

Southern Labor Studies Association Officer Biographies, January 2018

Robert Korstad, President

Robert Korstad is Professor of Public Policy and History at Duke University. His research interests include twentieth century U.S. history, labor history, African American history, and contemporary social policy.

Korstad's publications include: *To Right These Wrongs: The North Carolina Fund and the Battle to End Poverty and Inequality in 1960s America* (with James L. Leloudis), *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South*, *Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Talk About Life in the Segregated South* (coeditor), and *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (coauthor).

Beth English, Immediate Past President/Elections Chair

Beth English is a research associate and director of the Project on Women in the Global Community at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She received her Ph.D. in History from the College of William and Mary, where she was also a Glucksman Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of History. She has taught at Temple University and is currently an instructor with Princeton University's Prison Teaching Initiative.

English's research and teaching focus on historical and contemporary labor and working class issues, gender, social, cultural and political history, and the global South. She is the co-editor of *Global Women's Work in Transition: Perspectives on Gender and Work in the Global Economy* (with Mary E. Frederickson and Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama, in progress); author of *A Common Thread: Labor, Politics, and Capital Mobility in the Textile Industry*; and a contributing author to several edited volumes focusing on gender and on the U.S. South. Her recent articles include, "Global Women's Work: Historical Perspectives on the Textile and Garment Industries" (*Journal of International Affairs*), and "La mort de Dixie? (The Death of Dixie?)" (*Politique Américaine*, with co-author Bryant Simon). Her article, "'I . . . Have a Lot of Work to Do': Cotton Mill Work and Women's Culture in Matoaca, Virginia, 1888-1895" was recognized as one of the Organization of American Historians' Best American History Essays of 2008 (David Roediger, ed.). Her research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

English is Immediate Past President of the Southern Labor Studies Association and produces and hosts the Association's podcast, Working History.

Traci JoLeigh Drummond, Vice-President

Traci JoLeigh Drummond, MSIS, CA, has been archivist for the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University in Atlanta since 2007 and is responsible for managing the Archives, choosing collections for digitization, overseeing oral history projects, and performing outreach to the labor, academic, and labor history communities. She holds a Master's of Science in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and has maintained certification with the Academy of Certified Archivists since 2005.

Evan Bennett, Treasurer

Evan Bennett is a historian of the American South whose research focuses on the intersections of rural, environmental, and labor history. He is author of *When Tobacco Was King: Families, Farm Labor, and Federal Policy in the Piedmont* (University Press of Florida, 2014). He is also co-editor of *Beyond Forty Acres and a Mule: African American Landowning Families since Reconstruction* (University Press of Florida, 2012).

Bennett is currently pursuing two projects. The first is a history of small crossroads of Cedar Grove, North Carolina, in order to understand the dynamics of change for black rural southerners in the twentieth century. The second is a cultural, labor, and environmental history of the Florida Straits. Bennett teaches courses in southern history, labor history, environmental history, and Florida history.

Executive Board (terms ending 2018)

Kelly Kennington

Kelly Kennington received her Ph.D. in history from Duke University in 2009. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University, teaching courses in United States history, the American South, World History, and the History of American Slavery. Her research interests include slavery, law, and the antebellum American South and she most recently published an article, "Geography, Mobility, and the Law: Suing for Freedom in Antebellum St. Louis," in the *Journal of Southern History*. Her current book project, *In the Shadow of Dred Scott: St. Louis Freedom Suits and the Development of Slaves' Legal Culture in Antebellum America*, expands on her dissertation and focuses on enslaved litigants—in St. Louis and elsewhere—who sued for freedom in the antebellum years.

Jay Driskell

Jay Driskell is currently an assistant professor of history at Hood College in Frederick, MD, and has been a member of SLSA for several years. His work explores the relationship between race, gender, and the forging of effective political solidarities in struggles for power within the urbanizing, segregating South. His recent book, *Schooling Jim Crow: The Fight for Atlanta's Booker T. Washington High School and the Roots of Black Protest Politics* (University Press of Virginia, 2014), tells the story of how the NAACP organized a voting bloc powerful enough to compel the city of Atlanta to budget \$1.5 million for the construction of schools for black students. Jay's next book will explore how the language of disease and public health shaped the terms of political contestation in Gilded Age Jacksonville, FL. Jay also worked for five years as an organizer for the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESO) at Yale University, doing consulting and research work for UNITE HERE and member education for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). Alongside Lane Windham, he also helped build the labor history curriculum for the National Labor College. Currently, he also runs the DC-Area African American Studies Works-in-Progress Seminar, which meets in the IBT archive at George Washington University.

Jessie Wilkerson

Jessie Wilkerson is Assistant Professor in History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is currently working on her manuscript, *Where Movements Meet: From the War on Poverty to Grassroots Feminism in the Appalachian South*. Since joining the faculty at U of M, she has been learning

about current labor struggles in Mississippi—including the organizing efforts of Nissan workers—and is eager to find ways to support southern labor struggles through teaching, writing, public history projects, and networking with SLSA members.

Executive Board (terms ending 2020)

Greta de Jong

Greta de Jong completed her bachelor's and master's degrees in New Zealand and came to the United States in 1993 to complete a Ph.D. degree at Pennsylvania State University. She held a fellowship at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia and teaching positions at George Mason University and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside before taking a position at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2002. Her research and teaching focus on the connections between race and class and the ways that African Americans have fought for economic as well as political rights from the end of Reconstruction through the twenty-first century. She has written three books: *A Different Day: African American Struggles for Justice in Rural Louisiana, 1900-1970* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002); *Invisible Enemy: The African American Freedom Struggle after 1965* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010); and *You Can't Eat Freedom: Southerners and Social Justice after the Civil Rights Movement* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016). Her current research examines tensions among family, community and justice that were evident during struggles to desegregate public schools in the mid-twentieth century United States.

Laurie Green

Laurie Green is an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin and her central research areas include the politics of race and gender in the twentieth-century U.S.; social movements; cultural studies. Her research was featured on the University of Texas Home Page in January 2006: Marching on Memphis. She teaches modern U.S. history, with concentrations on women and gender in twentieth-century America, the Civil Rights Movement, the South, African-American history and comparative race and ethnicity. Honors and awards include the 2008 Philip Taft Labor History Book Award for *Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Struggle* and she was a finalist for 2008 OAH Liberty Legacy Foundation Award, also for *Battling the Plantation Mentality*

Adrienne Petty

Adrienne Petty, Associate Professor of History at William and Mary, obtained her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University, after which she taught at the City College of New York (CUNY). Her research is in the area of the post-Civil War history of the United States, with a special focus on southern history. She teaches courses in U.S. History, the History of the South, Oral History, and the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.