Conference Program

Working Class Studies Association

June 3-6, 2009

University of Pittsburgh
Welcome to the 2009 conference of the Working Class Studies Association.

As we hope the program will show, we have tried to honor the tradition of previous conferences at Youngstown State University, SUNY Stony Brook, and Macalester College, by bringing together individuals and groups working to advance the interests of working people in a range of contexts: activists, educators, scholars, artists, students. We are glad you are here, and we look forward to an enjoyable and productive conference.

Organizing this event has been a remarkable collective process. The organizers are grateful for the support and hard work of many people and organizations. At the University of Pittsburgh, thanks go to our main sponsors: the School of Arts and Sciences and Associate Dean Nicole Constable, and the Department of English and its chair David Bartholomae. Thanks also to the many other academic departments and programs (listed on the left), at Pitt and our neighboring institutions, which provided funds, ideas and volunteers to the effort. Key outside supporters have been the Pennsylvania Labor Center, the United Steelworkers, and the Battle of Homestead Foundation, whose Wednesday “breakfast club” formed the nucleus of the local planning committee. The WCSA and its officers—President David Roediger, President-elect Michelle Tokarczyk, and Treasurer Terry Easton—provided advice and support on everything from speakers to budgets, as did Michael Zweig at Stony Brook’s Center for Study of Working Class Life, Sherry Linkon and John Russo at YSU’s Center for Working-Class Studies, and Peter Rachleff at Macalester College.

Thanks also to the faculty, graduate students, and local activists who have helped by hosting out-of-town participants and chairing sessions. Thanks to University Marketing and Communications, Christine Cornely and Marygrace Reder, for their work on the website, posters, and postcards. Thanks to Jennifer Matesa for designing the program and to Mike Stout and Steel Valley Printers for producing it. We are grateful to all the members of the local planning committee whose commitment, savvy, good will and good humor have made the planning process not only manageable but enjoyable: Millie Beik, Dave Demarest, Steffi Domike, Michelle Gaffey, Russ Gibbons, Jim Hohman, Peter Oresick, Melissa Swauger, Rosemary Trump, Jane Walsh, Joe White, Joel Woller, Bill Yund, and Kenyon Zimmer. Special thanks go to four particular helpers for their hard work, attention to detail, and cheerfulness: Daniel Striker for all manner of tech support, Denise Thomas for her expertise on budgets and expenses, Julia Strusienki for keeping track of proposals and meetings, and conference coordinator Nicole Rose Land (“Cole”) for everything else.

Finally, thanks to everyone presenting or performing as a part of this program. We appreciate your interest and participation, which is after all what makes the conference work.

Nick Coles
Charlie McCollester
Co-Chairs
Thursday, June 4

Continental Breakfast—8–8:45 a.m.
WPU Lower Lounge

Sessions A—8:45–10 a.m.

A1. Class(room) Matters: Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogical Approaches to Class / CL363
Chair: Corey E. Andrews, English, Youngstown State University
Forrest Perry, Vanderbilt University
Bettina Spencer, St. Mary’s College
Kevin Ball, Youngstown State University
Paul LeBlanc, History, and Linda Pratt Jordan, English, LaRoche College

A2. Class Matters in Contemporary Fiction / CL216
Chair: Peter Oresick, Writing, Literary and Cultural Studies, Chatham University
Christie Launius, Women’s Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, “Classing Gender and Gendering the Pursuit of Upward Class Mobility in Three Works by Marge Piercy”
Sylvia Cook, English, University of Missouri-St. Louis, “Off the Grid and On the Corner: The Elusive Ubiquity of Class in Contemporary Fiction”
Michele Fazio, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, English, SUNY-Stony Brook, “The Culture of Poverty in Sherman Alexie’s Indian Killer”
Michelle M. Tokarczyk, English, Goucher College, “The Matter of Class: Examining the Lives and Writings of Maxine Hong Kingston, Sandra Cisneros, and Dorothy Allison”

A3. Company Towns / Working-Class Communities: Loyalty, Identity, and Capital Flight / CL252
Chair: Joel Sabadasz, History, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
William Hal Gorby, West Virginia University, “Living on the Historical Margins in Stanisławów: The Communal Response of Polish Catholics at Wheeling’s St. Ladislaus Church, 1895–1925”
Lou Martin, History, Chatham University, “Country Factories: Rural Industrial Workers in Northern West Virginia, 1910–1960”
Will Cooley, Walsh University, “A Company Town Without the Company: Hoover Vacuum, North Canton, and Capital Flight”
A4. Analysis of the world economic crisis and the class struggle in Germany and across Europe / DR-A
Chair: Mike Stout, Musician, Steel Valley Printers
Dieter Ilus, Gesellschaft für soziale Studien der Arbeiterbewegung, Berlin

A5. Intersections of Labor: Constructing a Working Class Identity / CL239
Chair: Lisa Huebner, Women’s Studies, West Chester University
Jane Walsh, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Yolanda Hernandez-Albuhar, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Amy McDowell, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.
Melissa Swauger, Sociology, Carlow University

