



# **The Many Souths**

**Southern Labor Studies Association  
Bi-Annual Conference**

**March 7-9, 2013**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

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Bi-Annual Conference

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Doubletree Hotel  
300 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

# **Southern Labor Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference**

**Thursday, March 7**

Thursday 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Panel A – Madewood A**

**Race, Labor, Politics and the Transformation of Class Consciousness in the Lone Star State**

Tom Alter, University of Illinois, Chicago

“From the Cooperative Commonwealth to the Invisible Empire: The Farm-Labor Bloc and the Creation of the White Primary in Texas, 1919-1923”

Adam Hodges, University of Houston, Clearlake

“C.W. Rice and the Negro Labor News Fight the CIO in Houston, Texas, 1937-1943”

Bryant Etheridge, Harvard University

“Defense Worker Training and the Reproduction of Labor Power in Houston, 1940-45”

Chair and Comment: Max Krochmal, Texas Christian University

**Panel B – Madewood B**

**Race, Gender, and Solidarity: Working-Class Women’s Struggles for Social and Economic Justice in the South**

Michelle Haberland, Georgia Southern University

“‘When you cease to be ladies, we will arrest you’: Striking for Justice in Southern Sewing Rooms, 1934-1970”

Janet Allured, McNeese State University

“Second-Wave Feminists and the Search for Race, Gender, and Economic Justice in Louisiana”

Joey Fink, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

“‘The Substance of Things Hoped For’: Faith, Sex, and Social Justice in the J.P. Stevens Struggle, 1976-1980”

Chair and Comment: Mary Frederickson, Emory University

**Panel C – Shadows**

**Agriculture and Contingent Labor Across Time**

Michael Feely, University of the South

“The Pilgrim’s Pride Immigration Raid and its Aftermath: A History of New Latino workers and Old Labor in Chattanooga”

*(Panel C continued on next page)*

Michael Law, Auburn University

"The STFU and Its Allies: The Many Souths Within Labor Radicalism"

Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Florida International University

Timothy Steigenga, Florida Atlantic University

"Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day-Laborers and Community in Jupiter, Florida"

Chair and Comment: Alan Draper, St. Lawrence University

Thursday 2:30-2:45 p.m.

**Break**

Thursday 2:45-4:15 p.m.

**Panel D – Madewood A**

**Laboring in the Borderlands of the New South: Immigration, Precarious Labor Regimes and the Politics of Belonging**

Jennifer Brickham Mendez, College of William and Mary

Lise Nelson, University of Oregon

"Labor, Boundaries, and Belonging in the 'Nuevo South': Latino/a Immigration Meets Amenity Migration in Rabun County, Georgia and Williamsburg, VA"

Elizabeth Oglesby, University of Arizona

"Immigrant Spaces and Contested Boundaries: Comparative Responses to Mass Deportation"

Juan Poblete, Kresge College

"The Border as a Form of Everyday Life Experience Inside the US"

Angela Stuesse, University of South Florida

"Immigrant Alienation in the Triangle of Exclusion: Negotiating Unions, Labor Contractors, and Poultry Processors in the Contemporary South"

Chair and Comment: Jennifer Brooks, Auburn University

**Panel E – Shadows**

**Laboring out of the Fields: Early Social, Economic, and Knowledge networks among Africans and Afro-Creoles in the Greater Caribbean**

Demetri Debe, University of Minnesota

"Confined at the Center? How Black Marketing Women Used Their Mobility to Build Networks of Social and Economic Connection in the Greater Caribbean"

Eric Otremba, Macalester College

"'Negroe-Boilers have no Rule at all': Embodied Knowledge and the Spread of the Anglo-Caribbean Sugar Complex"

Anne Ulentin, Louisiana State University

"Within Their Reach: Slaveholding Free Women of Color Networking Across Racial and Geographical Boundaries in New Orleans, 1803-1840"

Chair: Andrea Mosterman, University of New Orleans

Comment: Laura Rosanne Adderley, Tulane University

**Panel F – Madewood B**

**The Other South: Race, Sex, Music, and Postwar Labor Politics in California**

Heather Berg, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Down in the Valley: The Adult Film Industry as Hollywood’s South”

Kurt Newman, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Twang Warfare: Buck Owens’s Sounding of California as the New New South”

Kit Smemo, University of California Santa Barbara

“Racial Modernization: California Civil Rights and Republican Economic Development During and After World War II”

Chair and Comment: Thomas Adams, Tulane University

Thursday 4:15-4:30 p.m.

