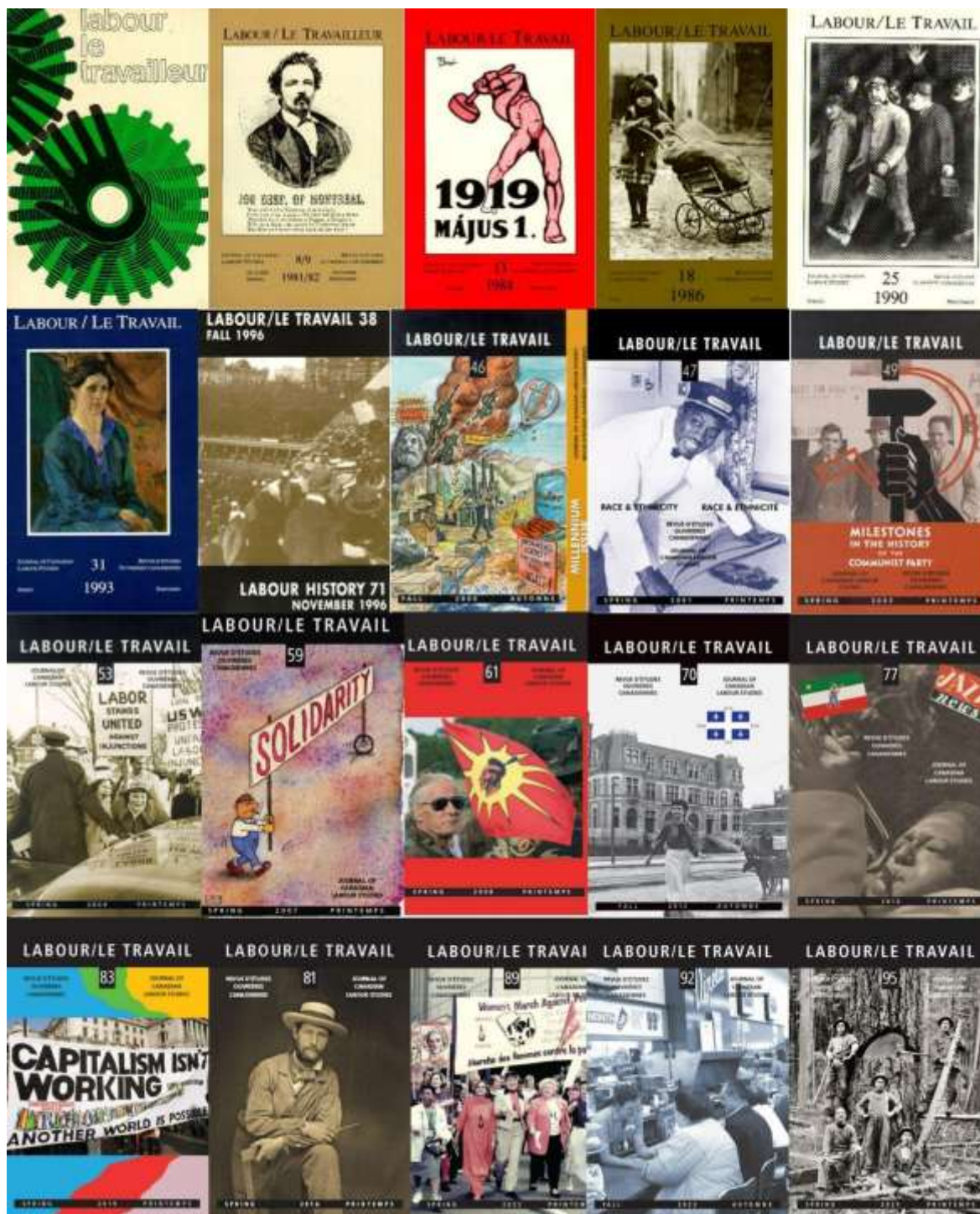


Why Does Labour Matter?

The Past, Present, and Future of Labour and Labour Studies



Quelle est la valeur du travail?

Passé, présent et futur de la classe ouvrière et des études sur le travail.

Université du Québec à Montréal, 13-15 November 2025

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Sponsors / Partenaires

SSHRC  CRSH

CRSH  SSHRC



Canadian Committee on Labour History
Comité Canadien sur L'histoire du Travail

LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL



UQÀM

Université du Québec à Montréal



Histoire
Engagée



ÉCOMUSÉE
DU FIER MONDE



McGill University Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies

Welcome! Bienvenue !

En 1976, le Comité canadien sur l'histoire du travail (CCHT) lançait sa revue <i>Labour/Le Travail</i> afin d'imaginer de nouvelles approches de production et de diffusion des connaissances sur le travail. À l'approche du cinquantième anniversaire de la revue, ce colloque réunit les personnes chercheuses, enseignantes, syndicalistes, militantes et engagées dans l'histoire publique à échanger, dans l'esprit de cette tradition, autour cette réflexion sur les enjeux du travail, de la classe ouvrière et des mouvements sociaux.	In 1976 the Canadian Committee on Labour History (CCLH) launched its journal <i>Labour/Le Travail</i>, hoping to “foster imaginative approaches to both teaching and research in labour studies through an open exchange of viewpoints.” With the fiftieth anniversary of this event approaching, scholars, activists, unionists, and workers here convene in the spirit of this tradition to exchange views and to consider new and renewed imaginative approaches to the study of labour and the working class.
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Comité d'organisation / Organizing Committee:

Edward Dunsworth, Benoit Marsan, Kirk Niergarth, Martin Petitclerc, Camille Robert, Joan Sangster

Schedule / Horaire

Jeudi / Thursday 13 Novembre

Séance plénière d'ouverture / Opening Plenary, 19h – 21h

Reflections on the history of the revolutionary left in Canada/ Réflexions sur l'histoire de la gauche révolutionnaire au Canada

Panelists /Panélistes

Andrée Lévesque

Mathieu Houle-Courcelles

Bryan Palmer

Rhonda Hinthner

Vendredi / Friday, 14 Novembre

8h30-10h

1.1 Strikes in History / Les grèves dans l'histoire

Chair / Présidence :

Laurence Hamel-Roy et Martin Gallié « Débrayer pour faire plier le gouvernement : regards croisés sur trois grèves illégales dans le secteur de la construction au Québec ».

Mason Godden, “Railway Rebels: Building a Canadian Labour Movement on Canada’s Railways Under Neoliberalism.”

Benoit Marsan, « Comment se réapproprier l’usage de la grève dans un contexte de relations de travail de plus en plus hostile ? »

Louis Durand, « La triple personnalité gouvernementale et le droit du travail : Employeur, exécuter et législateur ».

1.2 Populism, the Far Right, and Union Busting / Populisme, extrême-droite et antisindicalisme

Chair / Présidence :

Gabriel Gerbaldo and Fernando Aiziczon, “Science and the Far-Right: The Crisis of Scientific Work in Argentina and the Struggles for Its Future.”

Michael Arfken, “Professionalization, Social Closures, and the Struggle for Workplace Democracy.”

Chad Pearson, “Fighting ‘the enemies of our great country’: Making sense of the Ku Klux Klan’s Anti-Communism in the 1920s.”

Parashar Kulkarni, “Cow, Union Buster! Identitarianism and Organizing in Bombay’s Mills, 1850s-1990s.”

1.3 Writing Labour History / Écrire l'histoire du travail

Chair / Présidence : Gregory S. Kealey

Benjamin Anderson, "Navigating Contending Interests: Conflict and Cooperation in Writing the History of the CSU."

Fred Burrill, "Whither Atlantic Canadian Labour History? A View from New Brunswick."

David Tough, "'How the fornicate are we goin' to get our excrement together unless we understand how we got here?': *Labour/Le travail*, the Practice of Working-Class History, and the Problem of Class Consciousness in the 1970s."

David Blocker, "Activism and Scholarship: The New Left's 'Long March' in Canadian Labour Studies since the 1970s."

10h30 -12h

2.1 Culture, Memory, and the Working Class / Culture, mémoire et classe ouvrière

Chair / Présidence :

John Bessai, "Labour, Art, and the Canadian Aporia: The NFBC and the Digital Mediation of Working-Class Struggles."

Valerie Uher, "The 'Strange Economy' of Artistic Labour: York Wilson vs. The International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America."

Peter Campbell, "Fifteen People at Bob Carlin's Funeral: Reflections on the Legacy and Fate of Working-Class Heroes."

David Sobel, "The Moving Past - A Collection of Archival Films."

2.2 The Importance of Labour Studies / Importance des études sur le travail

Chair / Présidence :

Laura Dehaibi, «L'histoire et le droit : une conversation nécessaire pour la protection des travailleurs ».

Jason Russell, "The Countervailing Voice: Labour, Labour Studies, and Countering Management Ideology."