Chair: Kitty Krupat, Center for Worker Education, Murphy Institute, CUNY
Tom Juravich, Labor Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst,
“At the Altar of the Bottom Line: Using Workers Voices to Explore the Contemporary American Workplace”
Marquita Walker, Labor Studies Program, Indiana University,
 Purdue University, Indianapolis, “The Value of Union-supported Educational Programs in the Lives of Eight Union Members”
Susan Eisenberg, Brandeis University and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, “The Activist Potential of Gallery Exhibitions: On Equal Terms”
Eric Kaufman, National Labor College and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, “’07/’07: A Dramatic Response to the Suffering of Immigrant Workers”

Break—10:10:30 a.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)

Sessions B—10:30-11:45 a.m.

B1. Seeing Beyond Dirt: The Vernacular of Photographs by and about Workers / CL332
Chair: Nick Coles, English, University of Pittsburgh
Presenter: Janet Zandy, English, Rochester Institute of Technology

B2. Chicano and Latino Organic Intellectuals and Activist Scholarship in the Contemporary United States / CL363
Chair: Luis H. Moreno Michigan State University
Dylan Miner, Michigan State University
Jose G. Moreno, Michigan State University
Ernesto Mireles, Michigan State University

B3. Class Matters in the Teaching of Writing / CL216
Chair Irene Lietz, English, Carlow University
Rashmi Bhatnagar, University of Pittsburgh, “How and Why Class Matters in the Teaching of Writing in Freshman Composition”
Clare Connors, University of Pittsburgh, “Getting a Degree Online: An Educational Opportunity for Working-Class Students?”

B4. Political [Mis-]Constructions of Class / CL239
Chair: Jack Metzgar, Humanities, Roosevelt University
Roland Clark, History, University of Pittsburgh, “Work, Workers and Romanian Fascism”
Claudia Ortu, Political Science, University of Cagliari, Italy, “Class struggle matters. The denial of class struggle by British governments (1979-2007)”

B5. Race, Nation, and Class in U.S. Popular Music / CL232
Chair: Mike Stout, Musician, Steel Valley Printers
Marisol Negrón, American Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston, “Made in New York: The Deployment of Working-Class and Puerto Rican Identities during the 1970s Salsa Boom”
Rachel Rubin, American Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston, “‘Dear Uncle Sam’: War and Class Consciousness in Country Music”
James Smethurst, Afro-American Studies, University of Massachusetts, “Have You Seen the Grand Coolie?’ Class and the Iconography of the U.S. West in Brian Wilson and Van Dyke’s Smile”
Jesse Drew, Technocultural Studies, University of California, Davis, “Country Music and Anglo Working Class Culture”

B6. Trouble at the Mill: McKees Rocks and the IWW / DR-B
Chair: Joel Woller, History, Carlow University

B7. Constructing Memory: Ideology, Class, and Gender in the Archives / DR-A
Chair: Jessica Chainer Nowacki, English and Women’s / Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Courtney Maloney, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
Angela Todd, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

Lunch break (off site)—11:45 a.m.—1:15 p.m.

Plenary Session—1:15—2:15 p.m.
Class and Empire / WPU Assembly Room
David Montgomery, Professor Emeritus, History, Yale University
“Imperial Power and the U.S. Working Class: Reflections on the Last Hundred Years”
Chair: Joe White, History, University of Pittsburgh
Sessions C—2:30-3:45 p.m.

C1. The Future of Knowledge Work / CL324
Chair: Sheila Liming, English, Carnegie Mellon University
Michael DuPuis, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Digital Management Theory”
David Haeselin, “Soft wears: Ideology Critique After Immaterial Production”

C2. After the Aftermath: Post-Katrina Louisiana / DR-B
Chair: Elizabeth Esch, History, Barnard College
James V. Catano, English, Film and Media Arts, Women’s and Gender Studies, Louisiana State University, and Gerard P. Byrne, Viaduck Video, “After the Aftermath: Louisiana’s Croatian Fishing Families”
Mimi Yahn, Activist and Researcher, “Post-Katrina Urban Redevelopment in New Orleans: A Corporate Blueprint for Expelling the Working Class and Privatizing an American City”

C3. Contested Markers: Two Views on Historical Commemoration / CL252
Chair: Joel Woller, History, Carlow University
Howling Mob Society, Independent, “The Howling Mob Society Reclaims the Historical Marker”
Kenneth C. Wolensky, Penn State University and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, “Preserving and Interpreting Industrial and Working Class History Sites”

C4. Laboring Bodies in Cultural Spaces / CL-G24
Chair: Nicholas Coles, English, University of Pittsburgh
Rodrigo Andrés, English, University of Barcelona, “The Figure of the Common Sailor in Working-Class American Literature”
Alina Risques, English, University of Barcelona, “Patriots or Traitors: Representations of the Working Class during the American War in Vietnam”
Juan José Cruz, American Studies, University of La Laguna, Tenerife, “Ordinary Bodies, Bland Consciousness: Masculinities and Social Fulfillment in Films of the Reagan Era”
Benita Heiskanen, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, “The Boxing Body in Combat Zones: Operation Iraqi Freedom”

