How Class Works – 2016
Conference Schedule
[as of March 30, 2016]

Wednesday June 8, 2016

Wednesday 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
0.0 Working Class Studies Association Steering Committee

Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
0.1 Graduate Student and New Participant Meet and Greet, hosted by Michele Fazio, Jackie Gabriel, and Colby King, Hilton Garden Inn

Wednesday 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
0.2 Party: open mic music and spoken word, Hilton Garden Inn

Thursday June 9, 10:30 – noon

1.1 Workers’ Experiences
Kadambari Chheda and Anuradha Patniak, University of Mumbai: Analyzing the Life of Construction Workers in India: Case-Study of Mumbai City
Tracy Lynn Vargas, Syracuse University: Dollar Daze: Exploitative Labor Extraction in Discount Retail
Jacqueline Ross, CUNY Graduate Center: Changing Class Relations: Tipping and Servility in Long Island Restaurants

1.2 Pop Culture
Liz Guiffre, University of Technology Sydney: How Class Works in Comedy: Australia’s Great Dame Edna, Housewife Superstar
Kathy Dobson, Carleton University: The Production of Ignorance Through Memes: Representations of Poverty, Class, and Welfare Online
Sarah Attfield, University of Technology Sydney: Rejecting Respectability: On Being Unapologetically ‘Mouthy’ and Working Class
Andrew Manno, Raritan Valley Community College: Poker, Masculinity, and Casino Capitalism: How America’s Most Popular Card Game Trains Men to Live in a Winner-Take-All Culture
Thursday, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

2.1 Building Global Labor Solidarity Around the World
Kim Scipes, Purdue University North Central: KMU (Philippines) Efforts to Build Global Labor Solidarity
Immanuel Ness, Brooklyn College CUNY: Labor Solidarity Initiatives in India
Katherine Nastovski, McMaster University: Canadian Workers and the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement

2.2 The Big Squeeze: How Labor Market and Housing Policies Turned America's Working Class into the Working Poor
Ofronama Biu, The New School: Job Polarization: Where Did the Middle Go?
Lena Simet, The New School: The Cost of Housing and Lousy Jobs

2.3 Enterprise Unionism, Austerity, and the Rank-and-File Up surge
Amy Bromsen, Wayne State University
Mark Brenner, Labor Education and Research Project, Labor Notes
Bill Parker, Past-president, United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1700 (Chrysler)

2.4 Surveillance in a Time of Misery
Ian Rocksborough-Smith, St.Francis Xavier University, The Chicago Police Department's Red Squad Writes Up the Black Cultural Front in Cold War Chicago
Daniel Chard, UMass Amherst, Reading “Science Workers” History in the FBI’s Science for the People File, 1970-1974
Robert Zecker, Red Joy and Subversive Laughter in a Time of McCarthyite Misery

2.5 Class and Pedagogy
Sharon Szymanski and Richard Wells, Empire State College SUNY: Teaching Inequality
Lisa Kirby, Collin College: Work in Progress: The Texas Center for Working-Class Studies
Julie Raulli, Wilson College: What’s on Your Plate? Using Food to Teach Social Inequality
Christie Launius, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh: Working-Class Pedagogy: A Literature Review
Thursday, 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

3.1 Class Encounters
Dennis O’Neil, New York City: How A Prep School Scholarship In 1963-4 Taught A Kid From Rural New England About Class, In Real Time And In Retrospect
Hagai Eytan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: In the Taxi: an analysis of micro inter-class inter-actions
Colin Bossen, Harvard University: To Grow Our Souls: Grace Lee Boggs Conceptions of Class

3.2 Class Dynamics in Turkey
Esra Sengör Senalp and Gürsan Şenalp, Atilim University: The Role of Finance Capital Groups in the Making of Recent Turkish Foreign Policy Openings in the Middle East
Isil Erdinc, Sorbonne University: Being a trade union activist in Turkey during the AKP (Justice and Development Party, Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi) rule: Practices, identities, labor representation and fractures among the working class
Ayse Arslan, University of London School of Oriental and African Studies: State, Ethnicity and the Working Class in Turkey

3.3 Policing Workers and Working Police: Can Cops Act in Solidarity with Workers?
Joseph Varga, Indiana University: Civil Rights and Tired Cops: Order-Maintenance Policing and Alienated Labor
Erik Fink, Elon University School of Law: Are Union Contracts Bricks in the Blue Wall?
Gary Jones, American International College: The State Made Visible: The Formation of the Pennsylvania Department of State Police, 1890-1917
Stephen Thornton, 1199/SEIU and Shoeleather History Project: Are Black Cops Workers? Confronting the Blue Wall as Cops in Hartford