Lorraine O'Donnell, "People's History of English-Speaking Quebec and the case of the Black Rock Group."

Corey Orszak, "Archiving Fifty Years of Graduate Assistant's Association at York University."

2.3 Precarity, Pandemic and Digital Economy/ Précarité, pandémie et économie du numérique

Chair / Présidence :

Adam King, "Building Back Battered: Workers and Unions Post-Pandemic."

Samuel Pelletier, « L'Intelligence artificielle et le rapport au travail : une nouvelle classe ouvrière de l'économie numérique ? »

Susana Ponte Rivera, « Le 'presque emploi' des femmes immigrantes : avec qui lutter ? »

Yves Laberge, « Quelle est la valeur du chargé de cours? Les nouvelles formes de discrimination dans le monde universitaire capitaliste. Remarques théoriques et postmarxistes ».

12h-13h30, Dîner / Lunch

13h30 -15h

3.1 Militant Labour in a Midwest State: Labour Studies in Indiana / Le travail militant dans un État du Midwest : études sur le travail en Indiana

Chair / Présidence :

Patricia Linner, “A True Friend of Labor: The lasting legacy of Paul Mishler.”

William J. Mello, “This is our program”: An overview of working-class education at IU

Joseph Varga, “It’s the Last Damn Thing We Got’: Union Survival in Reactionary Times.”

3.2 Le capital en lutte: stratégies d’accumulation et résistance à la dépossession dans l’histoire du Canada (1890-1990) / Capital in Struggle: Strategies of Accumulation and Resistance to Dispossession in Canadian History (1890-1990)

Chair / Présidence :

Sandrine Labelle, « Chaîne de dépossession : la formation du capital chez la firme d’ingénierie québécoise SNC et le travail de la paysannerie en Côte d’Ivoire (1980-1990) ».

Don Nerbas, “Corporate Reconstruction and Resistance on the Sydney Coalfield.”

Martin Petitclerc, « ‘Everyone has lost in the depression except the men with a bond coupon’: la dette publique, le chômage et l’accumulation par dépossession à Montréal (1920-1944) ».

Marie-Josée Lavallée, « Le travail : un socle essentiel de la lutte contre le capitalisme d’hier à aujourd’hui ».

3.3 Management and Power / Pouvoir, gestion et autogestion

Chair / Présidence :

Mircea Raianu, “The Lucas Plan and the Ends of Worker Self-Management in the Late 1970s.”

Ramsha Usman, “Expecting Work: Treating Workplace Injury to Make an Able Worker.”

Adrien Bouvet, « La place du travailleur salarié dans le régime légal de prévention des accidents du travail au Québec : 1885-1910 ».

Janis Theissen, “Communicative Memory of the Crowe Affair.”

15h30 -17h

4.1 Precarious Work at University : Reflexions, Strategies and Mobilizations / La précarité du travail en milieu universitaire : réflexions, stratégies et mobilisations

Chair / Présidence : Camille Robert

Panelists /Panélistes

Annabelle Berthiaume

Godefroy Desrosiers-Lauzon

Lauren Laframboise

Victoria Vieira

4.2 Preserving Our Past and Fighting for Our Future: the Alberta Labour History Institute / Préserver notre passé et lutter pour notre présent : l'Alberta Labour History Institute

Chair / Présidence :

Alvin Finkel, "Labour scholarship versus Labour schools."

Paula Kirman, "Preserving/Archiving Labour History."

Donna Coombs-Montrose, "Bringing History to Life."

4.3 Organizing Strategies of the Working Class / Stratégies d'organisation de la classe ouvrière

Chair / Présidence : Kassandra Luciuk

Duff Sutherland, "The International Woodworkers of America (IWA) organizing drive in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1956-1959."

Michael Feagan, "Work and Network: The Labour of Canadian and American Telegraph Operators, 1870- "

Michael Billeaux-Martinez, "'I's da Power': The rise and fall of militant unionism among Milwaukee longshoremen, 1934-1942."

Jonathan Weir, "The past, present and future of police unions in Canada."

18h-20h30

Conférence publique : S'organiser face aux crises : luttes pour les droits des travailleur·euses et pour la justice environnementale / Organizing in the Face of Crisis: Struggles for Workers' Rights and Environmental Justice

Panelists /Panélistes :

- Anonymous/anonyme
- Joseph McCartin
- François Geoffroy

Samedi / Saturday, 15 Novembre

8h30-10h

5.1 Labouring for the Future: Workers, Unions, the Environment, and Pensions / Travailler pour l'avenir : salariées, syndicats, environnement et pensions

Chair / Présidence :

Melissa Ziani, « Redéfinir le travail : quand la jeunesse place l'environnement au cœur de ses choix professionnels ».

Chad Montrie, "Labour and Environment, Past and Present, Alberta and Ontario."

Shannon Ikebe, "From Socialism to Neoliberalism: Swedish Origins of the Collective Workers' Funds in Québec."

5.2 Indigenous Peoples, Capital, and Labour / Communautés autochtones, travail et capitalisme

Chair / Présidence :

Julie Guard, "Leslie Spillett: Kohkum, Knowledge Keeper, Cree and Métis Community Organizer, Labour Activist, Feminist."

John Lutz, "Indigenous Coal Miners of Vancouver Island."

Mathieu Tardif, « De l'activité de subsistance au travail : les rapports de production induits par la traite des fourrures en Nouvelle-France ».

5.3 Syndicalisme, féminisme reproduction sociale / Union Movement, Feminism and Social Reproduction

Chair / Présidence :

Camille Robert, « Pour un « troisième front » : luttes féministes et syndicales face au tournant néolibéral québécois ».

Diego Latorre, "Learning from Labour Movement's Failure on Feminized and Precarious Employment: the Young Christian Workers on Domestic Service during Franco-era Spain."

Mia Michael, "Show us how to do it": Home Care Workers & Organized Labor's Revival Despite Reagan."

Thomas MacMillan, "We Can Do It Ourselves": A Feminist Union and the Fight For Maternity Leave."

5.4 Race, Ethnicity, and the Canadian Labour Movement, 1920-1982 / Race, ethnicité et mouvement syndical canadien (1920-1982)

Chair / Présidence : Kirk Niergarth

Jane Komori, "Interwar Asian immigrant and Indigenous workers on the West Coast."

Edward Dunsworth, "Labour Socialists and the Immigration Question in Interwar Canada."

David Goutor, "Human rights campaigns and organized labour in 1940s revisited."

Sajdeep Soomal, "*A Time to Rise*: Labour and feminist organizing in the South Asian diaspora in Canada following the Emergency in India (1975–1977)."

10h30 -12h

Séance plénière / Plenary Session

50 Years of Labour Studies / 50 ans d'études sur le travail

Panelists /Panélistes :

- Charles Menzies
- Dennis Pilon
- Tom Langford
- Karen Messing

12h-13h30, Dîner / Lunch

13h30-15h

6.1 Global and Socialist Politics / Politiques globales et socialistes

Chair / Présidence :

Sarah K. Miles, « On édite pour le plaisir : l'engagement militant intellectuelle et travail entre capitalisme et anticapitalisme dans l'ère des fronts communs ».

Marcel Nault Jr, « De Parti pris au CISO. Un héritage anti-impérialiste au syndicalisme québécois (1964-1979) ».

Nicolas Lépine, « Lockout et blackout : la grève La Canadiense de 1919, une action réussie de la base ».

6.2 Capitalism, Domestic Work and Collective Organization / Capitalisme, travail domestique et organisation collective

Chair / Présidence :

Sinead Petrasek, "Gendered relationship between production and reproduction in capitalist society."

Adia Giddings, "The Fight for Wages in the Household: The Household Workers' Association and Support Networks for Black Household Workers in Montreal, 1975–1980."

Frédéric Barriault, « Un mouvement ouvrier Urbi et Orbi? Les prêtres-ouvriers et l'émancipation collective des milieux populaires au Québec (1964-1980) ».

6.3 Education as Resistance: How we teach about and learn from class struggle / L'éducation comme résistance : comment nous enseignons et apprenons de la lutte des classes

Chair / Présidence : Jordan Thompson

John-Henry Harter: "Roles of Resistance in the Classroom: Teaching and Learning About Class Struggle."

Andrea Samoil: "Boycotts and Physical World Activism."

Jim Selby: "Labour History for Union Activists."

15 :15h-16:45

7.1 Deindustrialization in question: periodization, structural changes and regional struggles / La désindustrialisation en question : périodisation, changements structurels et luttes régionales

Chair / Présidence :

William Gillies, “The Power Politics of Regional Deindustrialization: The Cape Breton Development Corporation, State Ownership, and Pit Closure in Canada’s Coal Industry 1967-2001.”