C5. Research By the Rank and File / DR-A
Chair: Ruth Ruttenberg, National Labor College
Joe Jennings, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 456, “Life, Work, and Other Obstacles to Union Participation”
Nicholas Palazzo, International Association of Flight Attendants / Communications Workers of America, “An Inquiry into LGBT Acceptance in the Workplace”
Robert Taylor, Sheet Metal Workers International Union, who’s paper is entitled: “The Death of a Sheetmetal Worker: Dedicated to Art Gyorgydeak.”
Davida Russell, Ohio Association of Public Employees/AFSCME, “The Birth of a Union: The Legacy of Noridean McDonald”

C6. The ‘Ontology’ of the Left in Latin America: Figuring the Working Class in the Era of its Disappearance I / CL501
Chair: John Beverley, Spanish and Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Marta Hernández Salván, Hispanic Studies, University of California at Riverside, “Before and After the Law: The Cuban Revolutionary Hero and Worker”
Oscar Ariel Cabezas, Spanish and Hispanic Studies, Concordia College, “The Cinematic Body of the Working Class in the Age of its Disappearance”
Karen Benezra, Romance Studies, Cornell University, “The Working Class Family as Visual Ideology”

C7. Class Politics in the 2008 US Election / CL-G8
Chair: Celeste Taylor, PA VOICE, Election Administration and Protection
Michael Zweig, Center for Study of Working Class Life, SUNY Stony Brook, “Bending the Arc of History after the 2008 Election”
Jack Metzgar, Humanities, Roosevelt University, “The White Vote in 2008”

Break—3:45–4:15 p.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)

Sessions D—4:15–5:30 p.m.

D1. From Populism to Progressivism: Visions of Reform, 1890s–1930s / DR-B
Chair: Joe White, History, University of Pittsburgh
John Lloyd, History, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, “Class and Democracy in Progressive Era America: Lessons from the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations, 1912–1916”
Csaba Toth, History, Carlow University, “Labor and the People’s Utopia: Re-Examining Donnelly’s Caesar’s Column”

D2. Technical Communication, Students, and Workers / CL358
Chair: Jane Walsh, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Brianrentz, College of Business, University of Connecticut, “Teaching Professional Communication as a Working-Class Academic: A Straddler’s Perspective”
Ehren Helmut Pfugfelder, English, Purdue University, “Of Actors and Assembly Lines: Working Class Studies and Technical Communication”
Lew Caccia, Jr., English, Walsh University, “Production-Floor Rhetoric: Occupational Safety, Reliability, and the Abstract”
D3. Spoken Word I / CL252
Chair: Ellen McGrath Smith, English, University of Pittsburgh
Ava C. Cipri, English, Duquesne University, “Into the Canvas: Accounting for the Presence of Working-class Art in Society”
Katy Rank Lev, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Factory Girl”
Barbara Jensen, Independent Scholar, “Reading Classes: Thoughts on Class, Culture, and Inequality in America”
Gerald McCarthy, English, St Thomas Aquinas College, “Readings from Trouble Light”

D4. Ethnicity, Gender, and Working-Class Identity, 1895–1950 / CL363
Chair: David Roediger, History, University of Illinois
Jim Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “‘Our Jobs’: Irish Americans and Everyone Else in the Workplace and the Union, 1900–1930”
Frank Wolff, BGHS, Bielefeld University, Germany, “Moving on, out and forward? Perspectives and Paradoxes of Bundist Thought and Practice in the Process of Migration, 1905–1950”

D5. Rust Belt Bodies: Deindustrialization and Masculinity / CL238
Chair: John Russo, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University
Anthony Peyronel and Anthony Esposito, Communication and Media Studies, Edinboro University, Pennsylvania, “Blue Collar’ Champions from a ‘Rust Belt’ Community”
James Rhodes, Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, UK, “The ‘Ghost of Youngstown’: Kelly Pavlik, Memory, and the De-Industrialized City”
Andreas Giazi, Durham University, “Deindustrialization, body-building, and ‘glocalization’ in a Northumberland ex-mining town”

D6. The ‘Ontology’ of the Left in Latin America: Figuring the Working Class in the Era of its Disappearance II / CL501
Chair: John Beverley, Spanish and Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Alessandro Fornazari, Hispanic Studies, University of California at Riverside, “The Labor Theory of Value and the Crisis of Neoliberal Capital Accumulation”
Pablo Pérez Wilson, Romance Studies, Cornell University, “What is Class Ontology?”
Susana Draper, Comparative Literature, Princeton University, “Along Heterodox Lines in Latin American Marxism(s): Notes on Insurgency, Rights and Classes”

D7. Voices of the People: Oral and Alternative History / DR-A
Chair: Adrienne Freeland, English and Women’s / Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Kenneth Boas and Giles B. Howard, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Studs Terkel: Alternative History, Voices of the People”
Margaret Costello, Independent Scholar, Stow MA, “Voices from Wiley Ford: Work, Gender, and Life in the Allegheny Mountains”

Business Meeting—5:45–7 p.m.
Association of Working Class Academics / DR-A

Performance / workshop—5:45–7:15
Named for murdered Salvadoran archbishop Oscar Romero, the Denver-based Romero troupe brings people’s history to the public through organic theater.

