

## ASA Labor and Labor Movement Newsletter

### CONTENTS

Notes from the Chair, <i>Chris Rhomberg</i> .....	1
Montreal's Immigrant Workers Centre, <i>Aziz Choudry</i> .....	3
ASA in Montreal: Our Section Schedule.....	6
Graduate Members on the Job Market.....	10
Call for Abstracts: ISA – RC 44, Toronto July 2018.....	14
Call for Abstracts: ILPC, Buenos Aires March 2018 .....	15
Recent Publications by Section Members .....	17
New Books by Section Members.....	18

### Notes from the Chair

*Chris Rhomberg*  
Fordham University

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as chair of the ASA Labor and Labor Movements section for this past year. As I turn over the reins now to the able hands of our incoming chair **Sarah Swider**, let me thank our outgoing past-chair officers, **Nancy Plankey Videla** and council member **Jeff Sallaz**, for all of their valuable contributions. We also welcome our new officers, chair-elect **Belinda Lum** and council member **Jasmine Kerrissey**, and I look forward to working with them in my role as past-chair in the coming year.

In our last newsletter, we invited several members to participate in a mini-symposium on the 2016 US presidential election. While there is no shortage of pressing concerns now for labor and labor movements around the world, let me take this opportunity to focus on the organizational state of our section and our work going forward.

**Section membership.** This year the ASA changed the deadline for giving gift memberships to students and colleagues to July 31, to give recipients a greater benefit of participation. In the past,

the gifts were one way that we used to raise our membership level above the crucial threshold of 400, which qualifies us for a third section session in addition to our round tables at the annual ASA meeting. Although the official count for that purpose is not until the fall, the new rules meant we had to undertake a major membership drive much earlier than before. In early May, the section leadership began a concerted organizing drive including one-on-one outreach to former members to bring them back into the section.

I am delighted to report that **as of August 2, 2017, we had 406 section members**. As far as I know, this is the earliest we have ever made it to over 400 members. This means that once again we will have three section sessions in addition to our round tables for the 2018 ASA in Philadelphia. Special thanks go to secretary-treasurer Jeff Rothstein, past-chair Nancy Plankey Videla, council members Jeff Sallaz and Luke Elliott-Negri, and incoming chair Sarah Swider for their efforts, along with all section members who responded to our appeals.

At the same time, we will need to strategize how we can maintain and raise our membership levels in the future. The section council is considering some ideas but we welcome suggestions from members on how we can best address the challenge.

**Section budget:** A related issue is our section finances. In 2015-2016, we raised substantial external funds to pay for the expenses of the mini-conference in Seattle. This year our budget is closer to a normal year and is in good shape, but our room for maneuver is limited and costs do go up. We continue to use our resources for the good of the section (for example, we support the [Work in Progress](#) blog, along with the sections on Economic Sociology; Inequality, Poverty and Mobility; and Organizations, Occupations and Work) and there may be more activities we may want to pursue.

Our regular section dues are \$10, which is the ASA minimum. Some sections, like PEWS, also produce a journal so their dues are significantly higher. But many other sections have already raised their dues above the minimum, like Economic Sociology and OOW (\$12) and Political and CBSM (\$11). In fact, less than a third of all 52 ASA sections still charge the [minimum \\$10 dues](#), and we may want to consider an adjustment for at least our regular members. Any change to our dues would require a referendum vote of the membership in the regular ASA ballot process, but it seems like a conversation that would be worth having now.

**Mentorship and Section meeting:** This past year we continued our section mentorship program, and thanks to mentees Colin Arnold, Amelia Fortunato, Cory Pech, and Jason Struna, and mentors Cedric De Leon, Steve McKay, Peter Ikeler and Carolina Bank-Muñoz. We encourage participation in the program as one of the benefits we can offer to members especially at early stages of the career. We will have more information at the section membership meeting in Montreal on how to take part as either mentees or mentors.

On that note, **please come to the section membership meeting on Sunday, August 13, from 1:30-2:10pm in the Palais des congrès de Montréal, 516C**, right after our section round tables.

Now more than ever, we need members to participate to help shape the future of the section. For now, we have a great program lined up for the ASA in Montreal, and details are included below.

**In this newsletter:**

We start with a piece by Aziz Choudry on **the Immigrant Workers Centre – Centre des Travailleurs et Travailleuses Immigrants (IWC – CTI)** in Montréal. The Centre does important work supporting migrant/immigrant workers in the city, and it is the location for our **section reception on Sunday**

evening, August 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We have ordered food from Afghan Women's Catering, a project of the Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal <http://afghan-women-catering.com/>, and there will be speakers from both the IWC-CTI and Afghan Women's Catering to tell us about their work. A map with directions is included at the end of our session sessions schedule below.

In this issue we also have a special section on **Graduate Members on the Job Market**, and the candidates all exhibit the high quality of work produced by our graduate section members. We also include the Call for Abstracts for the **ISA – RC 44 in Toronto in July 2018** and the **International Labour Process Conference in Buenos Aires in March 2018**, with deadlines of September 30 for the RC 44 and October 31 for the ILPC. Finally check out the recent publications and new books from section members. I look forward to seeing many of you in Montreal, and best wishes and solidarity,

Chris Rhomberg

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## Montreal's Immigrant Workers Centre

*Aziz Choudry*

Associate Professor, McGill University

Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg



Since 2000, when it was founded, the Immigrant Workers Centre (IWC) has played an important role in Montréal supporting migrant/immigrant workers (across a range of immigration status) in their various

workplace and immigration struggles both individually and collectively. With minimal staff and funding and a host of dedicated volunteers and board members, the IWC acts as a community-based resource and

education centre that undertakes services, advocacy, and organising relevant to the needs and interests of migrant/immigrant workers in Quebec.