3.4 Working in Class
A roundtable discussion among contributors to Working in Class: How Our Social Backgrounds Affect Our Teaching, Scholarship, and Work in the Academy
Allison Hurst, Oregon State University (co-editor)
Sara Appel, University of Pittsburgh
Lynn Arner, Brock University
Dwight Lang, University of Michigan
Andrea Lewis, Spelman College
Jessi Streib, Duke University
Michael Svec, Furman University
Debbie Warnock, SUNY Cortland
3.5 The Work of Waste

Carl Zimring, Pratt Institute: Dirty Work Reconsidered: On Race and the Waste Trades in the United States


Courtney Pina Miller, Brandeis University: The Lazy and Toothless Anse Bundren: Examining White Trash in Faulkner's As I Lay Dying

Serter Oran, Ankara University: Proletariat or not: Determining the Class Position of Waste Pickers in Turkey

3.6 Developing Working Class Strategy to Challenge Corporate Social Domination

Bob Muelenkamp

Joanie Parker

Bill Fletcher, Jr., Talkshow host, writer & activist

3.7 Lived History: Moments and Movements in American Working-Class Literature

Nick Coles, University of Pittsburgh: Working the Land: Pastoral Meets Realism

Sherry Linkon, Georgetown University: Narrating Deindustrialization

Paul Lauter, Trinity College: Why Work?

4.0 Thursday, 7 – 9 p.m. Opening Provost Lecture

Chrystia Freeland, author of Plutocrats, Canada Minister of International Affairs (tentative acceptance)

Plutocrats: Understanding the 0.1%

5.0 Thursday 9:30 p.m. –

Party – Hilton Garden Inn
Friday June 10

08:00 – 09:00 a.m. continental breakfast – SAC Ballroom A

Friday, 9:00 – 10:30 Plenary
Race, Class, and Environmental Justice
Joe Uehlein, Executive Director, Labor Network for Sustainability
Jacqueline Patterson, Climate and Environmental Justice Program Director, NAACP
Carla Lipsig-Mumme, Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, York University

Friday, 10:45 – 12:15

7.1 Deindustrialization and Memory
Geoff Bright, Manchester Metropolitan University, Mark James, Unite the Union, South Yorkshire Community Branch, and Max Munday, community broadcaster: Working in ‘Ghost Labs’: Developing a process-space for critical creative/political/community practice.
Mike Seltzer, Oslo and Akershus University College: Death by Box – The Destruction of Working Class Community on a European Waterfront
Tim Strangleman, University of Kent: Images of Workers and Photographing Work: Changing Visions of Work and Class in Post War England

7.2 Labor Militance
Cagatay Edgucan-Sahin, Ordu University, and Pekin Bengisu Tepe, Ankara University: The Wildcat Strike Wave of May 2015: Is the Turkish Metal Workers Insurgency Breaking the Fear Barrier?
Kim Scipes, Purdue University North Central: U.S. Labor Solidarity with Labor Militants around the World
Derek Seidman, D’Youville College: The History (and Future) of the Fight for 15
Marc Kagan, CUNY Graduate Center: Workers Fighting Austerity: The 1980 New York City Transit Strike
7.3 Re-class-ification
John Welsh, University of Helsinki: The Shadow: New Class Configuration in the University
Victoria Hill, St. Edwards University: You Listen to What Working People Are Saying Loud and Clear*: Two Mid-Century Challenges to Middle-Class Normativity in Psychology
Lukas Pfäffle, University of Heidelberg: The Cultural Foundation of the German Middle Class
Udayan Chandra Roy, Ram Narayan Roy Foundation: Class struggle and caste dynamics in India

7.4 Lead Smelting: Historical and Contemporary Issues in Environmental Health, Class, and Social Justice
Christopher Sellers, SUNY Stony Brook, and Marianne Sullivan, William Paterson University: Toward a History of Occupational Lead Standard in The United States
Gita Nandan, Pratt Institute and Red Hook (NY) Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committee: Legacy Lead and Sustainability in Red Hook
Jay Turner, Wellesley College: Closing the Loop? The History of Lead-Acid Battery Recycling and Implications for the Future
Jack Caravano, Hunter College CUNY: Lead Poisoning in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: International Case Studies