Cultural Event—8–10 p.m.
A Hammer to Shape Reality / WPU Assembly Room
Drama from Out of This Furnace (Andy Wolk’s adaptation of Thomas Bell’s novel, produced by the Unseam’d Shakespeare Company) and Buried: the Sago Mine Disaster by Jerry Starr.
Music by Anne Feeney and Friends, produced by Marci Woodruff

Friday, June 5

Continental Breakfast—8–8:45 a.m.
Lower Lounge

Site Tour 1—8:30 a.m.–noon
Monongahela: Homestead / Braddock
Reservations required: sign up at registration desk in WPU Lower Lounge

Sessions E—8:45–10 a.m.

E1. On Both Sides of the Lens: Workers’ Photography / CL232
Chair: Maurine Greenwald, History, University of Pittsburgh
Erin Shannon, Workforce Development Institute, “Unseen America NYS: Pictures of Working Lives Taken by Working Hands”
Mary Lou Nemanic, Penn State University, Altoona, “The Disconnect Between the Theory and Practice of Grassroots Photojournalism”
The Rogovin Collection, “Picture Man: the Poetry of Photographer Milton Rogovin,” presented by Janet Zandy

E2. The Stories of Iraq Veterans Against the War: A Lens to Explore Race, Class, and Gender / DR-B
Chair: Scilla Wahrhaftig, American Friends Service Committee
Ruth Meyerowitz, American Studies, SUNY Buffalo
Geoffrey Millard, Iraq Veterans Against the War

E3. Classed Futures: Masculinity and Migration, Self and the Collective in Working-Class Fiction / CL363
Chair: William Scott, English, University of Pittsburgh
Fred Gardaphe, English and Italian American Studies, Queens College and The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, “Class Afterlife: Pietro di Donato’s Commedia della Morte”
Samuele F. S. Pardini, Italian & Interdisciplinary Studies, Elon University, “Steinbeck, Guthrie, Springsteen: From the Politics of the Frontier to the Politics of Sharing”
Tracy Riley, English, CUNY and Women’s and Gender Studies, New Jersey City University, “Bukowski and Crisp: The Self-Confessed Male”

E4. Crude Language in Ivory Towers / CL216
Chair: Brian Hall, English, Cuyahoga Community College
David Allen Stoughton, Theatre, Hamilton College
Heather Lee Schroeder, Journalism and English, Beloit College
David Bernatowicz, History, Cuyahoga Community College

E5. New Frontiers in Anarchist History / CL239
Chair: Kenyon Zimmer, History, University of Pittsburgh
Emma Hilborn and Fredrik Egerf, Lund University, Sweden, “Young Thugs and Anarchists! The Young Socialist Movement, an Early Challenger to the Swedish Social Democratic Development”

E6. Higher Education and Class Warfare / DR-A
Chair: Jeffrey J. Williams, English, Carnegie Mellon University
David Downing, English, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, “The World Bank University”
Heather Steffen, Literary and Cultural Studies, Carnegie Mellon University, “Exploitation and Student Internships”
Jeffrey J. Williams, English, Carnegie Mellon University, “The Post-Welfare State University”

Break—10–10:30 a.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)

Sessions F—10:30–11:45 a.m.

F1. Spoken Word II / CL363
Chair: Peter Oresick, Writing, Literary and Cultural Studies, Chatham University
Lita A. Kurth, Santa Clara University, De Anza College, and Rainier Writers Workshop MFA program, Pacific Lutheran University, “Songs for the Sung and the Unsung: A Selection of Short-Short Stories”
Andi Sciaccia, Bard College, Marist College, and The Culinary Institute of America, “Talking Trash: I Don’t Think This is Working”
Stephen Haven, MFA Program, Ashland University, “Reading from The River Lock: One Boy’s Life Along The Mohawk”

F2. Bridging the Academic/Activist Divide: Learning from the Past, Building for the Future / DR-A
Chair: Sherry Linkon, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University
Terry Easton, Humanities Division, Gainesville State College
Daniel Kerr, History, James Madison University
Lies Orenic, American Studies Program and History Department, Dominican University & Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies

F3. Introducing Students to the Language & Secret Handshake of University Culture / CL216
Chair: Jean Grace, Public and Professional Writing, University of Pittsburgh
Kathleen A. Welsch, English, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, “Learning the Language”
Diane Kendig, English, Bentley University, “Doing More with Less”
Rob McGovern, Independent Scholar, “Handing Over the Keys”

