States, we introduce the concept of intellectual closure in illustration of the unintended outcomes of individual decisions and career trajectories as they operate under the forces of social closure. Intellectual closure is defined as subtle and hidden forms of constraint on individual agency. Intellectual closure includes calculative thinking about how to publish in flagship journals; avoidance of high-risk projects; and preference for short-term projects with more immediate rewards. Structural constraints, specifically within sociology, are enabling the emergence of narrower perspectives and eroding former professional norms as individual

decisions aggregate, unintentionally, to constitute a more competitive discipline with narrower definitions of productivity and quality.

News from Richard Roman

- Co-edited with Edur Velasco Arregui (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City) a special issue of *NACLA Review of the Americas* (Spring 2014) on “Mexico: The State Against the Working Class,” which includes our introductory essay, “Mexican Workers in the Continental Crucible.” [<https://nacla.org/news/2014/4/8/mexican-workers-continental-crucible>]
- A second edition of our book *Continental Crucible: Big Business, Workers and Unions in the Transformation of North America* will be out in May 2015, published jointly by PM Press in the US and Fernwood Publishers in Canada http://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=719. The book deals with the corporate offensive, continental integration, class struggle, and immigration in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. There will be a new preface by Steve Early, a new introduction by Leo Panitch, and an Epilogue that updates the book and carries some of the arguments forward. Reviews of the first edition can be accessed through <http://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/continental-crucible>.
- Presented a paper, “*Reestructuración del capital y el ataque en contra de los trabajadores*” (Restructuring of the Capitalist Classes and the Attack Against Workers) at the conference on *La Subordinación de México bajo Estados Unidos* (The Subordination of Mexico to the United States) sponsored by Capítulo México del Tribunal Permanente de los Pueblos; Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Ciencias y Humanidades (CEIICH), UNAM; Sociedad de Pensamiento Crítico Latinoamericano (SEPLA)-México; Seminario de Teoría del Desarrollo del Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, UNAM; Departamento de Derecho de la UAM Azcapotzalco; Proyecto Economía Sustentable y Regulación Jurídica de la Complejidad Ambiental en México, in Mexico City, September 1-2, 2014.

Note from Mark Sherry: I apologize to some members whose emails were lost, and I hope to find them and publish them in the next Newsletter. Since this Newsletter was written in one night, I did not have time to follow up when I’d lost their emails.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

LRAN CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE! 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 and labor practitioners 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. Please spread the word!

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 and labor practitioners 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. Please spread the word!

In February 2015, we will issue a call for panel and workshop proposals. For more information and to join LRAN, visit www.lranetwork.org.

ABOUT LRAN

The Labor Research and Action Network (LRAN) is a dynamic collaborative effort to connect workers' rights organizations, academics and students to build workplace and economic power for working people in this country.

The LRAN online community includes a website, listserv+, and an experts database to facilitate connections between scholars and practitioners working on worker campaigns. The listserv+ is a private, members-only, web-based forum that combines the functions of a listserve, online forum/newsgroup, and a wiki. You must be a current LRAN member and must register for access to the private network areas of this website. There is a \$25 annual registration fee in order to access the LRAN listserve and database.

To join LRAN, simply complete our [online member registration form](#). For those who make a minimum \$25 tax-deductible donation to LRAN on our [online membership donation page](#), website registration is free.

2015 INDUSTRY STUDIES CONFERENCE

<http://www.industrystudiesconference.org/>

May 26- 29, 2015

Kansas City, Missouri—Kauffman Foundation Conference Center

Call for papers

We cordially invite submissions of individual papers and panels of papers for the 2015 Industry Studies Conference, to be held on May 26-May 29 in Kansas City, Missouri. The field of industry studies includes research on industries and non-profit activities as well as cross-industry analysis. It may also focus on the particular technologies, occupations, or subgroups within an industry or across industries. It draws on a wide range of academic disciplines and fields, including economics and other social sciences, management, operations research, engineering, labor markets and employment relations, and other related research and policy areas.

Industry studies research is grounded in observation of firms and workplaces and in a deep understanding of the markets, institutions, and technologies that shape the competitive environment. We welcome research of all disciplines that incorporates this approach. The Program Committee seeks papers and panels that would not typically be found in methodology-focused or single-discipline conferences, and is especially interested in attracting papers that are unique in their emphasis on observation and insight into a particular industry, or that consider how knowledge gained in studying one industry can provide insights into other industries.

The conference program will include organized panels and individual papers. We strongly encourage organized panel submissions, as we would like to increase these types of sessions on the program. In addition, the program will feature a pre-conference workshop for junior faculty, a plenary session, and an awards luncheon.

2015 Special Theme

Post-Crisis Recovery: An Industry Studies Perspective

While the 2015 Industry Studies Conference is open to all papers and panels relevant to industry studies, we are particularly encouraging panels and presentations this year that look at this year's theme: Post-Crisis Recovery: An Industry Studies Perspective.