The IWC engages in individual rights counselling and casework, as well as popular education and political campaigns concerning the conditions experienced by migrant/immigrant workers: dismissal, wage theft, health and safety concerns and other problems with employers (and sometimes inadequate representation by their unions if they belong to one). Often, these arise from individual cases and form the basis for campaigns and demands, which are expressed collectively.

***“[The IWC] tries to build from an organizing model that incorporates radical traditions, going back to basics, focusing on outreach, collective organizing, casework, and education.”***  
—IWC organizer Mostafa Henaway

Developing leadership among migrant/immigrant workers in order to take action on their own behalf is an important goal. Support for self-organizing, direct action, coalition-building and campaigning are used to win gains for workers and to build broader awareness of and support for systemic change in relation to their working conditions and, often, immigration status.

Different forms of labour organizing are needed in the current context and require support both for and from trade unions. The IWC works to support, organize educate and develop leadership among those who are not unionized. While supporting worker efforts to unionize, where possible, it also helps them get adequate services from their unions. As IWC organizer Mostafa Henaway puts it, the IWC:

“tries to build from an organizing model that incorporates radical traditions, going back to basics, focusing on outreach, collective organizing, casework, and education. At times, there are many challenges faced in balancing all of these facets in the organization; but each facet has proven to be critically important to the political work of the Centre, such as weekly outreach outside Metro [subway] stations, building relationships with both communities and individual immigrant workers, or attempts to collectivize the casework and individual issues faced by workers, and to respond in a politicized way. The foundation of this organizing has come from these principal organizing methods, in addition to a flexibility in tactics and strategy, due to ever-changing economic conditions in Montreal, and globally”.

Campaigns and coalition work can be ways to make gains for individual workers as well as to build collective action over the longer term. They serve to educate the wider public about the issues faced by migrant/immigrant workers. For example, an early campaign, in 2000, successfully defended a Filipina domestic worker who had entered Canada under the Live-In Caregiver Program against impending deportation. Besides winning the campaign, the issue of importing workers as ‘indentured servants’ was brought into the public sphere. More recently, the IWC has been active in coalitions with unions and other community organizations addressing precarious work and the rights of non-unionized workers.

In recent years, the Centre has prioritised two groups: temporary labour agency workers, and temporary foreign workers. Some of these workers have helped organisers at the Centre understand the issues they were facing. In response, the IWC helped develop two worker-led associations - the Temporary Agency Workers Association (TAWA) and the Temporary Foreign Workers Association (TFWA). Working in different ways, these

associations build worker leadership and campaign for justice. For the TAWA, the organising is local, reaching workers in warehouses, the service sector, and through many community organisations. In 2016, the TAWA organised agency workers to meet with the Department of Health to collaborate for changes in health and safety legislation and agency work. After two years of campaigning, TAWA members won a guarantee by the Commission of Work Health and Safety to enforce legislation concerning health and safety equipment for agency workers who are systemically excluded due to the triangular employment relationship (i.e. between workers, agencies and client-companies). Worker leaders have been active in campaigns and providing information on labour rights and health and safety issues, as well as speaking in many settings to explain the situations faced by agency workers.

The TFWA has delivered workshops on labour and immigration rights across Québec. In 2016, in two cases of collective action organised by the TFWA with IWC support,

***“In recent years, the Centre has prioritised two groups: temporary labour agency workers, and temporary foreign workers.”***

workers won major victories. In one case, a large group of industrial butchers won permanent residency status, when they had reached the government’s four-year limit imposed on workers in this category. In another case, agricultural workers resisted deportation and obtained open work permits and will be able to stay to be present for hearings into their labour-related grievances. In all situations, current or former temporary foreign workers have been the key organisers, along with IWC staff and volunteers.

The TAWA and the TFWA are examples of ways in which the IWC tries to facilitate worker leadership and self-organizing while seeking to address the problems and

conditions related to the restructuring of work, the mushrooming of an unregulated temporary agency industry, and the expansion of temporary labour migration programmes. The target of many IWC campaigns has been the state – at federal, provincial, or municipal level – demanding improvements in conditions for everyone at the bottom end of the labour market. The current Fight for \$15 minimum wage struggle in Quebec is one example in which the IWC – with committed organizing but few resources - has led and built what is now a widely supported campaign that is gaining momentum.

Website: <http://iwc-cti.ca/>

Parts of this article are adapted from Choudry, A., Henaway, M., and Shragge, E. (forthcoming) "Learning and Leadership in Organizing Temporary Agency Workers," in Cooper, L. and Hamilton, S. (Eds.). *Revitalising/Renewing Workers' Education*. Pretoria: HSRC Press.

For more on the IWC, see:

Choudry, A., and Smith, A.A. (Eds.). (2016). *Unfree labour? Struggles of Migrant and Immigrant Workers in Canada*. Oakland, CA: PM Press.