**Break**

Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Roundtable A – Shadows**

**Recent Scholarship in New Orleans History**

Thomas Adams, Tulane University

“Labor and the First, First Great Migration: New Orleans and its Hinterlands After Reconstruction”

Michael Mizell-Nelson, University of New Orleans

“New Orleans Community History Project: Twenty Years of Student-Generated Working Class History, 1993-Present”

Justin Nystrom, Loyola University

“Listening to the Longshoremen: Loyola’s Documentary and Oral History Studio and the New Orleans ILA3000”

Chair: Eric Arnesen, George Washington University

**Roundtable B – Madewood A**

**Labor Activism in New Orleans**

Nick Unger, Avondale Research Group

Meladie Munch, President, Jefferson Teachers Union, New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice

Colette Tippy, Organizer, Stand with Dignity, New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice

Chair: Steve Striffler, University of New Orleans

Thursday 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Keynote Address** – Grand Ballroom, 16th Floor (*Cash Bar*)

Adolph Reed, University of Pennsylvania

Problems and Prospects of Working-Class Politics in the Contemporary South

**Friday, March 8**

Friday 8:30-10:00 a.m.

**Panel G** – Madewood A

**Florida, Labor, and Migration**

Erin Conlin, University of Florida

“A Revolving Door: Early Bahamian Labor Migration to Florida”

Evan Bennett, Florida Atlantic University

“Whose Fish? Race, Class, and Nationalism in Florida Fisheries”

Aaron Reynolds, University of Texas, Austin

“‘... A Long Quavering Chant’: The Langdale Family’s Informal Forest Conservation and Peonage Labor in the Okefenokee Forests”

Chair and Comment: Brian Kelly, Queen’s University Belfast

**Panel H** – Madewood B

**African American Labor and Education Activism in the Urban South**

Kathryn Silva Banks, Andrews University

“Silk and Schools: African American Mill Workers and Interracial Cooperation Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1899-1914”

Candace Cunningham, University of South Carolina

“‘I Had to Find a Job Teaching’: The Black Teacher Hiring Campaign in Charleston”

Keona Ervin, University of Missouri

“‘Interracial Good Will’: Black Women Unionists and the Educational Department of the ILGWU’s Southwestern Region, 1935-1957”

Chair and Comment: Michele Grigsby Coffey, University of Mississippi

**Panel I** – Shadows

**Stretching their Boundaries in Wartime: Working Women in a Man’s World**

Catherine Murtagh, Texas Christian University

“Tight Sweaters and Do-Rags: Issues Surrounding Women Entering Industry in World War II”

*(Panel I continued on next page)*

Meredith May, Texas Christian University

"Gender, Race, and Paternalism: Justifying Inequality in a Deep East Texas Sawmill"

Deborah Kilgore, University of North Texas

"A Vital Role: Textile Mill Workers and World War II"

Chair and Comment: Stephanie Carpenter, Murray State University

Friday 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Break**

Friday 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Panel J – Madewood A**

**African American Women and Sexual Agency in the South**

Jennifer Bridges, University of North Texas

"Sex Across the Color Line: African American Female Agency at the Octaroon Parlor in New Orleans"

Nick Foreman, University of Florida

"Heads of Household: Propertied Free Women of Color and the Problem of Sexual Stereotype in Early American New Orleans"

David Park, University of North Texas

"Black is Beautiful: Dorothea Towles Church, Lois Towles Caesar and the De-segregation of Beauty in America"

Chair and Comment: Jennifer Spear, Simon Fraser University

**Panel K – Madewood B**

**Digging In: Literary Representation of Race and Southern Manual Labor, 1880-1962**

Mixon Robinson, Emory University

"Making Tracks and Kicking up Dust: Protesting the Grounds of Segregation Law in Charles Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*"

Rebecca Clark, University of California, Berkeley

"'A Well-Traveled Mudhole': Work, Mud, and Mire in the *Reivers*"

Sarah Johnson, University of California, Berkeley

"'One Bound for Freedom': The Refusal of Work in George Washington's Cable's 'The Story of Bras-Coupe'"

Ismail Muhammad, University of California, Berkeley

"'The Body of the World is Bull-Necked': Labor, Sensuality, and Black Thought in Jean Toomer's *Cane*"