The 2008-2009 financial crisis was the most significant economic event faced by the advanced industrial world since the Great Depression. The effects upon the industrial landscape were significant, and in particular, for the automotive, banking, and construction industries, enormous and devastating. In addition to these notable casualties, the effects of the Great Recession were felt broadly throughout the economy, with high and protracted levels of unemployment, reductions in industrial output, and financial chaos visited upon many local communities. Now, more than five years out from the onset of the crisis, in what state do industries find themselves? We seek papers that address this question through an industry studies lens.

Topics of interest relevant to this theme include but are not limited to:

- What changes have occurred since 2008 for industries, firms, and policy?
- Have industries returned to their former status or have they adapted, changed, or developed in new ways?
- What new strategies have emerged? On-shoring, continued off-shoring, or even re-shoring of manufacturing?
- What have been the implications for shareholders, employees, unions, communities, and governments?

The Submission Process

Researchers may submit abstracts of up to 250 words for single papers. The Program Committee will assign accepted papers to sessions. In addition, we strongly encourage researchers to submit organized panels comprising multiple papers on a common theme (e.g., using one methodology across multiple industries, or multiple diverse approaches to a common problem in a single industry), particularly if it ties into the special theme for this year. We particularly encourage panels that include or are entirely composed of practitioners to bolster the relevance of the conference to industry. The deadline for abstract and panel submissions will be December 12, 2014. We also encourage submissions of full papers by junior (untenured) faculty to the Rising Stars Best Paper Competition.

Please visit the conference website at www.industrystudiesconference.org to make your submission. Decisions for papers and panels will be made by mid-February.

A number of research streams are listed below relevant to industry studies. However, these streams are not meant to be exhaustive, and the committee also welcomes submissions in the “General Industry Studies” category. This would include industry-specific as well as cross-industry papers and panels. The program committee may shift papers and panels from the general industry studies stream to other more specific streams where appropriate.

Research streams:

- Energy, Power, & Sustainability (Coordinator: Guy Holburn; gholburn@ivey.uwo.ca)
- Globalization: Management & Policy Implications (Coordinator: Gerry McDermott; gerald.mcdermott@moore.sc.edu)
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship (Coordinator: Jovan Grahovac; grahovac@illinois.edu)
- Technology Management (Coordinator: Zoe Szajnfarter; zszaifnfa@gwu.edu)
- Labor Markets, Organizations, & Employment Relations (Coordinator: Adam Seth Litwin; aslitwin@cornell.edu)
- Supply Networks, Operations & Engineering Management (Coordinator: Benn Lawson; b.lawson@jbs.cam.ac.uk)
- General Industry Studies (Coordinators: Ann Frost & Jane Davies; afrost@ivey.uwo.ca and j.davies@jbs.cam.ac.uk)

SOCIAL THEORY CONFERENCE

Call For Papers: Eleventh Social Theory Forum, April 17-18, 2015, University Of Massachusetts Boston

New perspectives in intersectionality: race, gender, class and sexuality, with keynote address by Patricia Hill Collins

Intersectional approaches to social research suggest that systems of oppression such as race/ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality are interconnected and intersect to shape the experiences of individuals. Intersectional research centers on the experiences of persons often historically ignored by policymakers and in academic scholarship. Without their experiences our theories of power and social processes are both incomplete and inaccurate. As a research paradigm intersectionality has its origins in black feminism, third world feminism and queer theory. It has come to shape research in many disciplines including feminist studies, critical race theory, postcolonial theory, public policy, public health, law, psychology, anthropology and sociology.

We are seeking papers and panels that examine how intersectionality functions in a variety of realms, including but not limited to the following areas:

- Intersectionality as theory and method
- Intersectionality in institutional contexts (workplaces, schools, family etc.)
- Social activism, social justice, and public policy
- Transnationalism and migration
- Race and multiculturalism
- Sex, sexualities, and queer studies
- Class inequality
- Disability and embodiment
- International relations in a global era

This two-day international conference is sponsored by the Department of Sociology and other departments and institutes at UMass Boston. We strongly encourage and will give priority to submissions of complete panel sessions with a maximum of four presenters. Sessions will last approximately 90 minutes. At least 25 minutes should be reserved for audience discussion. Individual papers are also encouraged.

Paper and panel session proposals must be received no later than December 15, 2014. Please send via email to Meredith Gamble at socialtheoryforum@umb.edu.

Selection and notification of approval will take place by February 1, 2015. We are interested in securing a publishing venue for selected papers. As in prior years, the papers will be peer-reviewed anonymously for possible publication in an edited book.

Panel Session Proposals Should Include:

- 1) Panel Title and short description (no more than 250 words)
- 2) The session organizer's name, department, institution, address, and e-mail address
- 3) The following information for all participants: Name; department and institution; e-mail address
- 4) 250-word abstract for each paper
- 5) 1 page CV for each participant
- 6) Please state what, if any, audio-visual technology will be required for your session.

