

have begun to understand the importance of gender and race in writing the history of and in organizing working people, the conference also made clear that this is an ongoing project. Ahistorical notions of class, for example, frequently obscure the contingencies and complexities of working-class peoples.

The next North American Labor History Conference, organized under the theme "International and Comparative Labor History," should help to broaden the agenda of labor historians even further. And, as previous conferences have demonstrated, Elizabeth Faue's superb planning and the convenient surroundings of the Wayne State conference center promise to make this a productive gathering. The sixteenth annual conference will be held October 13–15, 1994.

Eighth Biennial Southern Labor Studies Conference: Race and Culture

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The Eighth Biennial Southern Labor Studies Conference met in Birmingham October 21–24, 1993. The theme of the conference was "Race & Culture" and it incorporated sessions on both the South and Latin America. The four days of sessions covered a wide range of topics examining the often agonizing and exciting juxtaposition of racial solidarity and segregation.

A session on NAFTA kicked off the conference. The participants included Ed Brown (UAB), Thea Lee (Economic Policy Institute), Thomas Skidmore (Brown), and Greg Woodhead (Task Force on Trade, AFL–CIO). A roundtable discussion followed, examining "Race & Gender." Norma Powell (CWA) and Buddy Watson King (UMW) recited their own experiences as female organizers in a predominately male setting. Mary Frederickson ably mediated. The following day a session chaired by Robert Zieger examined the intersection of class and race during the World War I period. Joseph McCartin (SUNY–Geneseo) and Eric Karolak (Ohio State) spoke on the dynamic role played by the federal government in mediating race relations in wartime industries.

Another session examined the adaptive strategies used by African Americans in the urban environment in Meridian, Mississippi (Elizabeth

Sharpe [Jackson State]) and Birmingham (Bobby Wilson [UAB]). The papers emphasized how local and wider structural factors impacted the black urban experience. Robert Norrell (UA) commented. The afternoon sessions, chaired by Joe Trotter (Carnegie Mellon), examined coal strikes in Alabama and constructively highlighted the Gutman–Hill debate to frame the papers by Alex Lichtenstein (Florida International) and Glenn Feldman (Auburn University). Papers on textile work and urban experience were also presented by Michelle Brattain (Rutgers University) and Marie Tedesco (East Tennessee University). Brattain analyzed why textile workers rejected unions in Tallaposa, and Tedesco examined managerial failure and success in three textile plants at Elizabethton. Two case studies of Louisiana lumber workers that highlighted the themes of triangulation and reconstruction of gender roles were presented by Abra Quin and Delia Crutchfield Cook (University of Missouri); James Fickle (Memphis State) complemented the papers with an overview of managerial strategy in a two-state area. Eric Arnesen (University of Illinois at Chicago) commendably oversaw and commented on papers, assisted by George Hopkins (College of Charleston). Judi Catlett (UAB) chaired the session on “Domestic Workers” in which papers by Stephanie Cole (University of Oklahoma) and Kimberly Wargo (Tulane) compared the experiences of domestic servants in three communities and how indices of class and race seriously challenge notions of sisterhood.

The highlight of the conference was David Montgomery’s keynote address at the impressive 16th Street Baptist Church. The theme of Montgomery’s lecture was rescuing the voices of workers and their interpretation of citizenship. The address was followed by a reception and tour of the Civil Rights Institute. The Saturday morning sessions encompassed slavery and black leadership. By focusing on different aspects of the rural preindustrial nature of slave life and work, all three papers, by Michael Naragon (University of Pittsburgh), Suzanne Schnittman (SUNY–Brockport), and Michael Vorenberg (Harvard), moved away from labor history’s traditional bias to chart important areas of research and analysis. The theme of black leadership and the tensions of cross-race organization were ably discussed by Michael Honey (University of Washington) and Leon Fink (University of North Carolina) and chaired by Judith Stein (CUNY Graduate Center).

Following a tour of Sloss Furnace, a living monument to Birmingham’s industrial past, the Saturday afternoon session chaired by Alan Draper (St. Lawrence University) included a critical examination of the relationship between the civil rights and labor movements. Papers by Roderick Ryon (Towson State), Michael Sstrom (University of North Carolina), and Peter Levy (York College) discussed the often contentious and dramatic relationship. The following session addressed the sometimes-tortuous affiliation of trade-union movements and race. The papers by Peter Rachleff (Macalester College), David Roediger (University of Missouri), and Michael Goldfield (Wayne State) outlined how the Knights of Labor, the IWW, and the

CIO, each in its way, challenged segregation, and at times, reaffirmed its existence. Sunday morning an animated session on labor law chaired by Wythe Holt (UA) highlighted the use of law by African Americans to better their work existence. Comments by veteran labor lawyer Buddy Cooper helped immensely to put the issue in its historical and contemporary perspective. The audience was large and just as spirited at the final session, as conference participants were treated to Ted Ownby's critique of the postbellum stereotype of black miners as "free spenders," and Patrick Huber presented evidence of the "revolutionary" use of the term "red neck" by Appalachian coal miners, a sharp contrast to the commonplace usage.

As in previous conferences, a Latin-American component was also incorporated into the proceedings. David Montgomery presided over the session examining workers' control in Central America. Michael Braga (University of Texas) delivered a paper on sugar mill workers and the 1933 Cuban Revolution. Marc McLoud (UT) spoke on railway workers and the Guatemalan revolution, followed by Alan LeBaron (Kennesaw State) discussing the connection of union growth and the Arevalo administration. Patience Essah delivered her paper on the transition from slave to free labor in Delaware. Jonathan Brown (UT) presided over a session on workers' control in South America. Andy Boeger (UT) spoke on miners and the revolution in Bolivia, followed by Mark Langevin (University of Arizona), who described the divisions in the Brazilian labor movement following the return to democracy. Celina Tuofoo (UT) spoke on how limited access to health care segmented the Brazilian gold-mining labor force. Thomas Skidmore (Brown) chaired the session on labor in Colombia, in which Pam Murray (UAB) spoke on the training of mining engineers in Medellin. Mauricio Cardenas (University of Pittsburgh) read his paper on the union response to industrial restructuring in Argentina. Mike Conniff (Auburn) introduced the session on Argentine labor. Michael Snodgrass (UT) discussed working-class resistance in Peronist Argentina. Pablo Davis (Franklin & Marshall) then spoke on internal migration and racial stereotyping in Argentina. Finally, Joel Horowitz (Saint Bonaventure) read a paper submitted by Roberto Korzeniewicz, "Mass Mobilization and Populism in Argentina."