

Memory vs. Forgetting Labor History and the Archive

Southern Labor Studies Association
Bi-Annual Conference

April 7-10, 2011

Atlanta, Georgia

Memory vs. Forgetting

Labor History and the Archive

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Southern Labor Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference

Thursday, April 7

Thursday 9:00-5:00

Registration and Bookstore Open

Thursday 11:00-1:00

LAWCHA Board Meeting – Savannah 3

Thursday 1:00-1:30

Coffee Break

Thursday 1:30-3:30

Session 1a – Valdosta Room

ROUNDTABLE: Southern Civil Rights and Labor Activism in the 1970s

Modibo Kadalie, Fayetteville State University

“Atlanta Metro Strikes and Anti-Racist Activism – Reflections of a Participant”

Matthew Quest, Georgia State University

“From Workers Inquiry to Roots of Class Struggle: Ken Lawrence’s Labor Journalism”

Akiyele Umoja, Georgia State University

“Armed Self-Defense in the Southern Civil Rights Movement”

Special Guest and Comment: Ken Lawrence

Session 1b – Savannah 1

ROUNDTABLE: Using the Texas Labor Archives at the University of Texas at Arlington

Claire Galloway, University of Texas at Arlington

“The Challenges of Running a Labor Archives”

Joseph Abel, Rice University

“Investigating Black Workers in White Unions: Using the Special Collections Division of the UT-Arlington Library”

Zaragosa Vargas, University of North Carolina

“Researching the History of the Mexican American Labor Civil Rights Movement: Using the Special Collections at UT-Arlington Library”

Max Krochmal, Duke University

“Working-Class Interracialism: Stories of Electoral Political Coalitions and Civil Rights Struggles from the Texas Labor Archives”

Thursday 3:30-5:00

LAWCHA General Meeting – Valdosta Room

All members and prospective members welcome.

Thursday 6:30-9:00

Reception and Keynote – Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University Library, 8th Floor Library South*

Robert Korstad, Duke University

“Searching for a Usable Past: Fifty Years of Writing Southern Labor History”

Robert Korstad is the Kevin D. Gorter Professor of Public Policy and History at Duke University. He is the author or co-author of several books that draw extensively on oral history, including *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* and most recently (with James L. Leloudis) *To Right These Wrongs: The North Carolina Fund and the Battle to End Poverty and Inequality in 1960s America*. He is also co-director of the oral history project, “Behind the Veil: Documenting African-American Life in the Jim Crow South.”

**Please see back of program for walking or cab directions to this event.*

Friday, April 8

Friday 7:30-8:30

Coffee and Pastries

Registration and Bookstore Open (7:30-5:00)

Friday 8:30-10:00

SLSA General Meeting – Savannah 3

All members and prospective members welcome.

Session 2a – Valdosta Room

Struggle in the South: Textiles and Tourism

Whitney Snow, Mississippi State University

“The Roots of the 1934 National Textile Strike: Huntsville, Alabama”

Marie Tedesco, East Tennessee State University

“Documentation and Memory of the Danville Mills Strike of 1930”

Alyssa Warrick, Mississippi State University

“Bathing Jim Crow: African-American Bath Attendants and Southern Tourism at Hot Springs National Park, 1875-1965”

Chair and Comment: Michelle Brattain, Georgia State University

Friday 10:00-10:15

Coffee Break

Friday 10:15-11:45

Session 3a – Valdosta Room

Closed Shops and Open Shops: New Perspectives on Union Activism and Anti-Unionism in the New South

Robert Cassanello, University of Central Florida

“The Union Shop as a Crisis of Public Space: The 1912 Jacksonville Streetcar Strike”

Chad Pearson, University of Alabama, Huntsville

“‘I Speak for the South’: N.F. Thompson, Urban Development, and the Labor Solution”

Robert H. Woodrum, Georgia Perimeter College – Alpharetta Center

“‘We Are Poor Devils’: Race, Unionism, and the Open Shop Movement Along the Waterfront in Mobile, Alabama”

Chair: Clifford Kuhn, Georgia State University

Comment: Colin Davis, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Session 3b – Savannah 1

Labor Activism in Memphis and Northeast Arkansas

Kenneth Barnes, University of Central Arkansas

“Black Arkansans Look to Japan in 1934”

Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas

“Harvesting History in the Arkansas Delta: The Lee Wilson Collection”

Calvin White, University of Arkansas

“Memphis and the Church of God in Christ: The Intersections of Religion, Labor, and Economic Uplift in a Southern City”

Chair: Mary Rolinson, Georgia State University

Comment: Mary Hoffschwelle, Middle Tennessee State University

Session 3c – Savannah 3

Move Sucka: Social Movement Impact on the Effectiveness of Organizing

Chris Sloan, Georgia State University

“Moving Immigrant Rights Struggles from Mobilization to Movement”

Daniel Horowitz Garcia, Georgia State University

“Moving In, Moving Out: The Strategy of the National Domestic Workers Union and Its Effectiveness During and After Social Movements”

Cecilia Saenz, Community Organizer

“Move Your Body”

Chair and Comment: Taryn Jordan, Independent Scholar

Friday 12:00-1:30

Luncheon – Athens Room

Alessandro Portelli, University of Rome

“Thirty Years of Field Work in Harlan County”

Must present tickets for luncheon.

Alessandro Portelli teaches American literature at the University of Rome. He has been actively involved in the international oral history movement since the 1970s, and serves as advisor on historical memory to the mayor of Rome. Among his published oral history work in English are *The Death of Luigi Trastulli* (SUNY Press, 1991), *The Battle of Valle Giulia* (Wisconsin UP, 1997), *The Order Has Been Carried Out. History, Memory, and Meaning of a Nazi Massacre in Rome* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), and *They Say in Harlan County: An Oral History* (Oxford UP, 2011).

Friday 1:30-3:00

Session 4a – Valdosta Room

Labor, Race, and Unrest: Contested Memory, Contested Accounts

John McKerley, Independent Scholar

“‘Criminal Classes’: Race in the Narrative of the 1877 General Strike in St. Louis”

Ruth Needleman, Calumet College of St. Joseph

“Black Activism vs. Black Scabbing in the 1919 Steel Strike: Resolving Conflict in Data”

James Alexander Robinson, University of Iowa

“The Mind of a Worker Reconsidered: The Case of Railroad Dining Car ‘Employee’ Rienzi Lemus”

Chair: Kerry Taylor, The Citadel

Comment: Robert F. Jefferson, Jr., University of Alabama at Birmingham

Session 4b – Savannah 1

Debating the Politics of History: The Challenge of Narrating Southern Resistance in the 1960s and 1970s

Brett Gadsden, Emory University

“Geographic Sectionalism and the Black Freedom Struggle”

Rachel Donaldson, Vanderbilt University

“Finding What is There: Politics, Authenticity, and Southern Folk Music”

Erik Gellman, Roosevelt University

“Old Wine in New Bottles: The Battle over Historical Memory of the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union”

Chair and Comment: Nan Woodruff, Pennsylvania State University

Session 4c – Savannah 3

Working-Class Women in the Historical Record

Joey Fink, University of North Carolina

“Interpreting the Intimate and Personal in the Archive”

Jessica Wilkerson, University of North Carolina

“The Way I Felt: Private Narratives of Women Workers in East Tennessee”

Bridget Kenny, University of the Witwatersrand

“Serving a Racial Regime: White Women Shop Workers in South Africa and the U.S. South, 1940-1970”

Chair and Comment: Lisa Levenstein, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Friday 3:00-3:15

Coffee Break

Friday 3:15-5:15

Session 5a – Valdosta Room

Signing Up and Walking Out in the 1970s: Possibilities and Constraints for Workers and Their Unions

A. Lane Windham, University of Maryland

“Organizing Shipyards in Newport News, Virginia, 1978-1979”

Michael Stauch, Duke University

“Forge, Stamp, Assemble, Wildcat: Detroit’s Hot Summer in Auto, 1973”

Jon Shelton, University of Maryland

“Striking Against the Public: Teacher Unions and the Decline of Liberalism in the 1970s”

Joseph Hower, Georgetown University

“Baltimore’s Strike Summer, 1974: Municipal Workers’ Militancy and the Politics of Urban Services in an Age of Austerity”

Chair and Comment: Jeff Cowie, Industrial and Labor Relations School, Cornell University