F4. Labor and Contemporary Class Conflict in Canada / CL239
Chair: Michael Zweig, Center for Study of Working Class Life, SUNY Stony Brook
Larry Savage, Labour Studies, Brock University, “The Paradox of Labour Politics in Québec”
Reuben N. Roth, Sociology & Labour Studies, Laurentian University, “Twelve Days that Shook the (Auto) World: The 2008 GM Oshawa Blockade—Worker Attitudes and Prospects for Reinvigorated Unionism”

F5. Struggling For A Working Class Perspective In The Classrooms of Colonized and Oppressed Communities: A Mexican/Raza Perspective / CL232
Chair: Maureen Gallagher, English and Women’s / Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Ernesto Bustillos, Association of Raza Educators
Mariana Ramirez, Association of Raza Educators
Francisco Romero, Association of Raza Educators

F6. Working-Class Academics’ Perspectives on Class and Pedagogy / DR-B
Chair: Allison Hurst, Kenyon College
Stacy Denton, Humanities, Concordia University, Montreal, “Trauways, Byways and Off-Road Consciousness”
Teresa A. Griffin, Wesley College, “Teaching with Free Software”
Irene Lopez and Allison Hurst, Kenyon College, “Teaching Amidst
Plenary Session—1:15–2:15 p.m.
Labor and Globalization / WPU Assembly Room
Bill Fletcher, Jr., Director, Field Services & Education Department, American Federation of Government Employees
Fred Redmond, International Vice President for Human Affairs, United Steelworkers
Chair: Rosemary Trump, Pennsylvania Labor History Society

Sessions G—2:30–3:45 p.m.

G1. “E-Activism and Immigrant Rights” / CL232
Lee Siu Hin, National Immigrant Solidarity Network, [Three-hour workshop, continues as Session H1]

G2. Pittsburgh Poets in Performance / DR-B
Chair: Peter Oresick, Writing, Literary and Cultural Studies, Chatham University
Jan Beatty, Carlow University
Terrance Hayes, Carnegie Mellon University
Judy Vollmer, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

G3. Competing Visions of the White Working Class in Popular Media / CL363
Chair: Dr. Jennifer Snyder-Dutch, Carlow University
Thomas Sabatini, Kent State University Trumbull Campus and Youngstown State University, “Rediscovering and Redefining the White Working Class in the Late 1960s and 1970s: New Hollywood Brats and Country Music Outlaws”
Holley Wlodarczyk, Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society, University of Minnesota, “Working for a Living on Roseanne: Class Confusion and Transitional Television”

G4. Politics of Public Education: Funding, Markets, Job Tracks / CL216
Chair: Kitty Krupat, Center for Worker Education, Murphy Institute, CUNY
Pepi Leistyna, Department of Educational Policy Studies and Research, UMass Boston, and Ken Saltman, DePaul, “Philanthropy, Public Education, and Class Warfare”
Anthony Tambureno, Sociology and Equity Studies in Education, University of Toronto, “Post-Secondary Stratification, ‘Cooling-Out’, and Social Immobility: the Role of College Teachers as Middle Class Gatekeepers”
Hans Dietrich, Institute for Employment Research, Nurnberg, Germany, “Why Working-Class Children Are Less Likely to Go to University”

G5. Labor Strategies in a Globalized Economy / CL239
Chair: Steffi Domike, Communications Coordinator, United Steelworkers Associate Member Program
Robin Alexander, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers
Dan Kovalik, United Steelworkers

G6. When Class Doesn’t Matter: The Battle to Bring Working-Class Literature to Students Who Live It but Aren’t Allowed to Read or Write About It! / DR-A
Chair: Melissa Swauger, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Sue V. Lape, Columbus State Community College
David A. Grant, Columbus State Community College
Jan E. Schmittauer, Ohio University-Chillicothe

G7. Rethinking Working Class Pedagogy / CL324
Chair: Marianne Holohan, English, Duquesne University
Maggie Hannan, West Virginia University, “The Space Between: Complicating Class(ification) in Working Class Pedagogy”
Doug Sweet, Undergraduate Writing Program, Chapman University, “‘Social’ Learning and the Competitive Problematic”
Amy Foerster, Sociology and Anthropology, Pace University, and Jonathan Silverman, English, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, “Work, Class and the American Dream: Discussions of an Interdisciplinary Course Devoted to Work and Its Contexts”

Break—3:45–4:15 p.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)

Sessions H—4:15–5:30 p.m.