Choudry, A., Hanley, J., Jordan, S., Shragge, E., and Stiegman, M. (2009). [\*Fight Back: Workplace Justice for Immigrants\*](#). Halifax: Fernwood.

**American Sociological Association 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Montréal**  
**Section Schedule**

**SUNDAY: August 13, 2017**

**8:30-10:10am**

**183. Paper Session: Open Topic**  
**Palais des congrès de Montréal, 514B**

Session Organizer: *Chris Rhomberg, Fordham University*  
Presider: *Erin E. Hatton, State University of New York at Buffalo*

Development and Its Discontents. *Adaner Usmani, New York University*  
The White Working Class, Authoritarianism, and Union Membership. *J. Gregg Robinson, Grossmont College*  
Collective Inaction and the Plight of the Public Sector Professional Union.  
*Lauren Benditt, YouGov*

**10:30am-12:10pm**

**221. Paper Session: Global Labor Protest**  
**Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512H**

Session Organizer: *Chris Rhomberg, Fordham University*  
Presider: *Joel P. Stillerman, Grand Valley State University*

Declining Rural Safety Net, Perceptions of Political Risk and Selective Radicalization of Labor Contention in China. *Zheng Fu, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*  
Development, Proletarianization and the Association of Workers in Garment Industry in China. *Shuwan Zhang, CASS; Lulu Fan, Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences*  
The Antinomies of Successful Mobilization: Inclusion and Exclusion among Bogota's Newly Organized Recyclers. *Manuel Zimbalist Rosaldo, University of California at Berkeley*  
Varieties of Dockworker Unionism in Latin America: National Context, Local Strategy and International Connections. *Caitlin R. Fox-Hodess, University of California, Berkeley*

**12:30-1:30pm**

**259. Refereed Roundtable Session**  
**Palais des congrès de Montréal, 516C**

Session Organizer: *Chris Rhomberg, Fordham University*

**Table 01: *Agricultural Industry and Work***

Table President: *Todd E. Vachon*, University of Connecticut

Seeds, Serfs and Society: Farmers on Trial. *Nathan Russell Collins*, The University of Kansas

We're Losing Time: Laboring and Waiting Among Borderlands Agricultural Workers. *Kathleen Ann Griesbach*, Columbia University

**Table 02: *Restructuring Work: Professionals and Labor Intermediaries***

Table President: *Louise Birdsell Bauer*, University of Toronto

A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss? Restructuring in Corporate Law Associateships. *Christine A Riordan*, Institute for Work and Employment Research

Organizational Emergence and the Rise of Vendor Management Organizations. *Laureen K. O'Brien*, University of Arizona

**Table 03: *Manufacturing Workers in Comparative Perspective***

Table President: *Corey Pech*

Workers' Views on Plant Closures: The Global Context of Production. *Norene Pupo*, York University; *Hart Walker*

Rebuild Labor Associational Power in the Reactionary Structures. *Changling Cai*, Binghamton University; *Ellen Friedman*, National Education Association

**Table 04: *Wage and Income Policies***

Table President: *Erin Kelly*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Is Universal Basic Income a Disincentive to Work? An Empirical Review. *Sarah Reibstein*, Princeton University

Minimum Wage Increases and Job Satisfaction Among Low-Wage Employees. *Adam Storer*; *Adam D. Reich*, Columbia University

**Table 05: *U.S. Unions and Tactical Diversity***

Table President: *Tom Juravich*, University of Massachusetts

A Varied Repertoire: Tactical Diversity in Former Labor Strongholds. *Amanda Pullum*, California State University-Monterey Bay

The Labor Union Gap: The Fear Factor and Digital Spaces. *Jen Schradie*, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse

**Table 06: *Labor and Social Protection: The Case of Bangladesh***

Table Presider: *Chris Tilly*, University of California Los Angeles

The Regulatory Experiment in Bangladesh: Legitimacy and Worker Safety in the Garment Industry. *Youbin Kang*, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
Organized Labor or Organized Donors: Who Shapes Social Welfare Programs in the Least Developed Nations? *Md. Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan*, *Immigration Research West*

**Table 07: *Resistance and Mobilization Across Race and Class***

Table Presider: *Eric S. Brown*, University of Missouri

The Specter of the 'Black Scab': Strikebreaking and Racialized Class Politics in the Progressive Era. *Amelia Fortunato*, The Graduate Center, CUNY  
The (Culinary) Arts of Resistance: Race and Labor Politics in a Food Service Training Program. *Anna Wilcoxson*, Loyola University Chicago; *Kelly Moore*, Loyola University Chicago

**Table 08: *Informal Labor Around the World***

Table Presider: *Lefeng Lin*, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Organizing at Temp Agencies: The Case of Montréal's Immigrant Workers Centre. *Loïc Malhaire*, Université de Montréal; *Yanick Noiseux*, Université de Montréal  
Informed but Insecure: Working Conditions and Social Security among Paid Domestic Workers in Ecuador. *Erynn Masi de Casanova*, University of Cincinnati

**Table 09: *Labor Mobilization in the Developing World***

Table Presider: *Kim Scipes*, Purdue University Northwest

Opportunity without Organization: Labour Mobilization in Egypt after the 25th January Revolution. *Christopher Barrie*; *Neil Ketchley*, King's College London  
Bringing Labor into Development Studies. *Kim Scipes*, Purdue University Northwest