Steven High, “Deindustrialization is not the Historical Book End of the Industrial Era.”

Lachlan MacKinnon, “Negotiating the End of Coal: UMW District 26 and the DEVCO Coal Closures, 1999-2000.”

7.2 The Past, Present, and Future of Organizing in Academic Staff Associations in Canada / Le passé, le présent et l'avenir de l'organisation dans les associations de personnel académique au Canada

Panelists /Panélistes

Larry Savage

Susan Spronk

Invited union activists

7.3 Working the Front Line: Social Work and Labour / Travailler en première ligne : travail social et syndicalisme

Chair / Présidence : Tara La Rose

Panelists /Panélistes

Courtney Atlee

Joanne Azevedo

Tor Laine

Erica Maloney

Anne B. O'Connell

7.4 Changing the world one research project at a time: crossed perspectives on collaborative and transformative research practices / Changer le monde un projet de recherche à la fois : regards croisés sur les pratiques de recherche collaboratives et transformatrices

Chair / Présidence : Yanick Noisieux

Panelists /Panélistes

TBD

Abstracts / Résumés

1.1 Strikes in History / Les grèves dans l'histoire

Laurence Hamel-Roy et Martin Gallié « Débrayer pour faire plier le gouvernement : regards croisés sur trois grèves illégales dans le secteur de la construction au Québec ».

Cette proposition de communication porte sur trois grèves menées par les travailleur·euses de la construction du Québec dans les dernières décennies : (1) contre le projet de loi 142, en 1993, désassujettissant le secteur résidentiel; (2) contre le projet de loi 33, en 2011, abolissant le placement syndical et, (3) contre la dérégulation des exigences de formation pour le métier de grutier, en 2018.

Illégales au sens de la loi puisqu'elles ont été déclenchées alors que les conventions collectives étaient en vigueur, ces trois grèves ont pour point commun d'avoir été motivées par des modifications législatives ou réglementaires, dans le cas du PL 142 et du PL 33 proposées le gouvernement. La pression induite par ces mouvements de grève visait en ce sens à faire plier le gouvernement (à titre de législateur), et non les parties patronales comme il se fait traditionnellement.

En faisant dialoguer ces trois cas, l'objectif de cette présentation sera de mettre en relief les apprentissages quant aux potentialités du répertoire de la grève en matière de lutte et de résistance contre la néolibéralisation de l'État.

Mason Godden, "Railway Rebels: Building a Canadian Labour Movement on Canada's Railways Under Neoliberalism."

As the neoliberal project was rolled out across Canada in response to the global economic downturn of the 1970s, the Canadian labour movement found itself at a crossroads: acquiesce to the curtailment of collective bargaining rights or respond as a militant, confrontational collective. The subsequent "assault on trade union freedoms," brilliantly documented in Leo Panitch and Donald Swartz's titular study, coerced or otherwise compelled many of Canada's largest trade unions to take the latter path.

On Canada's national railways, the American-based unions that represented rail workers accepted wage freezes, cost of living allowance reductions, and job privatization as regrettable but necessary concessions to capital in a time of crisis. Combining oral history interviews and archival research, this presentation documents the oppositional organizing work carried out by a younger cohort of rail workers who rejected their unions' concessions to neoliberalism during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Guided by the political praxis of the New Left, these workers organized independent Canadian unions in an effort to oust the incumbent American unions and take a militant approach to industrial relations. Though ultimately unsuccessful in their organizing efforts, the fledgling Canadian unions pressured established American bargaining agents to better represent rank-and-file rail workers' interests in the neoliberal age. Using the campaigns for independent Canadian rail unions in this period as a case study, this presentation will argue that federal workers facing similar assaults to trade union freedoms today could learn much from the oppositional Canadian trade unionism that challenged neoliberalism in the past.

Benoit Marsan, « Comment se réapproprier l'usage de la grève dans un contexte de relations de travail de plus en plus hostile ? »

En 2015, la Cour suprême du Canada reconnaissait le droit de grève à titre de droit constitutionnel. Depuis, les gouvernements du Québec et du Canada hésitent à recourir à des lois spéciales de retour au travail. Néanmoins, les actions de l'État afin de restreindre le droit de grève des personnes salariées se poursuivent, limitant leur rapport de force face aux employeurs. En effet, depuis août 2024, le gouvernement fédéral a eu recours au Conseil canadien des relations industrielles afin de forcer le retour au travail des grévistes dans trois conflits de travail, dans l'industrie ferroviaire, dans les ports et à Poste Canada. Pour sa part, le gouvernement du Québec déposait en février 2025 le projet de loi 89 afin de limiter le droit de grève dans la province. Face à ces attaques, la riposte du mouvement syndical reste encore incertaine. Historiquement, la reconnaissance du droit de grève au Québec et au Canada s'est accompagnée d'un encadrement et d'une limitation de son exercice. Cependant, depuis la fin de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, il existe de nombreux exemples où le cadre légal du régime des relations de travail a été défié tant au Québec qu'au Canada. À partir de l'exemple des grèves sauvages qui se multiplient au pays dans la deuxième moitié des années 1960, cette communication propose de réfléchir à comment est-il possible pour la classe ouvrière québécoise et canadienne de se réapproprier l'usage de la grève dans un contexte de relations de travail de plus en plus hostile.

Louis Durand, « La triple personnalité gouvernementale et le droit du travail : Employeur, exécutif et législateur ».

Une question fondamentale me torture l'esprit et revient me hanter de façon incessante depuis maintenant quarante ans, alors que je terminais mon Baccalauréat en Relations Industrielles à l'Université Laval. Comment l'État peut gérer l'application d'une loi au niveau exécutif, procéder à sa révision au niveau législatif et tenter de la contourner en tant qu'employeur? Comment peut-on imposer des règles aux organisations privées et tenter de s'en dissocier comme organisation publique?

L'histoire du travail, c'est aussi l'histoire des lois qui le régissent au sein de la société. Certes, il y a eu des progrès considérables au cours des cinquante dernières années pour assurer un meilleur bien-être pour l'ensemble des travailleurs et travailleuses. Que l'on parle des normes minimales de travail, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail ou des nouvelles législations contre le harcèlement au travail jusqu'au nouveau droit à la déconnexion, l'ensemble de ces législations représente l'évolution d'une société quant à la protection des personnes dans un contexte de travail.

Qu'en est-il du droit à la négociation collective et du droit de grève? Le portrait des cinquante dernières années ne nous présente pas une évolution aussi claire de ces droits fondamentaux. Certes, les récentes décisions de la Cour Suprême semblent confirmer un progrès au sein de la société. Mais l'acceptation de ces décisions par les différents paliers de gouvernements et par l'ensemble de la société ne s'est jamais tout à fait confirmée. La privatisation des services et la non-syndicalisation des nouveaux secteurs industriels apparaissent comme des outils renouvelés pour contrer ce progrès juridique. Encore aujourd'hui, les différents paliers de gouvernement tentent de trouver des fissures dans les législations et les normes de l'OIT afin de proposer de nouvelles façons de cloisonner le droit de grève à l'intérieur de nouveaux paramètres.

Cette présentation aurait donc pour principal objectif de faire le bilan des interventions des différents paliers de gouvernement canadiens pour limiter et contourner l'exercice du droit de grève au cours des cinquante dernières années.

1.2 Populism, the Far Right, and Union Busting / Populisme, extrême-droite et antisindicalisme

Gabriel Gerbaldo and Fernando Aiziczon, “Science and the Far-Right: The Crisis of Scientific Work in Argentina and the Struggles for Its Future.”

Since the beginning of Javier Milei’s presidency in December 2023, Argentina's science and technology system has faced an unprecedented crisis. The suspension of new admissions to the research career, cuts in research grants, and the loss of purchasing power in salaries and fellowships have jeopardized the scientific community, particularly the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), the country's main research institution. This situation has reactivated the union organization of researchers and fellows, giving rise to a series of protests, mobilizations, and collective actions that have gained significant public visibility.

In this context, this paper aims to analyze, from a historical and comparative perspective, the effects of austerity policies on scientific work and the resistance strategies deployed by its actors. The relationship between labor precarization in the sector and the emergence of new forms of unionization will be explored, identifying continuities and ruptures with previous experiences in Argentina and Latin America. The study seeks to examine the impact of defunding on the structure of the Argentine scientific system and to analyze the transformation of scientists into unionized actors, considering their strategies of resistance. Furthermore, it will reflect on the role of science in public debate and the challenges it faces in a context of economic crisis and the rise of discourses hostile to social sciences. Through a historical review, this paper aims to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between science, politics, and labor in times of crisis.

Michael Arfken, “Professionalization, Social Closures, and the Struggle for Workplace Democracy.”