H1. “E-Activism and Immigrant Rights” / CL232
Lee Siu Hin, National Immigrant Solidarity Network [3-hour workshop, continuation of Session G1]

H2. Economic Distress and the Current Crisis / DR-B
Chair: Michael Comiskey, Penn State University, Fayette Campus
Michael Zweig, Center for Study of Working Class Life, SUNY Stony Brook, Junyi Zhu and Daniel Wolman, Economics, SUNY Stony Brook, “Measures of Economic Distress and Their Implications for Understanding Poverty”
Bill Fletcher, Jr., Director, Field Services & Education Department, American Federation of Government Employees, “Roots of the Current Crisis”

H3. Anarchist Theory Past and Present / CL501
Chair: Marie Skoczylas, Pittsburgh Organizing Group
Carol V. Hamilton, University of Pittsburgh, “Bakunin, Marx, Orwell: The Proletariat and the Lumpenproletariat”
Nathan J. Jun, Philosophy, Midwestern State University, “Participatory Economics, Anarch-Syndicalism, and the Contemporary Working Class”
H4. Labor Uses Literature: Workers’ Movements in Poetry, Theater, and Television / CL216
Chair: Megan Kelly, English and Women’s/Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Tim Fowler, Independent Scholar, “Trade Unions In Modern Science Fiction Television”
John Marsh, English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “Affect, Poetry and the United Auto Workers”
Tiffany Knight Raymond, University of Southern California, “Flint’s Sit-Down Becomes Sit-Down!: Union Success Translated to Depression-Era Labor Theatre”
Chris Vials, SUNY Buffalo State College, “Usable Pasts and Transnational Politics in the U.S. Productions of Hauptmann’s The Weavers”

H5. Pedagogy and the Making of the Working-Class: A Comparative Study / CL239
Chair: Jean Ferguson Carr, English and Women’s Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Matthew Kendrick, English, University of Pittsburgh, “A Child like an emptie new vessell”: Representing Children and Class in Early Modern Pedagogy”
Katherine Kidd, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Running Down a Dream: Class Realities and the Student Athlete”
Colleen Jankovic, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Imagine: An Israeli Jew Mistaken for a Gaza Arab!’: Visualizing Class and Race in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”
Alicia Williamson, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Victims of Defective Education”: Prostitution, Class, and (the Limits of) Critical Consciousness in the Progressive Era Radical Novel”

H6. Workers’ Control v. Controlled Workers: Managerial Strategies and Workers’ Resistance / DR-A
Chair: Millie Beik, Independent Scholar, Pittsburgh
Funmi Adeyemi, Industrial Relations, College of Business and Social Sciences, Crawford University, Faith City, Igbesa, Nigeria, “Globalisation, Strategic Human Resource Management and Control of the Labour Process”
Loly Aylu Galtán Guerrero and Maria Del Pilar López Uribe, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, “The Transmission of Knowledge in the Women Schools and the Labor Market During the First Half of the 20th Century in Bogotá, Colombia”

H7. Dynamics of Race and Class in Three Labor Contexts / CL363
Chair: Scott Smith, History, University of Pittsburgh
Conor McCabe, Independent Scholar, ““Fair Play’ for the Beef Trade: Cattle and Class in Ireland, 1922–1975”
C.J. Hawking, Executive Director, Arise Chicago, “Race, Gender, and Class Consciousness in a Labor Conflict: A.E. Staley”

WCSA Banquet & Awards Presentation—6:30–8:00 p.m.
WPU Ballroom

Open Mic—8:00–10 p.m.
Hosted by Smokestack Lightnin’ / WPU Assembly Room
Sing a song, read a poem, tell a story. 5 minutes max. Sign up at registration. Musical back-up on hand.

Saturday, June 6
Continental Breakfast—8–8:45 a.m.
Site Tour 2—8:30 a.m.—noon
Ohio Valley: Allegheny Landing / McKees Rocks
Reservations required: sign up at registration desk in WPU Lower Lounge

Sessions I—8:45–10 a.m.

I1. “Class War in the Classroom: A Critical Pedagogy Experiment for Working-Class Students” / CL232
Ira Shor, Professor, Composition / Rhetoric, Graduate Center, City University of New York [Three-hour workshop, continues as Session J1]

I2. Attaining and Retaining Workers’ Rights in the New Administration: Predictions and Strategies / CL363
Chair: Ellen Dannin, Penn State Dickinson School of Law
Raja Raghunath, Civil Rights Clinical Fellow, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, “Individual Workers at the Mercy of the Union”
Anne Marie Lofaso, West Virginia University College of Law, “Dissenter Speech and the Creation of Robust Industrial Democracy”
Ellen Dannin, Penn State Dickinson School of Law, “Looking for Labor Rights in All the Wrong Places or Learning History’s Lessons”

I3. Dialectics of Race and Class in U.S. History / DR-A
Chair: Jim Barrett, History, University of Illinois
Gary Hicks, Independent Scholar, “The Struggle for Black Liberation, 1970-2008: Reaffirming the Working Class in Our Fight”
Steve Martinot, Independent Scholar, “How Racialization Has Produced a Dual Class System in the US”
William McKee Evans, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, “Why Were Industrial Jobs in the Antebellum North for Whites Only?”
Robert M. Zecker, History, Saint Francis Xavier University, “Black and White and Read All Over: How the Immigrant Press Taught Slovaks to Think Like White People”
I4. Media, Labor, Class / CL216
Chair: Joseph B. Atkins, Journalism, University of Mississippi, “Media’s corporate view of working class issues in the ‘Big Three’ auto bailout, immigration issues, and current economic crisis.”
Martin Fishgold, The Unionist, AFSCME, “The labor hierarchy’s control of its own media and failure to allow in-depth exploration of issues and working class militancy”
Mark Lynn Anderson, Film Studies, University of Pittsburgh, “Labor Divided: The AFL’s Fight Against Film Censorship in the 1920s”

I5. Place, Struggle, Form in US Working-Class Fiction / DR-B
Chair: Janet Zandy, English, Rochester Institute of Technology
Cinzia Biagiotti, Anglistica, University of Pisa, Italy, “Holding Up Our Head: ‘Requa’ by Tillie Olsen”
Charles Cunningham, English, Eastern Michigan University, “Resisting Acquisitive Individualism in 1950s U.S. Fiction”
Larry Smith, Bowling Green State University’s Firelands College and Bottom Dog Press, “What Marks an Appalachian Working-Class Text?”