**Table 10: *Temporary and Contingent Workers: Blue and White Collar***

Table Presider: *Chris Rhomberg*, Fordham University

Intersecting Inequalities and Temporary Employment: Explaining Earnings Inequality Among Inland Southern California's Blue Collar Warehouse Workers. *Ellen R. Reese*, UC-Riverside; *Jason Y. Struna*, University of Puget Sound; *Joel S. Herrera*, UCLA; *Juliann Allison*, UC-Riverside

Wall to Wall: Industrial Unionism at the City University of New York, 1972-2017. *Luke Elliott-Negri*

**Table 11: *Historical Cases: New York City and Puerto Rico***

Table Presider: *Michael Franklin Thompson*, University of North Texas

Case Study of the Labor and Social History of the Land Administration Independent Employee Union Research. *Nelson Arnaldo Vera Hernandez*, University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla Campus  
Labor-Community Alliances and the New York City Welfare Strikes. *Michelle Esther O'Brien*, New York University

**1:30-2:10pm**

**Membership Meeting**

*Section on Labor and Labor Movements Business Meeting*  
**Palais des congrès de Montréal, 516C**

**2:30-4:10pm**

**299. Paper Session. Challenges Facing Canadian Labour**

**Palais des congrès de Montréal, 512H**

Session Organizer: *Chris Rhomberg*, Fordham University

Presider: *Barry Eidlin*, McGill University

Precarious Professionals: Gender Relations in the Academic Profession and the Feminization of Employment Norms. *Louise Birdsell Bauer*, University of Toronto

The Rise of Precarious Work in Northern Ontario's Mines: A Challenge to Canadian Labour. *Reuben N. Roth*, Laurentian University; *Mercedes Steedman*, Laurentian University; *Shelley Condratto*, Laurentian University

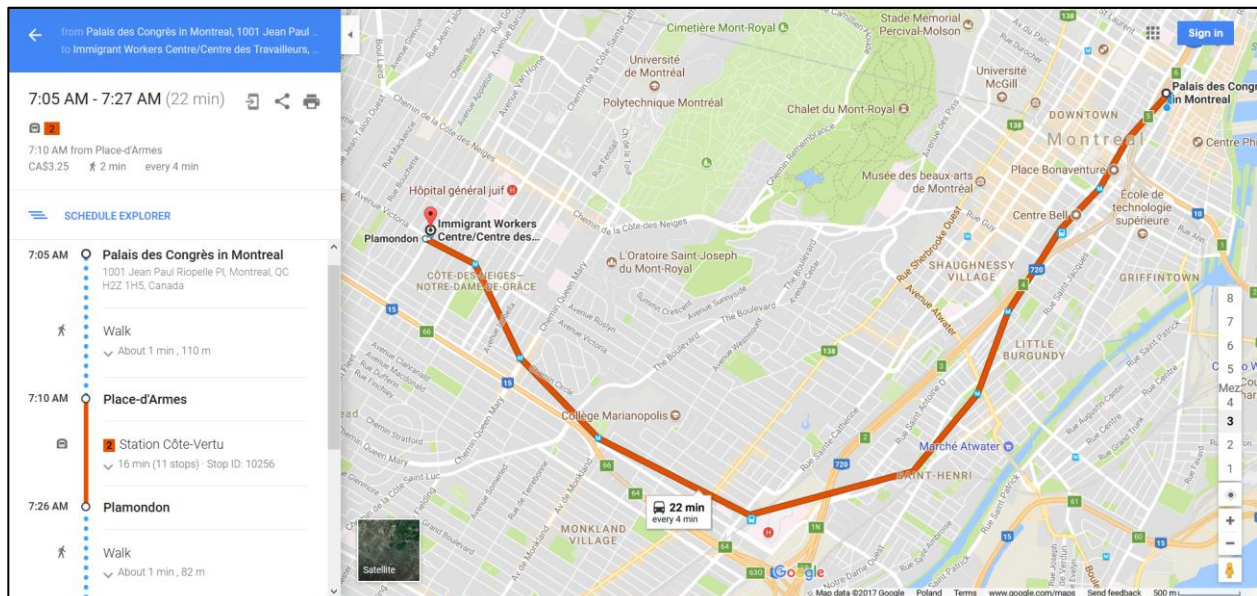
Work and Workers' Movements in Canada After the Great Recession. *Mark Preston Thomas*, York University; *Stephanie Ross*, McMaster University

Local Labour Councils in Québec: A Comparative Approach. *Thomas Collombat*, Université du Québec en Outaouais; *Sophie Potvin*, Université du Québec en Outaouais

6:30-8:30pm

## Section Reception

Immigrant Worker Center/Centre des Travail-leiuses et Travailleurs  
Immigrants (IWC/CTI)  
4755 Van Horne, Office #110 (Metro Plamandon)



## Graduate Members on the Job Market

### *Louise Birdsell Bauer*

Louise Birdsell Bauer is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Toronto. Her thesis is entitled "*Precarious Professionals: Non-Tenure-Track Faculty in Southern Ontario Universities*" (Committee: Cynthia Cranford (Supervisor), Bonnie Fox, Jennifer Chun). While precarity is usually associated with non-professional workers, the emerging case of non-tenure-stream faculty members calls for a new framework challenging both the scholarship on precarious work and precarious worker organizing. Drawing on interviews, archival research and ethnographic data, Louise uncovers the ways in which employment contracts and working conditions impact academic professionals' livelihoods, professional development and integration, arguing that economic insecurity and working conditions combine to marginalize professional workers



economically and culturally in complex ways not previous explored in the precarious employment literature. Other research looks at unionism and the gendered and racialized social relations of work in the social services. The common thread in her current research is the differential impact of institutional arrangements on workers' experiences, attitudes and lives. Louise's work has been published in the [\*Canadian Review of Sociology\*](#) and [\*Work, Employment & Society\*](#).