Chair: Jennifer Brooks, Auburn University

**Panel L – Shadows**

**Lynching in the Press: How the South Was Known through the Lynch Mob**

Trevor Joy Sangrey, Washington University

“The South Comes North in Detroit’s Own Scottsboro Case: Communist Party USA Pamphlet Literature and Making the South through Lynching”

Jesse Carr, University of Michigan

“Using the Law Against Lawlessness? Law Enforcement Complicity with Lynching”

Barbara Lewis, University of Massachusetts, Boston

“Innocents Interruptus: The Lowman Lynching in the News”

Aleski Huhta, University of Turku, Finland

“A Symbol of ‘American Freedom’: The Racial Lessons of Finnish-American Communist Press’ Coverage of Southern Lynching, 1928-1932”

Chair and Comment: Evan Bennett, Florida Atlantic University

Friday 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Lunch** – Please see folders for nearby suggestions

Friday 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Southern Labor Studies Association Membership Meeting**

Madewood A

Friday 2:30-4:00 p.m.

**Panel M – Madewood A**

**Postwar Organizing and Recruitment**

Tyler Greene, Temple University

“The Geography of Industrial Recruitment in Post-World War II North Carolina”

Jody Noll, Auburn University

“Public Impact: The 1968 Florida Teacher Strike and its Influences on Florida’s Public Sector”

Lindsey Swindall, Sam Houston State

“Organizing for Civil and Labor Rights: The Southern Negro Youth Congress, 1937-1949”

Chair and Comment: Beth English, Princeton University

**Panel N – Madewood B**

**African-American Politics in the International Arena: New Perspectives**

Eric Arnesen, George Washington University

“A. Philip Randolph and the World: Black Anticolonialism and Anticommunism in the Mid-Twentieth Century”



Carol Anderson, Emory University

“‘Violating Capitalist Principles on the Altar of a Racist Ideology’: The African National Congress, the NAACP, and the Origins of the Divestment Movement, 1948-1952”

Chair and Comment: Yvette Richards Jordan, George Mason University

## **Panel O – Shadows**

### **The Guestworker South**

Andrew Hazelton, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Borderlands and Cross-Border Labor Organizing during the Bracero Program, 1948-1955”

Lauren Braun Strumfels, Raritan Valley Community College

“Making ‘Good Citizens’ on the Farm: Italians and an International Language of Protest in the Delta, 1897-1898”

John Weber, Old Dominion University

“Texas under the Blacklist: The Bracero Program and the Politics of Ambivalence”

Chair and Comment: Michael Innis-Jimenez, University of Alabama

Friday 5:00-7:00 p.m.

## **The Work of Music and SLSA Reception**

Historic New Orleans Collection

410 Chartres Street, Boyd Cruise Room

Deacon John

Evan Christopher

Meschiya Lake

Thomas McDermott

Chair: Thomas Adams, Tulane University

Comment: Bruce Raeburn, Tulane University

*Directions: Leave the Doubletree and turn left on Canal Street (away from the Mississippi River); walk on Canal Street two blocks to Chartres Street; turn right on Chartres Street. Walk three blocks. The Historic New Orleans Collection is just past Conti Street.*

## Saturday, March 9

Saturday 8:30-10:00 a.m.

### **Panel P – Madewood A**

#### **Management, Race, and Repression in the South, 1895-1925**

Chad Pearson, Collin College Community College

“The First-Wave Open Shop Movement and Southern Employers, 1895-1910”

Michael Phillips, Collin County Community College

“Free to Follow His Line of Employment: Race, Religion, and the Open-Shop Association in Dallas”

Chair and Comment: Howard Stanger, Canisius College

### **Panel Q – Madewood B**

#### **Labor and Social Change after the Civil War**

Karin Lurvink, VU University, Amsterdam

“Rational Choice or Re-Enslavement? The Truck System on Plantation Stores in Louisiana 1865-1910”

Leonard Lanier, Louisiana State University

“Killing a Klansmans: Labor and the Violent Landscape in Eastern North Carolina during the Long Civil War”

Valerie Radu, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

“The Settlement House Movement: History, Culture, Education, and Social Change from 1800 to 2012 in Tennessee and Kentucky”

Timothy Nelson, University of Texas, El Paso

“Conceptualizing People of African Descent”

Chair and Comment: Colin Davis, University of Alabama, Birmingham

### **Panel R – Shadows**

#### **Transnational Anarchism in the Southern United States, 1880s-1920s**

Kirwin Shaffer, Penn State University

“Transnational Politics and Caribbean Anarchism in the US South 1890s-1920s”