I6. The World Is What We Make It: Teaching Working Class Students in the Creative Writing Classroom / CL332
Chair: Michelle Gaffney, English and Women’s/Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Vincent Samarco, English, Saginaw Valley State University
Craig Bernier, English, Duquesne University
Adrienne Lewis, English, Davenport University

Break—10–10:30 a.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)

Sessions J—10:30–11:45 a.m.

Ira Shor, Professor, Composition / Rhetoric, Graduate Center, City University of New York
[3-hour workshop, continued from Session I1]

Chair: David Struthers, History, Carnegie Mellon University
Robert P. Helms, Independent Scholar, “Personal Reminiscences of Paul Avrich”
Kenyon Zimmer, History, University of Pittsburgh, “Anarchism and Syndicalism in the Russian Revolution: Reassessing Avrich’s Work in Light of Recent Historiography”
Barry Pateman, Emma Goldman Papers, University of California, “Facing the Enemy: Anarchist History and the Working Class”
Davide Turcato, Simon Fraser University, “Paul Avrich and the ‘Intellectual Backwater’ of Historiography”

J3. Look Out, Speak Up, Bring Together: Class Matters as Performance / CL332
Chair: Kimberley A. Bouchard, Theatre and Dance, SUNY Potsdam
John Massaro, Politics, SUNY Potsdam
Student performers: Molly Clancy, Caitlin Dalton, Erin Harrington, Jason Harris, Seth Leisman, Olivia Quillio, and Mary Rubio, SUNY Potsdam

J4. Resistance and Negotiation: Students’ Responses to Working-Class Texts / CL216
Chair: Amanda Haertling Thein, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh
DeAnn Long Sloan, Amanda Haertling Thein, and Megan Guise, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, “Students’ Negotiations of Social Class in Dorothy Allison’s Bastard Out of Carolina”
Melissa Faulkner, Cedarville University, Melissa Toomey and Alisa A. Balestra, Miami University of Ohio, “Pedagogy of the Depressed: Student Resistance to Working-Class Texts”

J5. Economic Crisis, the Changing Working Class, and Praxis / CL239
Chair: Harry Targ, Political Science, Purdue University and National Executive, Committee of Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
David Cormier, Institute for Labor Studies and Research, West Virginia University, “Class and Income Inequality: An Empirical Look at the Role of Income Distributions and Inequality in Defining Class in the U.S.”
Carl Davidson, United for Peace and Justice, Progressives for Obama, “Building New Grassroots Movements: Workers and Green Jobs”
Janet Tucker, Kentuckyans for the Commonwealth, “What’s the Matter with Kentucky?” Workers, Race, and Kentucky in Crisis”

Chair: Cherie Rankin, English, Heartland Community College
Estye Ross Fenton, Sociology, Northeastern University, “Sexuality, Class, and Work in the Ethnographic Representation of Poor, Urban, Black Women”
Lisa Schwartz, English, University of Pittsburgh, “Conceits of Second-Wave Feminism in Lesbian Coming-Out Narratives”

Lunch Break (off site)—11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
Plenary Session—1:15–2:15 p.m.
Roundtable: The Future(s) of Working Class Studies / WPU Assembly Room
Chair: Kitty Krupat, Murphy Institute, CUNY, Past President, WCSA
David Roediger, History, University of Illinois, President, WCSA
Michelle Tokarczyk, English, Goucher College, President Elect, WCSA
John Beck, Labor Education, Michigan State University, and
Yvonne Lockwood, Traditional Arts Program, Michigan State University Museum, “Building a Center at the Margin: Creating a University Home for Workers’ Culture without a Disciplinary Home”

Sessions K—2:30–3:45 p.m.
K1. Visions in Green and Rust: Poetry and Photography / DR-B
Chair: Steffi Domike, United Steelworkers Associate Member Program
Paola Corso, Western Connecticut State University, and George Thomas Mendel, Independent Scholar, “Vision in Green: A Poetry Photography Book Project”
Karen J. Weyant, English, Jamestown Community College, “The World Has Turned to Rust: Reflections on Working-Class Landscapes Through the Eyes of Contemporary Poets”

K2. Coalitions: Bringing Community, Environment, and Labor Together to Win / CL239
Chair: Tom Hoffman, Clean Water Action
Hillary Bright, Blue-Green Alliance
Rachel Canning, Pittsburgh United
Rachel Martin, Sierra Club
Carl Redwood Jr., One Hill/Hill District Consensus Group