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### ***Michael Gibson-Light***

*PhD Candidate, University of Arizona, School of Sociology*

Michael is a scholar of work, punishment, economic practice, and culture, specializing in the study of prison labor. His dissertation, titled "Capital or Punishment: Inmate Labor in the Contemporary American Prison," entails an 18-month ethnography within one U.S. men's state prison and over 80 in-depth interviews with prisoners and prison staff. It investigates the structure and practice of inmate labor,



revealing a stratified prison employment system in which inmates compete for few "good prison jobs." Certain groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, foreign nationals, and those lacking privileged forms of capital or marketable work skills, face significant additional hurdles to securing meaningful work, impacting their resources within prison and resumes upon release. Outside inequalities are reinforced by how inmates are assigned to work sites, how individual jobs are organized and managed, and the practices and dispositions of inmate workers—that is, through the interplay of the structure of the prison employment system and the strategic action of actors within it. Social barriers are here reproduced not between the poor and rich or the incarcerated and free, but within the narrower range of social class occupied by the inmate population. Hence, while incarceration "marks" all offenders, the skills and qualifications with which they enter prison have powerful effects as well. Early findings regarding informal inmate practices have been reported in [\*The Guardian\*](#), [\*Washington Post\*](#), [\*BBC\*](#), [\*NPR\*](#), [\*The Atlantic\*](#), [\*USA Today\*](#), [\*Time\*](#), [\*US News & World Report\*](#), and over 100 other outlets. Two solo-authored papers derived from this research are currently under review. Previous works have been published in [\*Poetics\*](#) and [\*Cinta de Moebio\*](#).

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## ***Todd Vachon***

*Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut*

I study societal problems and social inequalities of contemporary capitalism in affluent societies, both internationally and within the U.S. My interest in these issues and movements to address them stems from a deep commitment to social justice; a commitment that is evident in my participation in the labor and environmental movements, including my role in helping to organize a union at my University and serving as founding president of the Graduate Employee Union-UAW Local 6950. My research agenda engages in macro analyses of country-level data and micro-level analyses of interactive processes in dynamic institutional settings, and encompasses a range of methods, including sophisticated modelling of longitudinal, country-level data, analyses of survey data, and use of ethnographic methods such as participant observation and in-depth interviewing. My research has been published in journals such as [Socius](#), [Sociological Forum](#), and [Labor Studies Journal](#). My dissertation, “Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice” focuses on the nascent labor-climate movement that is promoting climate protection and working-class environmentalism within the labor movement. Using a multi-institutional perspective, I examine the framing processes of SMOs at three levels: local, national, and international. In their pursuit of a just transition for workers and the environment, these SMOs are simultaneously reshaping regulatory and cultural norms within society and the American labor movement. To learn more about my research and teaching interests or to view my CV, please visit my website at [www.vachonsociology.com](http://www.vachonsociology.com).



Dissertation Title: “Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice.”  
Committee: Michael Wallace [chair], Mary Fisher, Brian Obach, Jeremy Pais, and Lyle Scruggs

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## ***Nathan Wilmers***

I am a PhD candidate in Harvard Sociology, researching wage and earnings inequality, economic sociology and the sociology of labor. My dissertation is on the role of employers in rising wage inequality. It is supervised by Bruce Western (Chair), Sasha Killewald and Frank Dobbin.

In my dissertation, I study how shifting relations between companies affect wage inequality. Rising earnings inequality since the 1970s has come mostly from growing wage differences between different companies, not between co-workers. Drawing on economic sociology,



I provide new evidence on the distributional effects of supply chain restructuring, rising product market concentration and skill segregation across firms.

In previous research, I estimate the causal effect of union activism on union members' wages. In an ongoing survey project with Barry Eidlin, we study how union democracy affects union effectiveness. My research appears in the [American Journal of Sociology](#) and [Social Forces](#) and has been covered in [The Washington Post](#), [NBC News](#) and [CNBC](#).

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### ***Eli R. Wilson***

"Eli R. Wilson received his PhD in Sociology from University of California, Los Angeles in June of 2017, and will be a visiting scholar at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment in the fall of 2017. His research both examines and challenges the reproduction of inequality in urban labor markets by bringing together the sociology of work, race/ethnicity, and immigration. Eli's dissertation, entitled "Serving Across the Divide: Race, Class, and the Production of Restaurant Service in Los Angeles", is based on a five-year ethnographic study of upscale restaurants in Los Angeles. The chair of his dissertation is Ruben Hernandez-Leon. Eli's published works can be found in [Racial and Ethnic Studies](#), [Research in the Sociology of Work](#), and *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. He can be reached at [eli.revelle.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:eli.revelle.wilson@gmail.com), or by cell: [\(808\)291-3371](tel:(808)291-3371)."