Individual Paper Proposals Should Include:

- 1) Name of Presenter, Institutional Affiliation, address and email.
- 2) Title of individual paper and 250-word abstract of paper
- 3) 1 page CV for presenter
- 4) Please state what, if any, audio-visual technology will be required for your talk.

Organizing Committee

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce, Meredith Gamble, Stephanie Hartwell, Glenn Jacobs, Cinzia Solari, Leslie Wang, Kevin Wozniak, Reef Youngreen

About the Social Theory Forum at University of Massachusetts Boston

The Social Theory Forum (STF) is a regular conference organized by the Department of Sociology at University of Massachusetts Boston. The purpose of this conference is to creatively explore, develop, promote, and publish cross-disciplinary social theory that utilizes an applied and critical framework. STF offers faculty and students in the Boston area and beyond a forum to discuss the relevance of particular theoretical traditions to contemporary issues as well as the current state and future of social theory. STF's goals are:

- To critically engage with and evaluate both classical and contemporary social theories in a cross-disciplinary and comparative cross-cultural framework in order to develop new integrative theoretical structures and practices;
- To foster individual and collective self-reflexivity through exploring social theories in global and world-historical contexts with the objective of more effectively addressing social problems;
- To foster an interactive and dialogue-based discussion about social theory between and across faculty, students, and local communities; and
- To foster an open exchange of ideas to constructively explore diverse and conflicting viewpoints and modes of thinking.

The Labor Section jumps into the 2014 International Sociological Association in Yokohama

Chris Tilly, UCLA

The Labor and Labor Movement Section participated actively in the International Sociological Association's 23rd Congress, "Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology," in Yokohama, Japan in July. LLM was strongly represented in RC (Research Committee) 44, the Labor Movements section of ISA, with LLM members Jennifer Chun and Peter Evans chairing the section and chairing the RC44 program, respectively. Unlike the ASA, the ISA has each section put together a *full* set of sessions for all *six* days of the conference, so that RC44 members could imbibe labor movement content continuously (with breaks for plenaries). Given the location, RC44 leaders made a special effort to recruit scholars from East Asia, resulting in many presentations from Japan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan (with a big assist from the local host committee chaired by Akira Suzuki).

RC44 activities started out with a pre-program bang with three activist sessions, bringing RC44 members from around the world into dialogue with activists from the East Asian countries (though Chinese activists from outside Hong Kong were not able to get approval to travel). The activist sessions particularly focused on precarious and informal work and building worker power. The 21(!) RC44 program sessions (including several joint sessions with other RCs) and 2 sets of roundtables had a similar inflection, spotlighting the Global South. Presentations ranged from Brazilian unionism to Zimbabwean waste-pickers, with everything in between (yes, including labor in the US). High-profile participants included Pun Ngai, Beverly Silver, and Pun Ngai, but there was also room for graduate students to present. (The full ISA program, a bit confusingly organized, is available at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/isa-wcs2014-program-book.pdf>.)

RC44 participants in ISA, including those of us from the LLM, came away stimulated, reveling in a new set of global contacts and windows on literatures and movements we had earlier been aware of. And we are excited about building for the ISA Forum in July 2016 in Vienna, and the next Congress in 2018 in Toronto.

International Sociological Association

The ISA was founded in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. The goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion, and to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. Its members come from 162 countries.



The 2014 LLM Scholarly Exchange Delegation to China takes shape

Chris Tilly, UCLA

The LLM Scholarly Exchange with China started with a December 2012 delegation of LLM sociologists to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong. The next step was the August 2013 miniconference on “Labor and Global Solidarity – The US, China and Beyond.” This December, a second US delegation will visit Beijing to finish up this round of the exchange (funded by a Ford Foundation China grant secured by Katie Quan of the UC Berkeley Labor Center). Based on early commitments plus a large number of applications submitted, the LLM China Exchange Committee has selected: Jasmine Kerrissey (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Stephanie Luce (CUNY), Irene Pang (grad student, Brown), Chris Rhomberg (Fordham), Elena Shih (postdoc, Brown), Sarah Swider (Wayne State), Chris Tilly (UCLA), and Lu Zhang (Temple). The delegation combines China scholars, those who study China in a broader comparative context, and scholars of US labor, in order to maximize the value of the exchange for Chinese and US researchers.

Katie Quan will coordinate the delegation, which will include both meetings with scholars, primarily from the Chinese Association of Work and Labor and the Chinese Academy of Sociology, and site visits to organizations and workplaces. The focus will be on identifying concrete collaborations between US and Chinese researchers, so as to cement institutional ties with close working partnerships. Those of us who are traveling see our mission not simply as exploring collaborations for ourselves, but above all as creating channels to facilitate ongoing communication and many future partnerships between the members of LLM and their Chinese counterparts.