Evan Daniel, CUNY-Queens

“A Single Universe? Cuban Cigar Makers in Havana and South Florida 1853-1899”

Kenyon Zimmer, University of Arlington, Texas

“Southern Borderlands/Global Borderlands: Foreign Anarchists and Syndicalists and the Mexican Revolution”

Chair and Comment: Barry Pateman, Kate Sharpley Library

Saturday 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Break**

Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Panel S – Madewood A**

**Contesting Planter Law: Black Activism in Arkansas**

Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas

“The Southern Cotton Oil Mill Strike and the Forging of a Labor-Black Alliance in Postwar Arkansas”

Alicia Jackson, Covenant College

“Shall We Stay in Hell on Earth or Find a Home Elsewhere: Black Migration from Central Georgia to Mississippi and Arkansas”

Story Matkin-Rawn, University of Central Arkansas

“End the ‘Arkansas Pea Patch’: County Convict Leasing and the Fight for Civil Liberties in the Arkansas Delta”

Chair and Comment: Jason Morgan Ward, Mississippi State University

**Panel T – Madewood B**

**Labor, Governance, and the Law in the Nineteenth-Century US South**

Samantha Smalls, Duke University

“Private Property, Public Assets: Slave Laborers and the Charleston Workhouse”

Emily Margolis, Duke University

“Dishonoring Her Sex: Women Property Owners as Agents of Violence”

Felicity Turner, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“In Service of the State: Infanticide, Law, and Labor in the Nineteenth Century South”

Chair and Comment: Heather Ann Thompson, Temple University

**Panel U – Shadows**

**Religion, Race, and the Southern Working Class in the Twentieth Century**

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

Ken Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University

“What Was Different about Southern White Workers?”

John Hayes, Augusta State University

“The New ‘Central Theme’ Thesis v. the Many Souths of Class/Religious Configuration”

Alison Collis Greene, Mississippi State University

“‘The Holy Book is not a stick of candy but a stick of dynamite’: Race, Class, and Radical Christianity in the Midcentury South”

Chair: Darren Grem, University of Mississippi

Saturday 12:00 p.m.

## **Labor Walking Tour of the French Quarter**

Michael Mizell Nelson, University of New Orleans

Christina Lawrence, University of New Orleans

*Meet in the Doubletree lobby.*

Saturday 1:00-2:30 p.m.

### **Panel V – Madewood A**

#### **UAW Organizing in the South**

Richard Bensinger, UAW Organizing Director

Mark Haasis, Nissan Campaign Coordinator

Sanchioni Butler, International Representative, UAW, Nissan Lead Organizer

Chair and Comment: Virginia Diamond, UAW

### **Panel W – Madewood B**

#### **Southern Alliances: Latinas/os, African Americans, Business, and Organizing Across the Region**

Perla Guerrero, University of Maryland, College Park

“Latinas/os Negotiate The ‘Good Ol’ Boys’ System in Arkansas: Labor, Power, and Organizing”

Cecilia Marquez, University of Virginia

“Black, White, and Tan: The Expulsion of Mexicans from SNCC and the Formation of a Black Third World Left”

Michael Innis-Jimenez, University of Alabama

“An Injury to One Is an Injury to All: Immigrants, Advocates Churches, and the African-American Civil Rights Establishment in the Campaign against Anti-Immigrant Laws in Alabama

Chair: Mary Odem, Emory University

Comment: Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William and Mary

### **Panel X – Shadows**

#### **Between the Old South and the New: Race and Labor in the Agro-Industrial South**

Karen Senaga, Mississippi State University

“From Plantation to the Plant, It’s the Same Operation: Labor Relations, Memory, and Race in the Mississippi Delta Catfish Industry”

Owen Hyman, Mississippi State University

“Spatial Divides: Labor Geography and the Great Southern Lumber Company’s Program of Industrial Paternalism, 1908-1964”

Max Grivino, University of Southern Mississippi  
“Organizing Pulpwood Cutters in Southern Mississippi”

Chair: Randy Sanders, Southeastern Louisiana University  
Comment: Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

Saturday 2:30-3:00 p.m.