**Call for Abstracts: RC44 Labor Movements**  
**ISA World Congress, Toronto: July 15-21, 2018**



We have an exciting programme of sessions lined up for the Toronto Congress in 2018! I would like to draw your attention to the ISA call for Abstracts (Papers) for the Congress in Toronto, 15-21 July 2018, which was sent out in the May issue of the ISAGram. Please note that the call for papers is open **until 30 September 2017** and that, as always, all abstracts must be **uploaded to the online platform** by the deadline. There are no exceptions that can be made.

To access the call for abstracts, please go to our website and follow the links. You will need to upload an abstract to the specific Session:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc44-labor-movements/>

Or follow the links from the ISA main page for the Congress:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/call-for-abstracts/>

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

Bridget KENNY,  
University of Witwatersrand, South Africa,  
[Bridget.Kenny@wits.ac.za](mailto:Bridget.Kenny@wits.ac.za)

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium481.html>

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/call-for-abstracts/>

## Call for Abstracts:

**36<sup>th</sup> International Labour Process Conference (ILPC), Buenos Aires:**

**March 21-23, 2018**

Over the past 35 years, the ILPC has earned its reputation as a cornerstone of insightful empirical research and cutting edge theoretical debate within the labour process and work organization tradition. The ILPC 2018, to mark the border crossing to the southern hemisphere, will aim to add a class perspective to its traditional focus on work and employment relations in the broader political economy and to be the ideal meeting point to ‘cross borders’ between scholars from different disciplines and international backgrounds.

Confirmed keynote speakers so far include **David Harvey**, **Leo Panitch** and **Marcelo Leite Lopes**.

The deadline for submission of abstracts and proposals is **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, via ILPC’s website. For more information please check the Conference’s website [www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)

Hope to see you in Buenos Aires, and contact us at [ilpc2018@gmail.com](mailto:ilpc2018@gmail.com) should you have any questions.

Maurizio Atzeni, Clara Marticorena y Julia Soul  
*Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones Laborales, CEIL, CONICET*

Jerónimo Montero  
*UNSAM, CONICET y Universidad de Buenos Aires*

Rodolfo Elbert  
*Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani, CONICET y Universidad de Buenos Aires*

### **‘Class and the Labour Process’**

As the receiving city for millions of European immigrants during the XIX and XX century, Buenos Aires is a European city in Latin America or rather a Latin American capital with (a Southern) European flavor. It is a disproportionate and multifaceted megalopolis, concentrating the symbolic and material elements of political and economic power and huge social contrasts; but, it is also a culturally and intellectually lively city with free universities, independent theaters at the vanguard of the performing arts, cafes and night life. It is a great place that attracts a growing number of international visitors every year. The conference will be held in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, located in the city centre.

#### ***Call for papers and streams***

Class is back at the centre of the debate across the social sciences. From political economy to anthropology, from development studies to geography and from sociology to feminist studies, questions related to labour, its contemporary composition, configuration and position within currently existing capitalism, have been increasingly framed in class relations of inequality.

Moreover, the return of the working class at the centre of politics makes class a timely issue to be discussed. The conference, to mark the border crossing to the southern hemisphere, will thus aim to add a class perspective to its traditional focus on work and employment relations in the broader political economy and to be the ideal meeting point to 'cross borders' between scholars from different disciplines and international backgrounds.

### ***Abstracts and Submissions***

IIPC focuses on three moments of labour: labour processes, labour markets, and labour organizing. Traditional topics that we would welcome submissions on include:

Labour process theory; global value chains and the labour process; worker resistance, industrial relations and trade union strategies  
Labour market and employment policies; skills, knowledge and occupation; regulation, institutions, and the labour process; voice and participation  
Migration and work; gender and identities at work

The special theme of 2018 will be 'Class and the Labour Process.' We particularly welcome empirical and theoretical submissions on the following topics:

Working classes formation in the world economy; labor and urban transformations, the workplace and everyday life  
Labour and global capitalism geographical re-configurations: borders, corridors, special economic zones; Precarious work and the informal economy  
The feminization of labour; dispossessions, migrations and forced labour  
Labour process transformations, trade unions and class organizing; Social movements, work and anti-capitalist strategies  
Work, commons and alternative economies; capitalist contradictions, work and social change; work and value production in the sharing and digital economy

All abstracts are externally refereed. Papers must not have been previously published or presented elsewhere. The abstract should contain clear information about the topic, how it is being investigated and the intended contribution to knowledge. Abstracts relating to new empirical research should contain information about theoretical orientation, findings, methodology and the stage of the research. Abstracts of papers that are concerned solely with theoretical or conceptual matters will need to provide clear information about the nature of the anticipated advance or innovation. Abstracts should be between 350-500 words

### **Call for Symposia**

Proposals are also welcomed for special symposia, based on some form of roundtable self-contained discussion and/or activists researchers interchanges of such topics rather than paper-based sessions. The deadline for submissions of abstracts and proposals for symposia is ***31st October 2017*** via the IIPC website ([www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)).