Session 5b – Savannah 1

Comparative Archives: Interrogating the Official Story

Bridget Burke, University of Alaska – Fairbanks

“Strikebreakers, Professional Pride, and Union Busting: Defining Craft through the ITU Membership Appeal Process”

(Session 5b continued on next page)

Leigh Campbell-Hale, University of Colorado, Boulder

“When the Winners Don’t Write History: Fred Thompson, the Industrial Workers of the World, and the 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike”

Michael K. Law, Auburn University

“Mitchell v. Williams: A Defining Moment for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, Commonwealth College, and Radicalism in the New South, 1937-1938”

Chair: Robin Dearmon Muhammad, Ohio University

Comment: Aaron Purcell, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Session 5c – Savannah 3

Work, Gender, and Race in the United States: Recovering Memory and Expanding the Archive

Francis Ryan, Temple University

“The Route North: Charting the Work Histories of Migrant Sanitation Workers in the Postwar Era”

Stephen Patnode, State University of New York at Farmingdale

“‘It’s So Nice to Have a Man around the House’: Gender Identity, Union Organizing, and the Archive”

Karen Leroux, Drake University

“Were Nineteenth-Century Teachers Workers?: A Case Study in Gender, Class, and U.S. Empire”

Chair and Comment: Beth English, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

Friday 6:30-9:00

Session 6a – Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library*

An Evening with Stetson Kennedy

Sponsored by the Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.

Special guests sponsored by Emory University’s Department of American Studies.

Chair: Cliff Kuhn, Georgia State University

Film Clip: Andrea Kalin, Spark Media

Dissident at Large: Stetson Kennedy Unmasked

Panelists:

Stetson Kennedy, Green Cove Springs, Florida

Paul Ortiz, Director, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

Leslie Hough, Former Director, Georgia State University Special Collections and Archives

**Buses to Atlanta University Center will begin leaving the hotel at 5:45 and will return at 9:00.*

Saturday, April 9

Saturday 7:30-8:30

Coffee and Pastries

Registration Open (7:30-12:00)

Bookstore Open (7:30-2:00)

Saturday 8:00-10:00

Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas

Journal Editorial Committee Meeting – Savannah 3

Saturday 8:15-10:00

Session 7a – Valdosta Room

Music, Labor, and Memory

Marina Peterson, Ohio University

“Sound Work: Music as Labor and the 1940s Recording Bans”

Charles Hughes, University of Wisconsin

“‘Got What I Got the Hard Way’: The Work of Making Southern Popular Music in the 1960s and 1970s”

Ian Hartman, University of Illinois

“The Role of Imagining and Memory in the Construction of Racial Purity in the Southern Hills: Archive Tales from the John Powell Papers”

Chair and Comment: Dave Anderson, Louisiana Tech University

Session 7b – Savannah 1

LABOR OUTREACH PANEL I: State of the Field from the Field: Labor and Campus Activism

This workshop, co-sponsored by SLSA’s Labor Outreach Committee and LAW-CHA’s Labor Activism Committee, will feature brief reports on campus-based labor activism across the South, followed by discussion of how to advance the work where it is happening and launch it in new places.

Conveners:

Nancy MacLean, Duke University

David Zonderman, North Carolina State University

Saturday 10:00-10:15

Coffee Break

Saturday 10:15-12:00

Session 8a – Valdosta Room

Knowing, Protecting, and Forgetting Farmworkers: A Cross-Border Consideration of Farmworkers in the Archives

John Weber, Old Dominion University

“HemisFair ’68: Inventing the Past in San Antonio”

Tim Henderson, Auburn University at Montgomery

“Bracero Blacklists: The Bracero Program as Seen in Mexico’s Foreign Relations Archive”

Cristina Salinas, University of Texas

“‘The Swarming of the Wetbacks’ and Other Tales: Growers’ Writings about Mexican Agricultural Workers in South Texas”

Chair: Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William and Mary

Comment: José Guillermo Pastrano, University of Texas, Pan American

Session 8b – Savannah 1

ROUNDTABLE: The Freedmen and Southern Society Project after 25 Years

Chair: Susan O’Donovan, University of Memphis

Panelists:

Leslie Rowland, Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland

Brian Kelly, Queen’s University, Belfast

Michael Fitzgerald, St. Olaf College

Alex Lichtenstein, Florida International University

Session 8c – Savannah 3

Creating Labor Archives through Research and Activism

David Zonderman, North Carolina State University

“From Archives to Activism: Historical Research and the Struggle for Public Workers’ Rights in North Carolina”

Caroline Muglia, North Carolina State University

“‘Agitate, Educate, Organize Today’: The Construction of Identity and the Scrapbooks at the Southern School for Women Workers in Industry”

Laura Helton, New York University

“Collecting and Circulation: Pullman Porters in the Formation of African-American Archives”

Angela Stuesse, University of South Florida

“When Silences Beckon: What Research on New Latino Immigration to Central Mississippi Reveals about the Region’s Labor, Immigration, and Civil Rights Histories”

(Session 8c continued on next page)

Chair and Comment: Andrea Jackson, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center

Saturday 1:00-3:00

Session 9a – Valdosta Room

FILM: *Morristown: In the Air and Sun*

Through a critical examination of changes taking place in one small community in the southeastern U.S., this documentary film opens up issues of plant closings, capital flight, low-road development strategies, and the new Latino immigration.

Chair: Fran Ansley, University of Tennessee

Comments:

Alessandro Portelli, University of Rome

Leon Fink, University of Illinois at Chicago

Discussion: Anne Lewis, Filmmaker

Session 9b – Savannah 3

FILM: *Wildcat at Mead*

This documentary examines a black-led workplace revolt in an Atlanta packaging plant in 1972. It explores the confluence of black power, new currents in leftism, and the local civil rights establishment in the 1970s.

Comments:

Monica Waugh-Benton, Georgia State University

Jim Skillman, Committees of Correspondence

Kerry Taylor, The Citadel

Gary Washington, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 527-S

Session 9c – Savannah 1

LABOR OUTREACH PANEL II: A New Operation Dixie?: Labor Activism on Georgia Campuses Today

Sponsored by the SLSA Working Group on Labor and Campus Activism.

Represented:

Atlanta Public Sector Alliance (Atlanta)

Economic Justice Coalition (Athens)

Living Wage Coalition (University of Georgia, Agnes Scott College)

Georgia Students for Public Higher Education (University of Georgia, Georgia State University)

Solidarity (Atlanta)

Sodexo Campaign (Georgia State University)

Saturday 3:30-6:30

Walking Tour and Plenary Session at the King Center, 449 Auburn Ave., NE*

3:30 Tour of the King Center Grounds – Meet at the MLK Tomb

The King Center bookstore will have a special exhibit of labor and King works if you arrive early. The King Center bookstore will have copies available of All Labor Has Dignity, a collection of labor speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., edited and introduced by Michael Honey.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change historic area includes Ebenezer Baptist Church and the King birth home. It is in the area of "Sweet Auburn," a historic black church and business district. The King Center "seeks to champion freedom, justice and equality by working to redress poverty, build community and foster peace through nonviolence around the world."

4:15 All Labor Has Dignity: Revisiting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Gospel of Labor Rights and Economic Justice – King Center Auditorium

Chair and Introduction:

Vicki Crawford, Co-Director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, Morehouse College

Panelists:

Michael Honey, Haley Professor of Humanities, University of Washington, Tacoma; Immediate Past President, LAWCHA

"Episodes in Memory vs. Forgetting: Recovering King's Pro-Union Social Gospel"

Linda Lloyd, Economic Justice Coalition, Athens, Georgia

"Living the Legacy through Organizing Today"

Audience Discussion

**Please see back of program for walking or cab directions to all King Center events.*

Saturday 9:00-12:00

Dance Party – Athens Room

Sponsored by Duke University Press.

Sunday, April 10, 2011

Sunday 9:00-12:00

Atlanta Labor Tour with Cliff Kuhn*

Must present tickets for tour.

**Meet in hotel lobby at 8:50. Tour finishes at noon, and will return participants to the hotel.*

L A W C H A

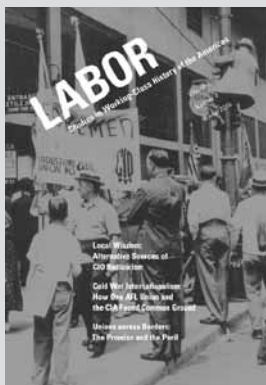
The Labor and Working-Class History Association

Kimberley Phillips,
president

Shelton Stromquist,
vice president

Join LAWCHA today.