7.5 Working Class Formations in China
Katie Quan, UC Berkeley: Reaching for Power: Models of Working Class Organizing in China
Gaochao He, Sun Yat-sen University: Where's the Class? Rethinking Class Formation in Contemporary China
Eli Friedman, Cornell University: Alienated Politics and Class Formation in China

7.6 Who Says Nobody Talks about Class in America? Listening for and Making Class Speak in Political and Cultural Discourse
Tim Libretti, Northester Illinois University: How Class Is Spoken in the Languages of Sexuality and Race: Alienation as the Sickness of Class Society
John Kane, SUNY Stony Brook: Organized Labor as the New Undeserving Rich? Mass Media, Inverted Class Rhetoric, and Anti-Union Sentiment in the U.S
Reece Peck, College of Staten Island CUNY: Usurping the Usable Past: How Fox News Remembered the Great Depression during the Great Recession
7.7 Pathways of Capitalist Class Influence on State Policy
Joshua Murray, Vanderbilt University: Beyond Inter-Corporate Networks: Finance Capital at the Center of Corporate Political Activity
Kevin Young, UMass Amherst: Capital Strikes as Corporate Political Strategy
Jennifer Heerwig, SUNY Stony Brook: ThePartisanship and Ideology of the Corporate Inner Circle

8.0 Friday 12:45 – 1:55
Working Class Studies Association Membership Meeting

Friday, 2:00 – 3:30

9.1 Class Consciousness
Najate Zougari, University of Lausanne: Artist vs. Artisan vs. Worker: Markers of Class in Cabinet-making in France and French-speaking part of Switzerland
Peter Ikeler and Jill Crocker, SUNY College at Old Westbury: Services and Solidarity: Class Consciousness in the Postindustrial Workplace
Caroline Pari-Pfisterer, Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY: Getting Above Your Raisin': Working-Class Encounters with the Academy
Ken Estey, Brooklyn College CUNY: Working Class Pride and its Discontents

9.2 Labor Migration
Sylvia Hahn, University of Salzburg: Labor Migration, Class, and Ethnicity in Austria Since the 1960s
Sonila Danaj, University of Jyväskylä, and Ines Wagner, University of Duisburg-Essen: Constructing the underclass of ‘poverty migrant’: discourses on labour migration and welfare policy in Germany and the UK
Sylvain Bordiec, University of Bordeaux: To Keep People There: The Settlement of Foreign Workers in “World of Wine” in Medoc (France)
Verena Lorber, University of Salzburg: Left to fend for themselves? Yugoslavian labor migrants in Austria in the 1960s and 1970s

9.3 Precarity and Beyond
Jackie Gabriel, Colorado State University: Beyond Precarity: Lockouts and Worker Resilience in Industrial America
Jonathan Sale, University of the Philippines: New Forms of Workforce Flexibility and Unacceptable Forms of Work: Is the Philippine Kindergarten to Grade 12 Law shaping such outcomes?
Christina Rousseau, York University: Considering the Feminization of Labor and the Making of the Precariat
9.4 Conceptions of Class, Work, Values, and Identity
Barbara Jensen, Minneapolis Counseling Therapist
Jeff Torlina, Utah Valley University

9.5 Issues in Environmental Justice
Irwin Sperber, SUNY New Paltz: Undermining Environmental Justice: The Co-optation of Environmental NGOs by the Ruling Class and Corporate Polluters
Marina Sitrin, CUNY Graduate Center: The Recuperation of Work, Life, and Land
Eddie Rosario, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 375, District Council 37: U.S. Labor Combating Environmental Injustices: organizing locally and globally
Alan Derickson, Pennsylvania State University: The United Steelworkers’ Multi-faceted Strategy for Controlling the Hazard of Coke-Oven Emissions

9.6 Aspects of Class Relations in Turkey
Melda Yaman, Ondokuz Mayis University: Restructuring Industrial Processes: Transforming Turkey into Europe’s China
Özgür Narin, Ordu University: The Rural Transformation of Hazelnut Production in the Eastern Black Sea Region
Özgür Öztürk, Ondokuz Mayis University: Made in Turkey ... by Syrian Refugees
Gürçag Tuna, Tunceli University: The Relationship Between the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and Capital in Turkey

9.7 The Fight for Health Care: Contesting the Neo-liberal Assault on the Social Wage
Martha Livingston, SUNY Old Westbury
Mark Dudzik, Labor Campaign for Single Payer
Katie Robbins, Metro NY Chapter, Physicians for a National Health Program