With the rise of scientific management, the inherent tension between the development and refinement of expertise for the benefit of skilled workers and the expropriation of those skills to further consolidate managerial power has grown particularly acute. Whereas guilds once played an important role in defending expertise and worker autonomy, deskilling and automation have erode the ability of skilled workers to collectively retain control over the labour process. In this new landscape, the separation of the conception and execution of work has given rise to both new forms of worker resistance and a new strata of workers – the Professional-Managerial Class (PMC) - that has radically transformed the organization of labour and the structure of an increasingly technocratic society. In the twenty-first century, these historical transformation have provided the backdrop for the emergence of right-wing populist movements committed to undermining various forms of expertise.

Drawing on the sociological notion of a social closure, this paper explores how the barriers separating different forms of expert knowledge have not only secured the conditions

for the development of expertise but have also inadvertently emboldened political groups committed to radically undermining that expertise.

Chad Pearson, “Fighting ‘the enemies of our great country’: Making sense of the Ku Klux Klan’s Anti-Communism in the 1920s.”

Historians of the second Ku Klux Klan, a reactionary organization that established a presence in regions throughout the US and parts of Canada, have generally downplayed the organization’s anti-communism. Anti-leftism, broadly defined, was even more important to the Klan leadership than racism, anti-Catholicism, and anti-Semitism. While Klansmen criticized minorities and sought to bar African Americans, Catholics, and Jews from holding positions of power, they repeatedly insisted that they were uninterested in physically harming members of these groups. This was not always true in practice. Yet the Klan leadership felt a great sense of urgency to fight Marxists of various stripes, Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members, and even municipal socialists. Led by elites rattled by the Russian Revolution and postwar strike waves, Klansmen showed a consistent eagerness to fight “the enemies of our great country.” Referring to communists at a speech in 1923, Grand Dragon J. W. Hawkins emphasized the Klan’s desire to remove “all Communists” from the US and ultimately “drop them overboard in midocean.” Not all preferred water as a punishment tool. Speaking in San Pedro, California, following a strike involving IWW members in 1924, an unidentified speaker expressed his preference for fire: “If you don’t like the country you can go back to where you came from and if you have no country to go to-- you can go to hell.” Using these and other anecdotes, this paper explores the Klan’s anti-communism and insists that we treat the organization as an employers’ association.

Parashar Kulkarni, “Cow, Union Buster! Identitarianism and Organizing in Bombay’s Mills, 1850s-1990s.”

This essay examines the role of cow protection in resisting labour struggles in Bombay’s cotton mills from the birth of industrialization in the 1850s to its eventual decline in the 1990s. Relying on public discourse in newspapers, government reports, and union documents, it shows that cows, sacred to Hindus, became a symbol of identity and a basis for elective affinity between mill owners, political/religious leaders, and a pro-capital city government. Mill owners funded cow protection societies, political/religious leaders supported cow protection and mediated directly with mill owners, and the state offered legitimacy, further resisting the negotiating power and innovations of labour unions to demand better living and working conditions. By implicating cow protection (identitarianism/communalism more broadly) in the political economy of industrial capitalism, this essay shifts attention from its primarily nationalist, majoritarian, and often agrarian discourse.

1.3 Writing Labour History / Écrire l’histoire du travail

Benjamin Anderson, “Navigating Contending Interests: Conflict and Cooperation in Writing the History of the CSU.”

Jim Green’s (1986) *Against the Tide: The Story of the Canadian Seamen’s Union* is one of the most celebrated union histories in the Canadian context. The book adorns the shelves of many that work in Canadian labour studies, and is still being cited with some

frequency - a feat for a book written for trade unionists and about a relatively short-lived union. In fact, to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Green's death, in 2016 Canadian writer Charles Demers, working with the Jim Green Foundation, wrote and produced a dramatic reading of the book at Simon Fraser University's historic Woodward's building.

Depicting the union's meteoric rise, its militant disposition, and its eventual fall to the forces set against it, Green tells the story of the Canadian Seamen's Union (CSU) as one of triumph and defeat, an example of working-class solidarity and the power of its opponents. Green's history of the CSU is a tale of conflicting interests, dramatic showdowns, and precipitous and consequential decisions. But what of the history of this history? As it turns out, had circumstances differed, Green's book might never have been the definitive history of the CSU. This paper reports on the background of the writing CSU's history, paying particular attention to the work, procedures, and decisions of the Canadian Seamen's Union History Project Committee, a group of Communist Party of Canada (CPC) members and former CSU members who spent decades attempting to get the union's history written.

Drawing upon archival materials accessed through Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Canada, ILWU Local 400, and Library, and Archives Canada (LAC), the paper attempts to reconstruct the process in which this history (and its virtually unknown predecessors) was written, particularly in terms of the internal conflicts and debates, the contending interests, that led to the narrative history we eventually got. It considers this institutional history against the content of Green's book as well as unpublished manuscripts by former CSU members Dewar Ferguson and Charles MacDonald, critically examining how political decisions influence the production of historical texts and responding to Craig Heron's (1989) inquiry as to why, up to that point, a more historically nuanced history of the CSU had not been written (which remains true to this day).

Fred Burrill, "Whither Atlantic Canadian Labour History? A View from New Brunswick."

Like most labour historians interested in the histories of working-class people in Atlantic Canada, a generous section of my bookshelf is dominated by the efforts of scholars at the University of New Brunswick. From Linda and Greg Kealey to David Frank and the many brilliant contributors to *Acadiensis*, it is an institution that has long loomed large in Canadian labour historiography. And yet, I now find myself in the curious (and personally very lucky) position of being the only full-time faculty in UNB's Department of Historical Studies dedicated to the study of the working class. Does working-class history still matter? In my paper, I want to try to attempt some broader evaluation of the last 50 years of Atlantic Canadian labour history, arguing not from a perspective of loss but instead thinking critically about the ways that this scholarship has emerged from, and in turn informed, politics and social movements in the region, in addition to tracing its profound impact on regional scholarship on a variety of other areas of interest. If there are fewer labour historians, I do think the ethics of labour history is everywhere in the historiography of Atlantic Canada.

David Tough, "How the fornicate are we goin' to get our excrement together unless we understand how we got here?": *Labour/Le travail*, the Practice of Working-Class History, and the Problem of Class Consciousness in the 1970s."

Some of the humour in Michael Cross's contribution to the first issue of *Labour/Le travail*, a sardonic review of recently published work on class and culture in Canada, ostensibly in the form of a transcript of two workers arguing in a tavern, has aged poorly. In the absence of an editorial, though, Cross's piece makes important methodological and theoretical claims, arguing for example, that "a different set of rules" than that of standard professional historical practice governs working-class history. "You can't prove nothing about something as hard to pin down as class consciousness," Cross claims, so the critical question becomes: "Does it feel right, does it convince your gut, not your head?" While it flirts with essentialism, this is ultimately a very freeing doctrine, where, beyond the necessary work of engaging with documents and historiography, what matters is the effect of the narrative account, its impact on and resonance with the reader's own consciousness. This was a novel position for historians to take, but it made sense both as the extension of New Left ideas of experience as authority, and as a way of meeting the moment in the 1970s, when the working class was recombining itself under attack. The paper will discuss this methodological imperative and trace its impact in the articles in the first few issues of *Labour/Le travail*.

David Blocker, "Activism and Scholarship: The New Left's 'Long March' in Canadian Labour Studies since the 1970s."

Many young activists of the Canadian New Left supported the Waffle movement in the New Democratic Party (NDP) during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The "Waffle Manifesto" boldly proclaimed, "our aim as democratic socialists is to build an independent socialist Canada," and claimed that the NDP "must be seen as the parliamentary wing of a movement dedicated to fundamental social change." The Waffle clashed with the NDP leadership over issues of gender parity within the party, support for Quebec's right to self-determination and autonomy for Canadian sections of international unions. The Waffle movement faded after the group's departure from the NDP in the early 1970s.

Despite the Waffle's short-lived existence in Canadian politics, its legacy has been significant. In addition to the group's sizeable impact on Canadian left nationalism, second-wave feminism, the labour movement, the radical left, and the NDP, former Wafflers and New Leftists contributed to the development of the burgeoning academic fields of labour studies and a new Canadian political economy during the 1970s, 1980s, and beyond. This paper examines the scholarship of former Wafflers in academia since the Waffle's demise using the concept of a New Leftist "long march through the institutions" to assess their collective impact and influence on the fields of labour studies and political economy in Canada.

2.1 Culture, Memory, and the Working Class / Culture, mémoire et classe ouvrière

John Bessai, "Labour, Art, and the Canadian Aporia: The NFBC and the Digital Mediation of Working-Class Struggles."