The Labor and Working-Class History Association is a society of scholars, union members, students, and citizens promoting a wider understanding of the history of working-class people, their communities, and their organizations in the United States. Members receive the quarterly journal *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*.



Leon Fink, editor

Benefits of LAWCHA membership include

- a one-year subscription to *Labor* (four issues)
- RSS feeds and **online access** to *Labor* at labor.dukejournals.org
- a subscription to the LAWCHA newsletter
- access to the online membership directory at the website, lawcha.org.
- eligibility to receive prizes and travel grants for graduate students
- access to online resources for educators

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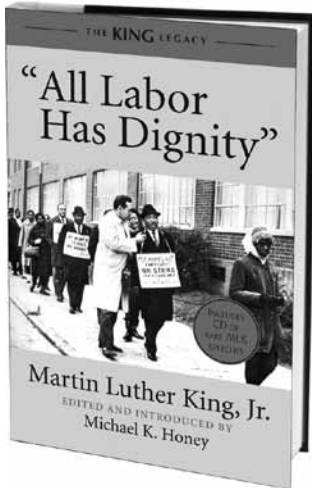
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speeches

In “*All Labor Has Dignity*,” historian Michael K. Honey introduces and traces King’s dream of economic equality. As we struggle with massive unemployment, a staggering racial wealth gap, and the near collapse of our financial system, King’s prophetic words underscore his relevance for today.

“Through thoughtful introductions to each and every speech, Honey sets the stage for the reader, proving without a doubt that Dr. King was among the greatest labor leaders of the 20th century and that his message continues to resonate powerfully in our age.”

—Bill Fletcher, Jr.,
co-founder, Center for Labor Renewal,
and Board Chairperson, International Labor Rights

“Brings to life the King who from the outset of his public career insisted that ‘the evil of economic injustice’ must be combated along with racial inequality.”

—Eric Foner,
DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University

“Now, more than ever, his insights show us the way of transformation from consumers divided by race and ethnicity into an active, united citizenry.”

—Nell Irvin Painter, author of *The History of White People*
and Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University



Photo: Jill Canrell Danesco

Michael K. Honey at the Southern Labor Studies Association Conference

Saturday, April 9, 4:15 PM

King Center Auditorium, 449 Auburn Ave., NE

*All Labor Has Dignity: Revisting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Gospel of Labor Rights and Economic Justice*



www.beacon.org · www.thekinglegacy.org · Available wherever books and e-books are sold.
For desk and exam copies, please visit our distributor's website, www.randomhouse.com/academic.

**The Southern Labor Studies Association
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Southern Industrialization Project

Georgia State University, Department of History

**2011 Southern Labor Studies Conference
Program Committee**

Cindy Hahamovitch, President

Traci Drummond, Co-Chair

Alex Lichtenstein, Co-Chair

Evan Bennett, Treasurer

Beth English, Program Design

DIRECTIONS TO EVENTS

Thursday, April 7

Reception and Keynote

Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University Library

Walking:

Follow Courtland south (in the direction of traffic) to Edgewood (0.3 mi)

Right (west) onto Edgewood. (0.1 mi)

Left at Peachtree Center Avenue (0.1 mi)

Left at Decatur Street SE (213 feet)

End at 100 Decatur Street SE

By cab:

Use address 100 Decatur Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30030. Your stop will be on the south side of Decatur Street between Central and Collins (which runs under the Courtland Street Bridge).

Friday, April 8

Kennedy Event

Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library

All attendees will travel by bus. Buses will begin to leave the hotel at 5:45 and will return to the hotel at 9:00.

Saturday, April 9

Labor and Civil Rights Event

King Center

Walking:

Follow Courtland south to Auburn Avenue (0.2 mi)

Left at Auburn Avenue (0.6 mi)

End at 449 Auburn Ave NE

By cab:

Use address 449 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30312

Sunday, April 10

Tour of Atlanta Labor Sites

All attendees will travel by bus. Bus will leave the hotel at 9:00 and return to the hotel at noon.