Friday, 3:45 – 5:15

10.1 Alternative Labor Strategies
Dario Azzellini, Johannes Kepler University: Enterprise recuperations, networks and class recomposition
Jay Youngdahl, Oakland, Calif.: Workers’ Capital?: Labor’s Alliances with Financiers
Zane Curtis-Olsen, Yale University: Sweat Equity, ‘The Right to the City,’ and the Reassessment of Neighborhood Labor in 1970s Philadelphia
Jean Harris, Highline College: Effect of Co-Cultural and Cross-Class Contact Initiated in a Multi-racial, Low-Income Public Housing Community, 1941-1966
10.2 Working on Earth: Class, Environment, Community, and Justice
Jen Westerman, Appalachian State University
Christina Robertson, University of Nevada, Reno
Edie Steiner, Centennial College

10.3 Rethinking Class: Roundtable Imagining Contemporary Working Class Studies
Joseph Entin, Brooklyn College CUNY
Jennifer Silva, Bucknell University
Conor Tomás Reed, Brooklyn, NY
Immanuel Ness, Brooklyn College CUNY
Michael Zweig, SUNY Stony Brook

10.4 Profiled
Kathleen Foster, film maker
Andrew Tilson, WorkersUnite Film Festival

10.5 Media and the Working Class in the Election of 2016
A Roundtable Convened by Frank Emspak, Diversified Media Enterprises, producer of Workers Independent News
John Anderson, Brooklyn College CUNY
David Katzman, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, NYC
Howard Kling, Public Economic Information Services and University of Minnesota
Nicole Korkolis, Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 80, NYC

10.6 A New and Unsettling Force: Organizing Across Race and Gender for a Class-based New Poor People’s Campaign
John Wessel-McCoy, Kairos Center
Willie Baptist, Union Theological Seminary
Larry Cox, Union Theological Seminary
Catherine Coleman Flowers, Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise Community Development Corporation (ACRE)
Karen Savage, Bridge the Gulf Network (Gulf Coast)

10.7 Class on Campus
Colby King and Sean McPherson, Bridgewater State University
Deborah Warnock, SUNY Cortland
Allison Calhoun and Christina Irvine, Whitman College
Dwight Lang, University of Michigan
11.0 Friday, 7 – 9 p.m. Banquet and Award Presentations

12.0 Friday, 9:30 p.m. -
Party – Hilton Garden Inn

Saturday June 11

8 – 9 a.m. Continental breakfast

Saturday, 9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session

The African-American Experience of Class
Bill Fletcher, Jr., talk-show host, writer & activist
Steven Pitts, UC Berkeley
Patricia Ford, Executive Vice-President, Service Employees International Union (retired)

Saturday, 10:45 – 12:15

14.1 Neo-liberalism
Stephen Philion, St. Cloud State University: Chinese Neo-Liberalism and Bases for Cross-Straits Labor Solidarity
Partha Banerjee, Joint Industries Board of the Electrical Industry, NYC: The New Global Economy, Colonization, and Slavery
Lekh Prasad Burlakoti, Center for Labor and Social Studies (CLASS Nepal): Class and Global Economy in Nepalese Context
Burcu Nur Binbuğa Kinik, Middle East Technical University: Gezi Uprising: Resistance to Neoliberal Authoritarianism

14.2 Representations of Class
Carol Quirke, SUNY Old Westbury: Arthur Leipzig’s Representations of Work—When Is A Photo A Provocation for Change?
Maureen Curtin, SUNY Oswego: Socialism and Irish-American Literature in the 20th Century
Terry Easton, University of North Georgia: Singin’ the Rez Blues: Lyricism of Hope and Despair in Sherman Alexie’s Reservation Blues
Christiane Schlote, University of Basel: Class Topographies and Power Geometries in Dubai
14.3 Identity and Economic Place
Mathew Sparkes, Cambridge University: Borrowed identities: the role of credit in classificatory struggles
Philipp Staab, Hamburg Institute for Social Research: The Service Proletariat - Exploring Germany’s post-industrial class structure
Peter Ikeler and Laura Limonic, SUNY College at Old Westbury: Class Structure and Class Geography in Neoliberal America: An Occupational Approach
David Smith, University of Greenwich, London, and Margaret Greenfields, Buckinghamshire New University: Gypsies, Travellers and Working Class Formation and Identity in London

14.4 Class, Community, and Environment: Place and Poverty
Tricia Stewart, Point Park University, and Michelle Pallermo-Biggs, Warner School of Education
Mary Corey, SUNY College at Brockport
JanRose Ottaway Martin, MSW

14.5 Class Conflict Among Already Organized Workers
Eddie Kay, veteran union organizer
Marc Kagan, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 (2001-2005)