**Break**

Saturday 3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Roundtable – Madewood A and B**

**Immigrant Rights and Resistance in the Nuevo South**

Bill Chandler, Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance, Jackson, Mississippi

Gaby Sullivan, Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Mobile, Alabama

Anton Flores-Maisonet, Alterna, La Grange, Georgia

Chairs: Jennifer Brooks

Max Krochmal

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*The Labor and Working-Class History Association*

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Nancy MacLean,  
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Leon Fink, editor

LAWCHA is an organization of scholars, teachers, students, labor educators, and activists who seek to promote public and scholarly awareness of labor and working-class history through research, writing, and organizing. Members receive the quarterly journal *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*.

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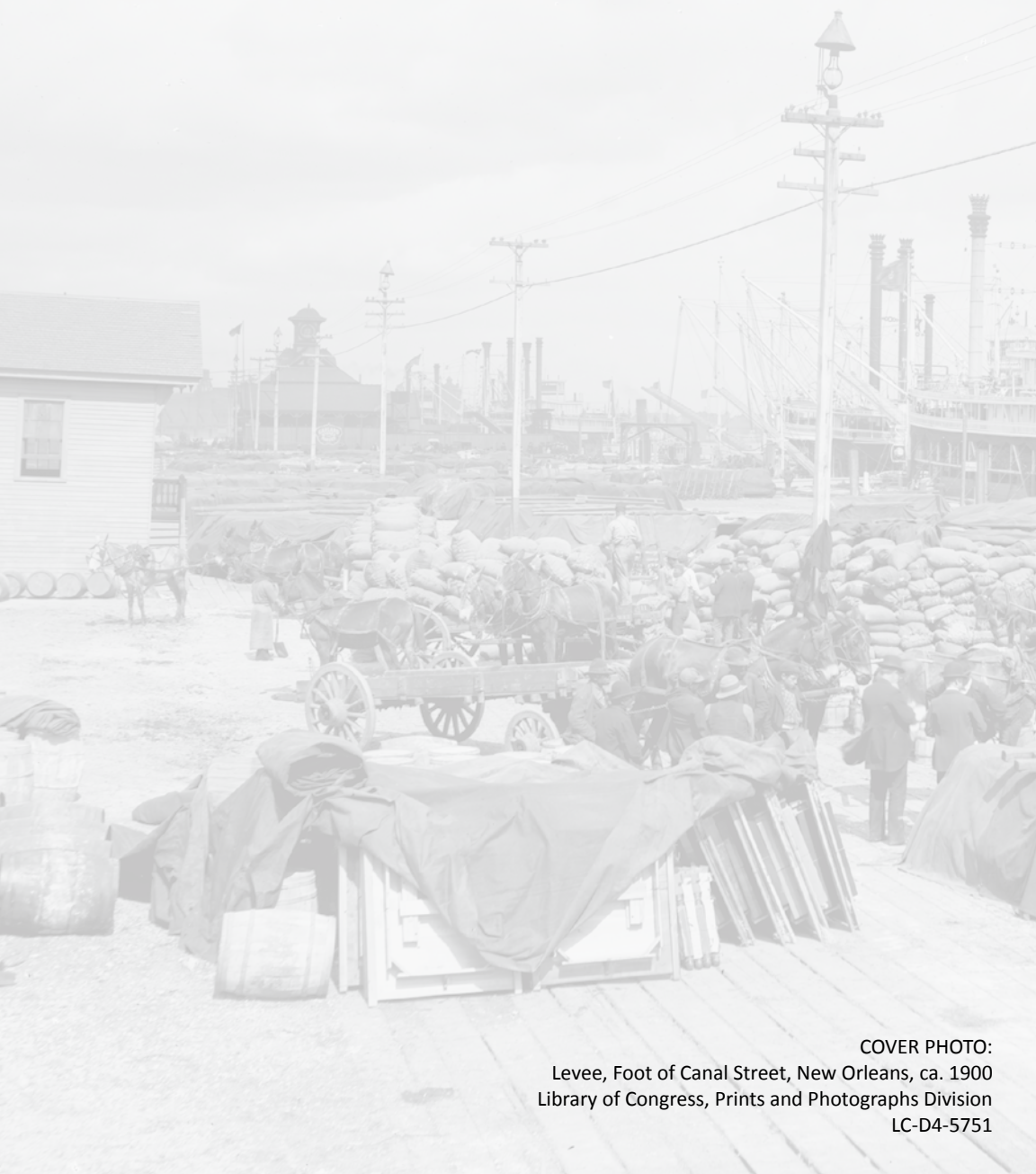
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