This paper explores the role of the National Film Board of Canada (NFBC) in shaping labour discourse through its unique model of art as a public service, particularly in the context of the Canadian aporetic condition—the unresolved contradictions of national identity, multiculturalism, and colonial histories. Labour history and labour studies have long been central to understanding the intersection of economic, social, and political

struggles. However, in the digital age, where corporate media conglomerates dominate public narratives, the NFBC remains a crucial counterpublic institution, fostering an alternative mode of storytelling that engages with working-class struggles in ways that traditional labour histories often overlook.

This paper examines key NFBC projects illuminating the precarity of labour in historical and contemporary contexts, analyzing their role in expanding public engagement and democratizing access to working-class narratives. Case studies such as *HIGHRISE* (Kat Cizek), which documents global urban inequality and the lived realities of high-rise dwellers, and *Supreme Law* (Kat Cizek), which explores the evolution of constitutional labour rights in Canada, illustrate the NFBC's commitment to presenting labour struggles through innovative, participatory storytelling. Additionally, interactive digital projects such as *Do Not Track* (Brett Gaylor) critically examine labour exploitation in the digital economy, exposing the hidden dimensions of surveillance capitalism and precarious gig work. By framing these NFBC projects within the broader trajectory of Canadian labour history, this paper highlights the shifting role of publicly funded cultural institutions in labour discourse. How does the NFBC, as an entity operating within state structures yet resisting neoliberal media trends, provide a sustainable model for digital public storytelling? What does its non-commercialized approach reveal about the intersections of labour, media, and democracy in Canada? Drawing on the Canadian aporetic condition framework, this paper argues that the NFBC's projects not only document working-class struggles but actively shape a digital counterpublic sphere where labour histories are preserved, interrogated, and reimagined for future generations.

Valerie Uher, “The “Strange Economy” of Artistic Labour: York Wilson vs. The International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America.”

In 1959, shortly after completing the monumental *Story of Oil* mural in the headquarters of Imperial Oil in Toronto, the modernist artist York Wilson embarked on the painting of *The Seven Lively Arts* mural in the O’Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts (now Meridian Hall, Toronto).

The mural gained renown not only for being Canada’s largest at the time, but also because of a bitter battle with the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, who began a card-signing campaign to organize Wilson and the painters working on the mural. Wilson refused to sign a card, as did his assistants. At the time, Wilson commented that, “Fine art is an individual and creative form of expression” and “I do not see how you can possibly unionize people who work as individuals.” Wilson gained the financial support of the Royal Canadian Academy, the Ontario Society of Artists, the Canadian Group of Painters and the Sculpture Society of Canada, who paid for half of his legal costs, and in the end he won his battle against unionizing, gaining international attention all the while.

As Leigh Clare La Berge notes in *Wages Against Artwork*, “artists and their artworks circulate in strange economies.” This paper will explore the “strange economy” surrounding this mural, as well as how, and why, Wilson’s definition of artistic labour mattered in this case. I will present preliminary research on the discourse surrounding the mural in news media and among union leaders at the time, and will attend to its significance for

contemporary debates surrounding artistic labour and why definitions of creative work matter.

Peter Campbell, “Fifteen People at Bob Carlin’s Funeral: Reflections on the Legacy and Fate of Working-Class Heroes.”

In May 1840 Thomas Carlyle gave a series of six lectures that led to the publication of his book *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History* in 1841. In subsequent years, many leftists, from Marx and Engels to members of the Socialist Party of Canada, had a go at Carlyle, the Great Man Theory of history, and the cult of the individual. This critique notwithstanding, the left has produced a pantheon of heroes, from Lenin to Che Guevara, Rosa Luxemburg to Madeleine Parent, Eugene Debs to E.T. Kingsley. The cult of the individual that arose around Stalin notwithstanding, the left has alternatively respected, praised, mourned, and yes, worshipped working-class heroes. What have we learned from the history of working-class heroes? Is it really true, as John Lennon tells us, that a working-class hero is something to be? Are leaders who become working-class heroes an aid, or an impediment, to the realization of a socialist future?

David Sobel, “The Moving Past - A Collection of Archival Films.”

The Moving Past: A Collection of Archival films, streams century-old films about work and industry for education and research. The CCLH generously provided a grant to support this project. The presentation would discuss how this grant was used, while explaining how the films bridge public and labour history. I am flexible as to the type of forum this is presented in.

These government-sponsored films are sources for labour history. They reinforcing existing interpretations and raising new issues for research. New audiences are attracted to the content, the films raise questions about technological change, health and safety, gender and work organization, issues that continue to challenge unions today.

2.2 The Importance of Labour Studies / Importance des études sur le travail

Laura Dehaibi, «L’histoire et le droit : une conversation nécessaire pour la protection des travailleurs ».

Parmi les domaines du droit, les règles applicables aux rapport collectifs de travail sont parmi celles qui reflètent le plus les luttes politiques et historiques en action au moment de leur création. Les lois du travail ne créent pas la liberté d’association et le processus de négociation collective : elles ne font que reconnaître et légitimiser ces phénomènes historiques. Et pourtant, une fois ces règles historiques enchâssées dans le texte juridique, elles perdent toute référence au passé.

Nous argumenterons que la reconnaissance explicite au sein des textes juridiques des luttes historiques ayant mené à leur création est essentielle, non seulement pour maintenir vivante la mémoire collective, mais également afin de permettre l’adaptation des lois du travail aux réalités changeantes des marchés du travail. En effet, bien que les structures corporatives reconnues par le droit aient subi des mutations majeures, que ce soit par la mondialisation, la fissuration de l’entreprise ou la dématérialisation des relations du travail,

l'essence des luttes ouvrières demeure la même : assurer des conditions de travail décentes au sein d'une économie capitaliste qui cherche à maximiser les profits.

En nous inspirant des conventions internationales du travail qui tendent à être plus attentives aux leçons du passé, nous suggérerons que l'histoire des luttes ouvrières pourrait être intégrée dans les lois du travail au moyen de préambules, qui serviraient comme outil interprétatif à prendre en compte dans l'interprétation des règles applicables aux rapports collectifs de travail et ainsi reconnaître le rôle fondamental de la résistance ouvrière dans le droit.

Jason Russell, "The Countervailing Voice: Labour, Labour Studies, and Countering Management Ideology."

Labour as social and political force and labour studies as a field of study and catalyst for social change have been diminished in Canada and the United States since the 1970s, arguably more in the latter country than in the former one. This paper will argue that labour and labour studies are as relevant as they have ever been, perhaps even more so, when they are contrasted with the enormous social influence of management as both a social actor and an ideology. It will pay particular attention to the rise of management in Canada in the five decades following World War II and contrast the development of aspects of managerial practice such as management education and how it shaped the views of managers on labour in the workplace. The role of the state in strengthening management compared with labour will be described. Labour faces a relentless adversary and management ideology is ascendant in colleges and universities, but possibilities for successfully strengthening labour and ensuring the relevance of labour studies are always present.

Lorraine O'Donnell, "People's History of English-Speaking Quebec and the case of the Black Rock Group."

The "People's History of English-Speaking Quebec" project addresses English-speaking Quebec history knowledge gaps and declining vitality through giving voice to marginalized sub-groups. I co-lead it at Concordia University's Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN). Its main activities are oral history interviews, enriching the Community Knowledge Open Library of community group content on topics including labour (<https://ckol.quescren.ca/en/lib/>); and writing a book (underway).

I will present the project and a chapter I am working on. It is about the Black Rock group, which emerged in 1980s Verdun among working-class English speakers. They sought to preserve and promote their culture and heritage through events and publications. These included the short, brilliant and rude *Black Rock Manifesto* (1981), mainly authored by famed playwright David Fennario.

Corey Orszak, "Archiving Fifty Years of Graduate Assistant's Association at York University."

September 2025 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the certification of what is now the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 3903, which represents different categories of academic labour at York University. It also marks approximately one-and-a-half years worth of effort by members of CUPE 3903 in constructing a union archive out of the documentary remnants of those fifty years.

This paper describes the process of creating a member-driven-and-operated (academic) labour archive. To this end, the CUPE 3903 Archive Committee and a number of volunteers have inventoried, organized, arranged, described, published, publicized, and (where appropriate) digitized thousands of union records. Still other participants have conducted interviews with past and present members as part of an ongoing oral history initiative. To service the archive and the day-to-day operational needs of the local, the Archive Committee also initiated a digital records management system.

As an academic union erected around predominantly transient (and increasingly precarious) labour, CUPE 3903 is tasked every year with the challenge of sustaining and building upon its past accomplishments without reliable continuity among its membership. An archive and records management system legible to lay members is one way of preserving knowledge acquired through past struggles even without year-to-year predictability in participation. It is thereby a means of applying labour history toward ongoing labour struggles. Indeed, through member collaboration in its creation and subsequent use, the CUPE 3903 Archive is already contributing to mobilization, organizing, bargaining, and otherwise asserting the rights of precarious academic labour at York University.