14.6 Heard It Through the Grapevine
Pat Hartley, film maker
Andrew Tilson, WorkersUnite Film Festival

14.7 Towards a Revolution in Labor History

15.0 Saturday 12:45 – 1:45 Playback Theater (tentative acceptance)

Saturday, 2:00 – 3:30

16.1 Topics in Class and Race
Alison Dobrick, William Paterson University: One Town Over in Another World: Pre-Service Teachers in Urban Elementary Schools Develop Understandings of Class, Race and Gender
Scott Henkel, University of Wyoming: The Dynamics of Multiracial Cooperation in W. E. B. Du Bois’ Black Reconstruction
Karen Gaffney, Raritan Valley Community College: Tipping Points in Recognizing Injustice: Reading The New Jim Crow at a Community College, a Prison, and a Church
16.2 State, NGOs and Class

Thomas Castillo, University of Maryland: The “Right to Work” in the Sunshine State, from the New Deal to Taft Hartley


Jason Coupet, North Carolina State University: Class, power, and benevolence in Transition Coaching: Evidence from Chicago

16.3 Topics in Class Identity

Marc Szydlik, University of Zurich: Class, country, culture: How inequality is transferred from one generation to the next

Michelle Tokarczyk, Goucher College: E. L. Doctorow’s Working-Class Fiction

Camila Pulgar Machado, Universidad Central de Venezuela: The collective archive: exploring class politics in the culture of post-Chávez Venezuela

Jill Schennum, County College of Morris: Transmission of Class Identities: the Children of Bethlehem Steelworkers

16.4 Green Gentrification and Urban Environmental Justice

Josiah Rector, Wayne State University
Tammy Lewis, Brooklyn College CUNY
John Arena, College of Staten Island CUNY
Kenneth Gould, Brooklyn College CUNY

16.5 Sluts, Boozers, Bruisers, and Romance in Mass Culture

Leo Parascondola, William Paterson University: Cry Me a River: Women in Film, Romance, Ideology, and the Hollywood Production Code

James Phillips, Kingsborough Community College and York College CUNY: Boozers, Bruisers, Cons, and Redemption Among Dock and Factory Workers in American Film

Tim Sheard, National Writers Union (UAW Local 1981) and Hardball Press: Was Cinderella a Slut? The Class bias Undergirding Children’s Animated Movies in 2015

Tim Libretti, Northeastern Illinois University: How Mad Men Represents Class-Conditioned Alienation as the Obstacle to Social Liberation
Saturday, 3:45 – 5:15

17.1 The Presence of Class in History
Cherie Rankin, Heartland Community College: The German Workers behind the William Scully Empire
Shannon Kirkwood, Central Michigan University: Working Class Domesticity, Community Identity, and Political Activism in the U.S. and Britain, 1912-1922
Donna Haverty-Stacke, Hunter College CUNY: Radical Women and the Work of Class and Gender: The Case of Grace Carlson and Her Party Sisters

17.2 Youth
Lindsey Cienfuegos, Georgetown University: Challenges in Ekphrasis: Counter-Discourses in World’s Most Dangerous Gang
Gregory DeFreitas, Hofstra University: Young Workers, Blocked Futures
Jakob Hartl, University of Bristol: The young working class’ road to political alienation. Social differentiation and the decrease in political participation
Colleen Johnston, Indiana University: Class, Race, and Gender Differences in US College Students’ Sense of Subjective Class

17.3 Understanding Cross-Class Marriages
A roundtable discussion of Jessi Streib’s *The Power of the Past: Understanding Cross-Class Marriages*
Jack Metzgar, Roosevelt University (emeritus)
Allison Hurst, Oregon State University
Barbara Jensen, Minneapolis counseling psychologist
Betsey Leondar-Wright, Lasell College
Jeff Torlina, Utah Valley University
Jessi Streib, Duke University

17.4 Language, Memoir, and Intergenerational Cross-Class Mobility: Kathy Dobson’s *With a Closed Fist: Growing Up in Canada’s Toughest Neighborhood*
Herbert Pimlott, Wilfred Laurier University: Writing the Class Out of Poverty: Autobiography, Gender, and Consciousness in *With a Closed Fist*
Kathy Dobson, Carleton University: “Bite Me.” When Language Offends More than Poverty
Jenny Mitchell, Carleton University: A Tale of Two Classes: Exploring Transitional Class Experiences

18.0 Saturday 5:30 – 6:00
Conference sum-up and evaluation ##