## Recent Publications by Section Members

de Graauw, Els, and Shannon Gleeson. 2017. "Context, Coalitions, and Organizing: Immigrant Labor Rights Advocacy in San Francisco and Houston." p. 80-98. in *The City Is the Factory: Social Movements in the Age of Neoliberal Urbanism*. Edited by Miriam Greenberg and Penny Lewis. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Stillerman, Joel. 2017. "Explaining Strike Outcomes in Chile: Structural Power, Associational Power, and Spatial Strategies." *Latin American Politics and Society*. 59, 1 (Spring): 96-118.

Azzellini, Dario:

"Class Struggle in the Bolivarian Process: Workers' Control and Workers' Councils." *Latin American Perspectives*, 44.1: 126-139. 2017.

"This is a process not a protest. Globale urbane Proteste, Betriebsbesetzungen zur Produktion unter Arbeiterkontrolle und locale Selbstverwaltung." sub/urban. Zeitschrift für kritische Stadtforschung. 2.2-3: 83-102. 2016.

"Labour as a Commons: The Example of Worker-Recuperated Companies". *Critical Sociology*, 1-14. 2016.

"21st Century socialism? Venezuela's solidarity, social, popular and communal economy." Scott Cato, Molly; North, Peter (Eds.): *Towards Just and Sustainable Economies. Comparing Social and Solidarity Economy in the North and South*. Bristol: Policy Press. 2017.

"Constituent and Constituted Power: Reading social transformation in Latin America." Betances, Emelio; Figueroa; Carlos (Eds.): *Popular Sovereignty and Constituent Power in Latin America: Democracy from Below*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 15-40. 2016.

"The Communal State (Venezuela): Communal Councils and Workplace Democracy". In: DuRand, Cliff (Editor): *Moving Beyond Capitalism*. New York: Routledge. 2016.

Scipes, Kim:

2017. "Epic Failure of Labor Leadership in the United States, 1980-2017 and Continuing." *Class, Race and Corporate Power*, Vol. 5, Issue 2, Article 5. On-line at <http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatepower/vol5/iss2/5>.

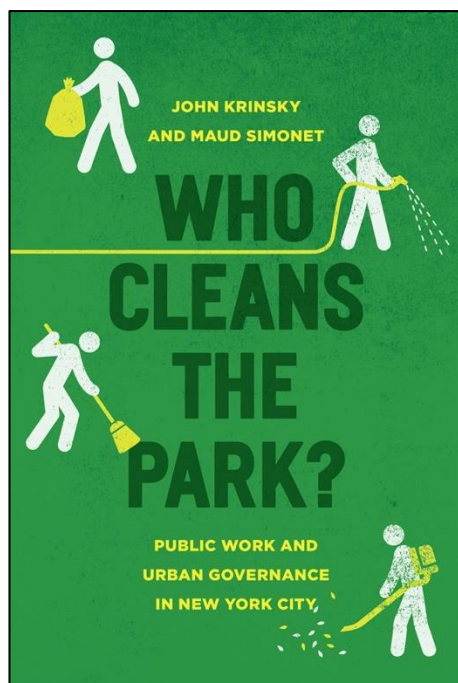
2017. "Addressing Seriously the Environmental Crisis: A Bold, 'Outside the Box' Suggestion for Addressing Climate Change and Other Forms of Environmental Destruction." *Race, Class and Corporate Power*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, Article 2. On-line at <http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatepower/vol5/iss1/2>.

2017. Editor, Issue on "US Labor and Social Justice." *Class, Race and Corporate Power*, Vol., 5, Issue 2 (July): on-line at <http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatempower> .
2017. "Introduction" to Issue on "US Labor and Social Justice." *Class, Race and Corporate Power*, Vol. 5, Issue 2/1. On-line at <http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatempower/vol5/iss2/1> .
2017. "Review: *A Great Vision: A Militant Family's Journey through the 20th Century* by Richard March." *Substance*, June 19. On-line at <http://www.substancenews.net/articles.php?page=6769&section=Article> .
2017. "Review: Black Subjugation in America." *Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture*. Vol. 16, Nos. 1-2 (Spring). On-line at <http://logosjournal.com/2017/review-black-subjugation-in-america/>.

### ***OTHER NEWS***

Kim Scipes taught a course in Summer 2017 on Qualitative Research Methods with 68 students for the Sociology Department at Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He also participated in the International Labor Organisation's first Summer School for Vietnamese Labor Researchers. Labor Studies Department, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. July 2017.

### **New Books by Section Members**



#### **[Who Cleans the Park? Public Work and Urban Governance in New York City](#)**

John Krinsky and Maud Simonet, University of Chicago Press

America's public parks are in a golden age. Hundreds of millions of dollars—both public and private—fund urban jewels like Manhattan's Central Park. Keeping the polish on landmark parks and in neighborhood playgrounds alike means that the trash must be picked up, benches painted, equipment tested, and leaves raked. Bringing this often-invisible work into view, however, raises profound questions for citizens of cities.

