

PUTTING WORKERS FIRST: Southern Labor From 1619 to COVID19

Call for Papers
Biannual Conference
Southern Labor Studies Association
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
September 9-11, 2022

Over the past few years, SLSA has sought to expand 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. At the same time, we are reaching forward to explore the notion of “essential workers,” the links between organized labor and BLM, and the most recent strike wave in the larger South.

We warmly invite all academics, journalists, 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, Chapel Hill, to be held on September 9-11, 2022 (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 on Friday afternoon with works-in-progress workshops. (See more below.) After these meetings, the conference will kick-off with a plenary on Friday evening. Saturday and part of Sunday (if need be) will be devoted to sessions featuring traditional panels, lightning rounds, and state-of-the-field and professional development sessions.

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

academics, activists, writers, filmmakers, visual artists, musicians and song-writers, and anyone else interested in southern labor studies.

We strongly encourage the submission of complete panels rather than individual papers (though individual papers will certainly be accepted). 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 5-6 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.

For full session proposals, please provide short bios for all participants (100 words), abstracts and paper titles for each presentations (250 words), and an abstract for the overall panel (200 words). Fill out this [form](#).

******Please let's try to have no all-male panels 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 putting together your 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 several workshops built around works-in-progress by authors at the first book, initial article, or dissertation stages. These workshops are a central feature of the conference and of the organization. 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 (about 30 pages.) Upon acceptance, the scholar will send the works-in-progress to a designated commentator. At the conference, the scholar and commentator will meet for a 60-minute session devoted solely to each work-in-progress. SLSA officers and board members and others in the field will serve as conveners for each session and will start the conversation off with brief comments and suggestions. Later in the afternoon, all of the scholars and commentators will get together to talk about their work. The goal is to provide emerging scholars with an opportunity to get engaged, constructive feedback on the writing and the arguments and produce the kind of collective thinking that stimulates new thoughts and ideas.

******To signal SLSA's strong and enduring commitment to new work in the field, we will offer at least 6 presenters a travel stipend of \$200. ******

To apply for the workshop or to submit a single paper, please fill out this [form](#).

Note, if your panel was accepted for the postponed 2020 conference, please write to confirm you still intend to carry out this panel at our forthcoming conference.

DEADLINE for submissions, March 1, 2022.

Please direct your questions to slsaconference2022@gmail.com