K3. Composition Intersections: Race, Class, and Labor in the Teaching of Writing / CL216
Chair: Julie Beaulieu, English, University of Pittsburgh
Racheal Forlow, University of Pittsburgh, “Critical Reflection in Composition Pedagogy: Encounter as Relational Palimpsest”
Irene Lietz, Carlow University, “Locating Student Voices in a Race-Themed Writing Classroom”
Andrew Rihn, English, Kent State University, Stark, “The Writing Center: A Place for Undergraduate Academic Labor”
Pamela VanHaitsma, San Francisco State University, “Class Matters in Composition: Constructions of ‘Basic Writer’ and ‘First-Generation College Student’”

Chair: Charles McCollester, Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Labor Relations, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Brian Zbriger, Binghamton University, “Recuperated Enterprises and the Solidarity Economy in Argentina”
Mónica Ibáñez-Angulo, Sociology, Universidad de Burgos, Spain, “Policies of Inclusion and Exclusion: Citizens’ Rights Among Bulgarian Transnational Migrants”
Ahmed Aminu Yusuf, “‘The Inflation Theory Is Nothing but a Bogey’: The Ideas and Issues that Made the 1945 General Strike in Nigeria”

K5. To Meet Their Needs: African-American Working Families and the Co-option of Institutional Assistance Programs / DR-A
Chair: Jared Day, History and Engineering & Public Policy Departments, Carnegie Mellon University
Kate Chilton, History, Carnegie Mellon University, “She could as well have her share as not”: Former Slaves and the Freedmen’s Bureau in the District of Columbia, 1865-1870”

K6. International Working-Class Cinema / CL324
Chair: Mark Anderson, English and Film Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Hadi Gharabaghi, New York University, “Bing Ai: Neoliberalism, Desire, and the Rural Citizenship in Postsocialist China”

K7. Working-Class Students and Higher Education / CL363
Chair: Leslie Schuster, History & Women’s Studies, Rhode Island College
Roxanne Moschetti, Child & Adolescent Development, California State University, Northridge and Cynthia Hudley, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Understanding the Experiences of White, Working-class, First-Generation Community College Students”
Robert Longwell-Grice, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “The Intersection of Class and Education: One First Generation Family’s Journey into Higher Education”

Break—3:45–4:15 p.m.
Refreshments (Lower Lounge)
Sessions L—4:15–5:30 p.m.

Chair: Joel Woller, History, Carlow University

L2. Documentary films and filmmakers / CL232
Chair: Gina Bessetti, English and Womens’/Gender Studies, Duquesne University
Tony Buba, Independent Filmmaker, Pittsburgh, and Judy Barricella, Disability Connection, “Voices of Our Region: the Disability Connection”
Susan Legere, Sociology, Boston College, “Immigrant Reflections: Voices of University Service workers”

L3. Work Matters: Gendered Service in Language and Literature Workplaces / CL239
Chair: Jeffrey Williams, English, Carnegie Mellon University
Michelle Massé, English & Women’s and Gender Studies, Louisiana State University
Katie Hogan, Women’s Studies, Carlow University
Andrea Adolph, Kent State University, Stark Campus

L4. Improving Working Class Journalism: New Initiatives at the Center for Working-Class Studies / DR-B
Chair: Sherry Linkon, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University
Alyssa Lenoff, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University, “Making the Working Class Visible: A Traveling Exhibition and Interactive Website about Changes in Work in Youngstown”
Timothy Francisco, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University, “Working with Journalism Students: Case studies of student reporting on Sago, West Virginia and Allentown, Pennsylvania and the Uses of Press Day”

John Russo, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University, “Developing Relationships with the Media, Youngstown State University, “Developing Relationships with the Media: Ideas for Improving Journalistic Practice on Work and Place”

L5. Urban, Suburban, Exurban: Class Politics of Space, Home, Identity / CL363
Chair: David Roediger, History, University of Illinois
Michael Polson, Anthropology, City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, “Placing the Exurbs: Realizing Capital and Class in Northern California”
Sherry Lynn Holland, Anthropology, Wayne State University, Akasha Flugge, Photographer, and Elizabeth W. Engles, Anthropology, Wayne State University, “Constructing White Identities in Metropolitan Detroit”

Chair: Bill Yund, Independent Artist, Pittsburgh
Gary Huck, Cartoonist, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

Business Meeting—5:45–7 p.m.
Working Class Studies Association / CL232

Event—8–10 p.m.
Hometown Jazz / WPU Assembly Room
With Nelson Harrison and the Pittsburgh Jazz Network All-Stars

Sunday, June 7

Site Tour 3—8:30–11:45
Allegheny Valley: St. Nicholas Croatian Church, Millvale / Rachel Carson Home, Springdale
Reservations required: sign up at registration desk, WPU Lower Lounge
Best Wishes
to the Working Class Studies Association

for a
Successful
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