2.3 Precarity, Pandemic and Digital Economy/ Precarité, pandémie et économie du numérique

Adam King, “Building Back Battered: Workers and Unions Post-Pandemic.”

The COVID-19 pandemic was a truly unique moment in Canadian economic history. While the recession induced by the abrupt closure of large swathes of the economy was deep and devastating, the subsequent recovery was both relatively quick and broad. At the height of the pandemic, unemployment approached levels not seen since the Great Depression. By the peak of the post-lockdown recovery in 2021-22, employment had reached historic highs. In large part, Canada’s comparatively robust rebound resulted from a considerable mobilization of public spending, a good portion of which went directly to workers. Consequently, the scarring typical of economic downturns was absent. For a brief moment, there appeared to be an opening to transform the conditions of work: to force a renewed commitment to full employment, to reform social welfare and worker supports, and perhaps most importantly, to capitalize on this favourable context to organize new union members on a mass scale. These hopes proved false. Inflation ate away at workers’ living standards. A softening labour market caused unemployment to creep back up. The social safety net remains as tattered, if not more so, than before the pandemic. Union density hasn’t budged. This paper seeks to take stock of the moment that wasn’t. It asks how and why a unique set of economic circumstances offered workers and unions an opening to fight for change in 2021, and unfortunately, how and why this opportunity was abandoned by government and squandered by Canadian unions.

Samuel Pelletier, « L’Intelligence artificielle et le rapport au travail : une nouvelle classe ouvrière de l’économie numérique ? »

L’essor de l’intelligence artificielle (IA) transforme le travail et impose une réévaluation du rapport entre productivité et conditions d’emploi. Mon mémoire, *Le travail de l’Intelligence artificielle : rapport au travail et coup d’œil sociodémographique* (2020),

explore comment les jeunes travailleurs du numérique conçoivent leur rapport au travail, entre autonomie, précarité et quête de reconnaissance.

À travers une enquête menée à Montréal, cette communication analysera les tensions qui façonnent le travail en technologie : intensification du travail, flexibilité imposée et absence de redistribution des gains de productivité, qui sont plus importants que jamais. Comme le prolétariat industriel du passé, ces travailleurs produisent une richesse qui bénéficie avant tout aux entreprises et aux actionnaires.

En mobilisant les concepts d'intégration, d'autonomie et de reconnaissance (Ferrerias, 2007), cette communication questionnera l'émergence d'un prolétariat cognitif et les implications pour le mouvement ouvrier.

Susana Ponte Rivera, « Le 'presque emploi' des femmes immigrantes : avec qui lutter ? »

Les personnes immigrantes rencontrent des obstacles dans leurs tentatives de trouver un travail à la hauteur de leurs compétences. Entre autres écueils celui du manque d'expérience de travail canadienne ou québécoise pour accéder à un travail rémunéré est souligné. Des institutions étatiques, des organismes communautaires et des entreprises privées élaborent et diffusent un discours sur la pertinence de l'expérience locale et développent des programmes avec des stages non payés - stages dans des programmes d'études exclus - et du bénévolat qui donneraient accès à un travail payé. C'est ce que je propose de nommer le « presque emploi » car d'un côté, horaires doivent être respectés, stagiaires et bénévoles supervisés et tâches précises complétées et de l'autre, bénévoles et stagiaires espèrent avoir presque atteint leur but: un travail rémunéré. Les femmes immigrantes étant plus précaires, plus ségréguées et plus déqualifiées au travail que les hommes immigrants, mon regard se concentre sur elles. De l'analyse en cours de 9 entretiens semi-dirigés, je constate que le « presque emploi » ne semble pas mener à du travail rémunéré qui répond aux aspirations des femmes rencontrées.

La littérature québécoise ne semble pas aborder ce phénomène précis mais qu'en est-il d'autres mouvements sociaux? Je réfléchis ici sur les liens entre le mouvement pour la rémunération du travail ménager, celui pour la rémunération des stages d'étudiant.es et une éventuelle lutte pour la rémunération du «< presque emploi ».

Yves Laberge, « Quelle est la valeur du chargé de cours? Les nouvelles formes de discrimination dans le monde universitaire capitaliste. Remarques théoriques et postmarxistes ».

Cette conférence porte sur ce que je nomme « le stade suprême de l'exploitation dans le monde académique canadien: le maintien des chargés de cours et des professeurs à temps partiel dans la précarité ». Un autre titre possible aurait été : « Le stade suprême de l'exploitation dans le contexte du capitalisme universitaire : les chargés de cours, et la formation des nouveaux professeurs réguliers par les vieux chargés de cours ». La situation financière des chargés de cours (« lecturers ») et des professeurs à temps partiel est déjà bien connue et documentée, notamment par les syndicats de chargés de cours mais aussi par des revues savantes comme *Labour/Le Travail*. Même de grands théoriciens comme le sociologue Fernand Dumont dénonçait dans son livre *Raisons communes* cette situation injuste et embarrassante pour les universités.

Ce qui embête et embarrassant pour les autorités universitaires, c'est la proportion des cours confiés aux chargés de cours (plus de la moitié des cours de premier cycle, selon les

chiffres des syndicats de chargés de cours). Ce qui était au départ un complément ponctuel (dans les années 1980) est devenu un système indispensable et pratique; c'est désormais la présence — et l'exploitation — des chargés de cours dans toutes les facultés est devenue la pierre angulaire qui rend possible l'existence même des institutions d'enseignement supérieur. La question de la différence des salaires entre le professeur régulier et les chargés de cours est la pierre angulaire de ce système, qui permet de surpayer les uns en sous-payant les autres, dans une même université : deux classes d'enseignants coexistent. D'où le titre de cette conférence, qui paraphrase le thème même de ce colloque en l'insérant dans la théorie marxiste, que j'enseigne dans presque tous les cours que je donne au niveau universitaire depuis 36 ans : « Quelle est la valeur du chargé de cours? Les nouvelles formes de discrimination dans le monde universitaire capitaliste. Remarques théoriques et postmarxistes ».

Cette conférence, pouvant servir de conférence d'ouverture, répond à la question posée dans l'annonce du colloque : « Comment les études sur le travail peuvent-elles mieux rendre compte, tout à la fois, de la spécificité des contextes de lutte et de la similitude des enjeux globaux découlant de la structure du capitalisme? » L'amorce de la réponse à cette interrogation initiale résiderait dans la situation même des chargés de cours : souvent des personnes détenant des diplômes (maîtrise et doctorat); ils contrastent avec l'image du travailleur ou de l'ouvrier sur le chantier, souvent peu instruit. C'est un cliché réducteur. Autrement dit, on ne peut plus affirmer que l'exploitation de certains travailleurs (comme les chargés de cours) s'expliquerait rationnellement et résulterait uniquement du manque de formation ou l'absence de qualifications. Leur position de diplômés instruits — mais économiquement exploités — réaffirme l'universalité de la condition d'exploité par le système capitaliste et peut élargir les études sur le travail en reconfirmant leur pertinence.

Sur le plan théorique, nous emprunterons à la sociologie de la bureaucratie et à la sociologie du travail, mais aussi aux travaux de Marx, Engels, Lukács et Marcuse (1968) sur la société industrielle. L'approche méthodologique sera qualitative et comparative.

3.1 Militant Labour in a Midwest State: Labour Studies in Indiana / Le travail militant dans un État du Midwest : études sur le travail en Indiana

Patricia Linner, “A True Friend of Labor: The lasting legacy of Paul Mishler”

Friend, brother, comrade, and mentor are how we describe our colleague Paul Mishler, a long-time IUSB professor and community activist who lost his battle with cancer last year. Paul was a brilliant historian, and his work focused on radical movements, social justice, and equality in labor and life. I will discuss his lasting impact on our community and campus through his work and mentoring relationships.

Dr. William J. Mello, “This is our program”: An overview of working-class education at IU

This presentation examines the historical development of Indiana University Labor Studies over time; a process of crisis, continuity and resistance pressured by the consolidation of market forces within the university and the decline of the organized labor movement. In this way, the attack and decline of organized labor in Indiana was equally detrimental to labor studies and constrained in multiple ways the programs' ability to advance its fundamental mission of working-class education.

Dr. Joseph Varga, ‘It’s the Last Damn Thing We Got’: Union Survival in Reactionary Times

In this presentation, Professor Varga examines the current state of the Department of Labor Studies at Indiana University. The paper looks at the new relationship between the department and the Indiana AFL-CIO, a new state-based course in Indiana labor history, and the struggle to survive and thrive in a hostile environment.

3.2 Le capital en lutte: stratégies d’accumulation et résistance à la dépossession dans l’histoire du Canada (1890-1990) / Capital in Struggle: Strategies of Accumulation and Resistance to Dispossession in Canadian History (1890-1990)

Sandrine Labelle, « Chaîne de dépossession : la formation du capital chez la firme d’ingénierie québécoise SNC et le travail de la paysannerie en Côte d’Ivoire (1980-1990) ».