In *Who Cleans the Park?* John Krinsky and Maud Simonet

explain that the work of maintaining parks has intersected with broader trends in welfare reform, civic engagement, criminal justice, and the rise of public-private partnerships. Welfare-to-work trainees, volunteers, unionized city workers (sometimes working outside their official job descriptions), staff of nonprofit park “conservancies,” and people sentenced to community service are just a few of the groups who routinely maintain parks. With public services no longer being provided primarily by public workers, Krinsky and Simonet argue, the nature of public work must be reevaluated. Based on four years of fieldwork in New York City, *Who Cleans the Park?* looks at the transformation of public parks from the ground up. Beginning with studying changes in the workplace, progressing through the public-private partnerships that help maintain the parks, and culminating in an investigation of a park’s contribution to urban real-estate values, the book unearths a new urban order based on nonprofit partnerships and a rhetoric of responsible citizenship, which at the same time promotes unpaid work, reinforces workers’ domination at the workplace, and increases the value of park-side property. *Who Cleans the Park?* asks difficult questions about who benefits from public work, ultimately forcing us to think anew about the way we govern ourselves, with implications well beyond the five boroughs.

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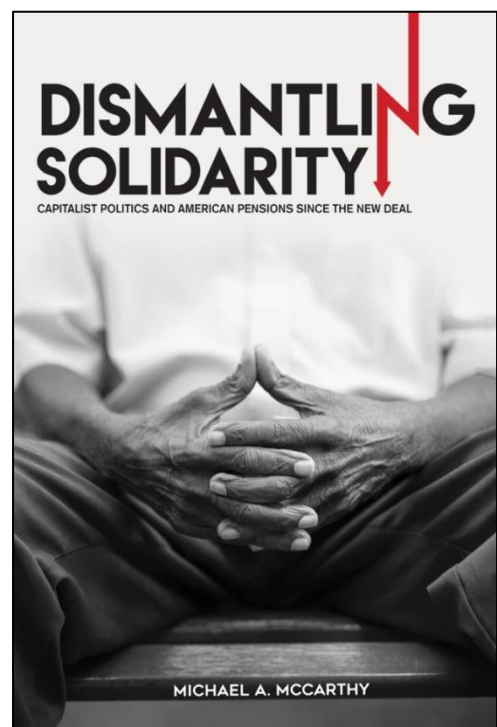
### [Dismantling Solidarity: Capitalist Politics and American Pensions since the New Deal](#)

Michael McCarthy, Cornell/ILR Press

Why has old-age security become less solidaristic and increasingly tied to risky capitalist markets? Drawing on rich archival data that covers more than fifty years of American history, Michael A. McCarthy argues that the critical driver was policymakers’ reactions to capitalist crises and their political imperative to promote capitalist growth.

Pension development has followed three paths of marketization in America since the New Deal, each distinct but converging: occupational pension plans were adopted as an alternative to real increases in Social Security benefits after World War II, private pension assets were then financialized and invested into the stock market, and, since the 1970s, traditional pension plans have come to be replaced with riskier 401(k) retirement plans. Comparing each episode of change, *Dismantling Solidarity* mounts a forceful challenge to common understandings of America’s private pension system and offers an alternative political economy of the welfare state.

McCarthy weaves together a theoretical framework that helps to explain pension marketization with structural mechanisms that push policymakers to intervene to promote capitalist growth and avoid capitalist crises and contingent historical factors that both drive them to intervene in the particular ways they do and shape how their interventions bear on welfare change. By emphasizing

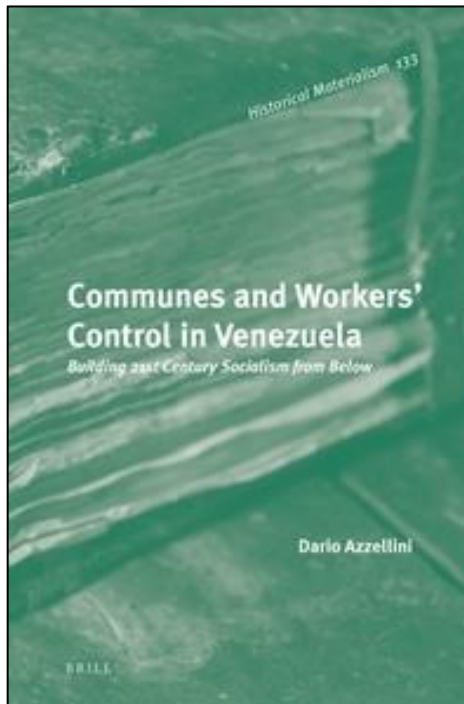


the capitalist context in which policymaking occurs, McCarthy turns our attention to the structural factors that drive policy change. *Dismantling Solidarity* is both theoretically and historically detailed and superbly argued, urging the reader to reconsider how capitalism itself constrains policymaking. It will be of interest to sociologists, political scientists, historians, and those curious about the relationship between capitalism and democracy.

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[Communes and Workers' Control in Venezuela: Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Socialism from Below](#)

Dario Azzellini, Brill



In *Communes and Workers' Control in Venezuela: Building 21st Century Socialism from Below*, Dario Azzellini offers an account of the Bolivarian Revolution from below. While authors on Venezuela commonly concentrate on former president Hugo Chávez and government politics, this book shows how workers, peasants and the poor in urban communities engage in building 21st century socialism through popular movements, communal councils, communes and fighting for workers' control. In a relationship of cooperation and conflict with the state, social transformation is approached on 'two tracks', from below and from above. Azzellini's fascinating account stands out because of the extensive empirical examples and original voices from movements, communal councils, communes and workers.

Special thanks to Shay Chang for her help in producing this issue of *In Critical Solidarity*. Please check out our section web site at <http://asalabormovements.weebly.com/>