Expanding the Horizons of Southern Labor Studies

Call for Papers

Biannual Conference

Southern Labor Studies Association

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

September 11-13, 2020

Over the past few years, SLSA has sought to modernize, energize, and organize – and the results have been amazing! We have expanded the geographical, chronological, and thematic boundaries of southern labor studies by extending our geographic scope to include the broader Atlantic world, and pushing our time frame back to pre-European settlement. We’re reaching beyond our traditional emphasis on the workplace, politics, protest, and unions to explore working-class cultures—foodways, music, film, family, and home life. This conference will continue the push outward and onward.

We warmly invite all academics, students, activists, labor organizers, union members, lawyers, and anyone with an interest in labor issues – past or present – to join us at our next meeting at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to be held on September 11-13, 2020 (Friday afternoon through Sunday morning). The conference will focus on expanding the horizons of southern labor studies. We will also experiment with some creative new formats built around new work and new conceptions of southern labor and additional sessions specifically aimed to help us think about how to communicate with larger audiences and share our work with the public.

**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:** We will begin – probably on Friday afternoon — with workshops on new work. (See more below.) After these meetings, the conference kicks-off with a very special plenary on Friday evening, followed by a reception with live music! Saturday and part of Sunday will be devoted to sessions featuring traditional panels, lightening rounds, state-of-the-field, and professional development. On Sunday morning, we will have a “mentorship breakfast” for graduate students and early career scholars.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The program committee welcomes papers, panels, roundtables, critical book conversations, and workshop papers that reflect the diversity of work and labor in the region. We are especially interested in presentations that expand the horizons of southern labor studies and welcome submissions from academics, activists, and anyone else interested in southern labor!

**We strongly encourage the submission of complete panels rather than individual papers**. Please consider the following options for panel formats: three papers and a comment/chairperson; lightning sessions of 5 or 6 very short presentations with comment/chairperson; roundtables of 3 to 5 people discussing a larger theme with comment/chairperson; and moderated conversations between activists and historians as well as between artists/performers and historians. All panels, sessions, roundtables, and “conversation” sessions *must* have at least one designated comment/chairperson, although ideally each session will have a both a chair and commentator.

***\*\*\*Please let’s try to have no all-male panels (“manels”) or all white panels. As an organization we want to showcase the incredible diversity of both the US and the South. If you are having trouble finding a diverse panel, please email us and we will help you. Finally, we encourage membership and proposals from and about the LGBTQI community. We are an inclusive, welcoming organization.***

**WORKSHOPS and WORKSHOP STIPENDS:** In addition to the panels and other sessions, we plan to host a number of workshops built around works-in-progress by authors at the first book, article, or dissertation stags. These workshops are a new – yet absolutely central – feature of the conference. The plan is to hold these workshops on Friday afternoon.

Scholars will submit a proposal to share an article, or a chapter of their dissertation or first book. After acceptance and following an agreed upon schedule, the scholar will send the works-in-progress (no more than 30 pages) to a designated commentator/convener and the SLSA. These papers will then be available to other conference goers. Each 60-minute session will be devoted to a single work-in-progress. SLSA Officers and Board members as well as others in the field will serve as conveners for each session and will start the conversation off with brief comments and suggestions. Other members of the workshop will continue the conversation. The goal is to provide emerging scholars with an opportunity to get engaged and constructive feedback on their writing and arguments and produce the kind of collective thinking that stimulates new thoughts and ideas.

***\*\*\*To signal SLSA’s commitment to new work in the field, we will offer at least 6 presenters a travel stipend of $250.***

**TO APPLY:**

To submit a workshop or single paper proposal, please have a short bio (100 words) and abstract (200 words) ready, and fill out this [form.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qeZRvZHNdIilfXTO-NG8FgP1e_037ZVgD2Cyn8mY_80/edit)

For full sessions proposals, please have short bios for all participants (100 words), abstracts and paper titles for each presenter (250 words), and an abstract for the panel (200 words) ready, and fill out this [form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10DmVIYIViYpuTjGxltDc5Xhz_u6lH-JMBtwpBJcUJoA/edit).

DEADLINE for submissions, January 15, 2020.

Please direct your questions to slsaconference2020@gmail.com