Au tournant des années 1980, l’entreprise SNC connaît une accélération de sa croissance, ce qui propulse la firme montréalaise parmi les 10 plus grandes entreprises de génie-conseil au monde. Cette ascension est d’autant plus surprenante qu’elle survient à un moment où les méga-projets ayant façonné la renommée des firmes d’ingénierie québécoises (notamment Manic V et la Baie James) s’achèvent et où le Canada traverse une récession qui freine les investissements en infrastructures. Comment expliquer alors cette expansion? Notre enquête sur la formation du capital chez SNC nous mène en Afrique francophone, où l’entreprise décroche plusieurs de ses contrats les plus lucratifs au tournant des années 1980. Nous nous concentrons particulièrement sur la région agricole de Man, en Côte d’Ivoire. SNC y obtient un important contrat d’électrification rurale.

Notre présentation examinera l’origine des fonds servant à financer ces contrats et mettra en lumière les mécanismes d’exploitation à l’œuvre : nous montrerons comment le travail des populations locales, en particulier celui des femmes et des travailleur-euses migrant-es, est mobilisé pour générer les ressources finançant de tels projets de développement. Cette analyse permet de reconstituer une chaîne d’accumulation par dépossession, dont le point de départ est l’extraction de la richesse issue du labour paysan en Côte d’Ivoire et dont l’aboutissement est la formation du capital chez SNC et, plus largement, au sein du Québec Inc.

Don Nerbas, “Corporate Reconstruction and Resistance on the Sydney Coalfield.”

The establishment of the Dominion Coal Company in 1893 has long been recognized as a signal event in the history of Nova Scotia’s coal industry. Upon inception, it introduced a dramatic consolidation of the coal operators on Cape Breton Island’s Sydney coalfield, integrated coal mining with Montreal shipping and Boston utilities interests, and absorbed vast sums of capital. In the 1890s and 1900s, Dominion Coal consolidated the Sydney coalfield’s place within an industrial political economy centred on Montreal’s coal market; it thus represented the enhanced power of capital in its new vertically and horizontally integrated corporate forms.

While the political and financial engineering that gave rise to Dominion Coal have been examined by historians, the impact of this corporation upon the coal communities it sought to reorganize remains relatively understudied. The company mobilized its resources to

recast the industrial geography and built environment of the coalfield, and to reconstruct mechanisms of company loyalism and deference, including the expansion of the truck system. But recourse to the police power of the state was often the most essential tool of company rule. Exploring Dominion Coal's program of corporate reconstruction from the bottom-up and within the context of the nineteenth-century experience on the coalfield, this paper seeks to reexamine the meaning of industrial expansionism as well as the persistence of oppositional community solidarities during a well-known period of capitalist transformation.

Martin Petitclerc, « 'Everyone has lost in the depression except the men with a bond coupon': la dette publique, le chômage et l'accumulation par dépossession à Montréal (1920-1944) ».

Après une décennie de placements très profitables dans la dette de la métropole durant les années 1920 et 1930, les créanciers, avec l'appui du gouvernement du Québec, poussent la Ville de Montréal vers un défaut de paiement au printemps 1940. Cette stratégie force le gouvernement provincial à mettre l'administration montréalaise en tutelle afin d'éviter que le défaut de paiement de la principale ville du Canada ne réduise l'accès aux capitaux de l'ensemble des pouvoirs publics. Cette crise financière et mise en tutelle, qui touchent respectivement 10% et 30% de la population canadienne et québécoise, a été peu étudiée.

Aucune analyse n'a ainsi mis en lumière le rôle des créanciers durant la Grande dépression, et notamment leur capacité à tirer profit des besoins urgents en capitaux de Montréal pour répondre à la crise du chômage. Je me propose donc d'analyser les stratégies d'accumulation par dépossession des créanciers dans leur financement de la dette publique à Montréal. Je m'intéresserai d'abord à comprendre de quelle façon les créanciers ont pu exiger des taux d'intérêt élevés pour financer l'aide aux sans emploi, tout en résistant à divers projets de réforme fiscale visant à taxer les plus grandes fortunes. Je m'intéresserai ensuite à la lutte victorieuse de ces créanciers contre le projet élaboré par le conseiller municipal socialiste juif Joseph Schubert afin de forcer une restructuration de la dette publique, et ainsi freiner la dynamique d'accumulation par la dépossession de la classe ouvrière de Montréal. Cette victoire des créanciers a mené à la mise en tutelle de 1940 qui force l'administration municipale à prioriser le remboursement de la dette sur les dépenses de fonctionnement et d'investissement pour soutenir les services publics essentiels à la population. Enfin, une dépossession politique s'ajoute à cette dépossession économique puisque la crise de la dette est le prétexte d'une réforme antidémocratique du système électoral qui réussit à restreindre considérablement l'influence de la classe ouvrière et des locataires sur la politique municipale jusqu'aux années 1960.

Marie-Josée Lavallée, « Le travail : un socle essentiel de la lutte contre le capitalisme d'hier à aujourd'hui ».

En dépit de la confirmation de la financiarisation du capitalisme depuis les années 1980, puis de l'affirmation du numérique en lieu et place de la production industrielle comme lieu d'accumulation du capital, cette présentation défendra la position que le travail occupe encore une place essentielle dans l'accumulation capitaliste et par conséquent, dans les luttes contre le capitalisme et ce, à l'échelle mondiale. La réalité de l'exploitation, malgré ses visages changeants, est constante à travers le temps.

Pour démontrer cette hypothèse, il est essentiel d'analyser les mécanismes de l'accumulation du capital en lien avec le travail depuis les années 1970. J'utiliserai comme concepts transversaux des notions comme le métabolisme social et le contrôle social développés par István Mészáros. J'analyserai la dimension mondiale de l'accumulation avec les travaux classiques de Lénine sur l'impérialisme, les théories de l'échange inégal chez Immanuel Wallerstein et de la loi de la valeur mondialisée par Samir Amin. Je me tournerai ensuite vers les mécanismes de l'accumulation dans la nouvelle économie du numérique, encore trop peu théorisée, et démontrerai l'exploitation continue des travailleurs également en tant que consommateurs à travers des travaux récents.

3.3 Management and Power / Pouvoir, gestion et autogestion

Mircea Raianu, "The Lucas Plan and the Ends of Worker Self-Management in the Late 1970s."

Among the varied manifestations of labour struggle around the world in the 'long 1970s' crisis, the Lucas Plan in the British Midlands stands out as an emblematic and uniquely innovative attempt to reimagine capitalism by integrating a critique of 'high' technology. In brief, a group of shop stewards at Lucas, an aerospace corporation heavily dependent on defence contracts, organised to resist a redundancy drive by proposing an alternative plan to manufacture 'socially useful' products such as kidney machines and electric vehicles. The possibilities and limitations of this campaign have been extensively studied by labour historians. This paper makes three interventions in the existing literature. First, it situates the Plan in the context of deindustrialisation and the global energy crisis (two areas of growing scholarly attention), tracing the intellectual influences of its authors. It shows how the critique of technology emerged and evolved, departing from contemporary factory occupations (Upper Clyde, Triumph, LIP, and others) through the intermediation of figures associated with the Open University. Second, it explores the Combine Shop Stewards Committee as an organisational form and the precise extent to which it sought to alter the structure and purpose of the Lucas corporation. To what ends was self-management put in this case? Finally, the paper critically reflects on the revival of academic and popular interest in the Plan in the 'long 2010s' crisis as a kind of 'usable past' – this time in the framework of degrowth rather than deindustrialisation.

Ramsha Usman, "Expecting Work: Treating Workplace Injury to Make an Able Worker."

Workers' bodies are biomedically assessed to decide whether they are "fit to work" in most occupational health systems. However, the occupational health system in Pakistan's Punjab province, called PESSI, does not only assess workers' fitness but seeks to keep workers "fit to work" after injury. The socio-medical processes at PESSI are used to enable the continuation of labor rather than a complete rehabilitation of the body. With the increasing transnationalization of Pakistani industry, maintaining workers' "fitness to work" and keeping disability rates low has become central to occupational health objectives needed for foreign investment. Through ethnographic research at the PESSI hospital, I ask: what socio-medical knowledge regarding an able worker body do PESSI doctors use to manage workers' "fitness to work"? Therefore, this paper argues that factory work

expectations form the possibilities and limits within which doctors assess workers' injuries and shape their bodily ability for continued labor.

Adrien Bouvet, « La place du travailleur salarié dans le régime légal de prévention des accidents du travail au Québec : 1885-1910 ».

En 1978, les auteurs du « Livre Blanc », qui constitue le socle intellectuel de la *Loi sur la santé et la sécurité du travail* de 1979, soulignent « le peu d'importance accordée au travailleur salarié dans l'ensemble des législations qui concernent la protection de sa santé et de sa sécurité » (p.83). Si cette expression pourrait se comprendre au regard des grandes ambitions du projet de loi alors en discussion, elle peut aussi avoir pour effet d'invisibiliser la place pourtant prépondérante du travailleur salarié dans les origines du droit de la santé et sécurité du travail.

Durant la période 1885-1910, celle-ci est largement subordonnée aux dispositions du Code civil de 1866, appliquées à l'indemnisation des accidents dans les procès opposant les ouvriers et leurs patrons. Elles sont notamment fondées sur le principe que chacun devrait être responsable de ses propres actes. D'une très grande violence, ce discours est largement diffusé par les décisions judiciaires mais également, chose plus étonnante, par les inspecteurs des établissements industriels nommés après l'adoption de l'Acte des manufactures de 1885. La présentation se base sur un échantillon de plusieurs décisions, publiées notamment dans la revue *Les Rapports judiciaires officiels de Québec, Cour supérieure*. Elle se base aussi sur les résultats d'un mémoire analysant les rapports annuels des inspecteurs. Plonger dans les origines du droit de la prévention en matière de santé et sécurité du travail, c'est s'armer collectivement contre les discours contemporains qui tendraient à rendre les travailleurs individuellement seul responsables de leur propre sécurité.

Janis Theissen, "Communicative Memory of the Crowe Affair."

In 1958, Dr. Harry Crowe was fired from his tenured position in the History department of United College (now the University of Winnipeg) over the contents of a private letter to a colleague. His firing ultimately led to the resignation of twelve other faculty members in protest. The Crowe Affair, as it came to be known, resulted in the first ever investigation by the Canadian Association of University Teachers. "This celebrated case helped establish the CAUT and is often pointed to as a defining moment for academic freedom in Canada."

The University of Winnipeg Faculty Association hosted Dr. Eve Haque (York University) as the inaugural Harry Crowe lecturer (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/events/2025/04/harry-crowe-lecture-dr-eve-haque.html>) on 10 April 2025. She spoke of recently interviewing Dr. John Warkentin, one of the twelve who had resigned during the Crowe Affair. I had not realized that Dr. Warkentin was the famous geographer of southern Manitoba Mennonites. It made me wonder whether his Mennonite background had shaped his decisions in any way, how stories of the Crowe Affair have been passed down in the protestors' families, and how those stories shaped their family members' own understandings of labour, social justice, and academic freedom. I am launching an oral history project on the communicative memory of the Crowe Affair within the families of those who resigned back in 1958. I propose to report on my initial findings at the CCLH conference in Montreal.

4.1 Precarious Work at University : Reflexions, Strategies and Mobilizations / La précarité du travail en milieu universitaire : réflexions, stratégies et mobilisations

La précarité à l'université est un phénomène souvent invisibilisé, mais qui touche de plus en plus de travailleuses et de travailleurs. Dans le milieu historien, la publication du *Precarious Historical Instructors' Manifesto* en 2020 a représenté un véritable appel à l'action pour améliorer les conditions du personnel enseignant précaire dans les départements d'histoire. Au cours des dernières années, des syndicats de chargées de cours se sont dotés de mandats de grève afin d'obtenir un rehaussement salarial, une meilleure stabilité d'emploi et un soutien supplémentaire pour l'enseignement en ligne.

Les personnes étudiantes connaissent également une précarisation croissante, sur fond de multiples crises (coût de la vie, logement, hausse des droits de scolarité). Les mobilisations des Comités unitaires sur le travail étudiant (CUTE) ont permis de mettre en lumière la situation des étudiant·es stagiaires dans les domaines du *care* (enseignement, soins infirmiers, travail social, etc.) et d'exiger une rémunération pour leur travail. Plus récemment, les auxiliaires de recherche et les auxiliaires d'enseignement de l'Université Concordia (CREW) ont lancé une première grève générale illimitée afin d'améliorer leurs conditions d'emploi.

Cette table ronde bilingue vise à examiner les enjeux liés au travail précaire à l'université, que ce soit en recherche, en enseignement, en formation, en tutorat ou dans les stages. À partir des expériences des panélistes, plusieurs avenues d'organisation et de lutte seront explorées : action syndicale, mobilisations étudiantes, campagnes, grèves, etc. Plus largement, quelles autres actions sont à mener, et quelles alliances restent à construire?

4.2 Preserving Our Past and Fighting for Our Future: the Alberta Labour History Institute / Préserver notre passé et lutter pour notre présent : l'Alberta Labour History Institute

Alvin Finkel, "Labour scholarship versus Labour schools."

Labour federations in several provinces as well as individual unions often run labour schools that offer one-week courses on labour topics, including labour history, work with First Nations, occupational health and safety, mental health in workplaces, and tools courses for union stewards. Materials in *Labour/Le Travail* are sometimes used in such programs. But more often than not, everything in an L/LT issue is written at a level that assumes both an advanced background in labour history or labour studies and a vocabulary that only holders of graduate degrees in Arts can access. That's unsurprising in an academic journal that gets an important part of its funding from SSHRC, which assumes a readership of professors and graduate students for journals that it funds. Going forward, what can L/LT do to connect with labour activists as opposed to labour scholars? What might a section of the journal devoted to "Labour Activist Education" look like and who should the journal involve in producing such a section? I'd be interviewing Winston Gereluk who has taught labour history at Labour Schools for 45 years plus others who have taught in such programs, and including my observations from my recent experience teaching labour history at the Alberta Federation of Labour labour school.

Paula Kirman, “Preserving/Archiving Labour History.”

Publications like L/LT play an important role in documenting and preserving the history of the labour movement - after all, as it says on its website's About page, the journal is "primarily interested in a historical perspective on Canadian workers". It also demonstrates the necessity of both traditional and digital media to carry its messages. L/LT utilizes traditional media by producing a semiannual publication, as well as digital media for its online archive - which has the potential to reach a far wider audience than just for its print publication alone. Likewise, organizations like the Alberta Labour History Institute also play an important role in documenting, preserving, and archiving labour history through the work of committed activists creating resources that are free, accessible, and utilize multimedia (text and video) to appeal to a broad audience. Another example is Radical Citizen Media, a citizen journalism initiative documenting progressive social movements, through photography and video. People have the power to tell, record, and disseminate their stories and those of their communities, and in doing so, can collectively create a publicly-accessible archive of labour history, thus augmenting the work of traditional print publications like L/LT. How can L/LT be part of this digital movement going forward? What sort of relationship could L/LT have with labour documentarians and archivists? There are creative ways activists and L/LT can collaborate to work towards building a people's history of the labour movement.

Donna Coombs-Montrose, “Bringing History to Life.”

Through her appointment as Edmonton Historian Laureate, Donna Coombs-Montrose has been experimenting with performance, music, and community engagement to connect the community to its rich and varied history. This presentation will reflect on these recent experiences and connect them to the broader history of Coombs-Montrose's life and its relation to histories of immigration, race, activism, and community involvement.

4.3 Organizing Strategies of the Working Class / Stratégies d'organisation de la classe ouvrière

Duff Sutherland, “The International Woodworkers of America (IWA) organizing drive in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1956-1959.”

In 1956, the IWA began an organizing drive among loggers who worked for the province's two pulp and paper mills, the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company with a mill in Grand Falls, and Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Mills with a mill in Corner Brook. Relying on experienced organizers in the camps, an aggressive newspaper and radio campaign, and the leadership of H. Landon Ladd, an activist originally from British Columbia, the IWA successfully organized two locals.

The IWA effectively employed the rhetoric of the modernization of wages and conditions to supplant the existing logger's union, the Newfoundland Lumberman's Association (NLA). The IWA portrayed the local NLA as a backward, company union. At the same time, loggers, with expectations raised by the economic and social change in Newfoundland since the 1940s, gravitated to the IWA. The provincial Liberal government of Joseph R. Smallwood, which also focused on modernization and industrialization throughout the 1950s, came to strongly oppose the IWA as economic growth and development, especially

in the fishery, stalled. The IWA's emphasis on a higher wage, industrial workforce in the woods threatened Smallwood's plans to attract resource investment and to maintain seasonal employment for outport fishers. A neocolonial pattern of economic development also gave the paper companies considerable influence over politics and the state.

The paper explores the social and economic context for the IWA organizing drive which culminated in a bitter and violent strike in 1959. It explains the immediate success of the IWA in Newfoundland and Labrador, while pointing to the patterns of capitalist development that make successful organizing both inspiring and challenging.

Michael Feagan, "Work and Network: The Labour of Canadian and American Telegraph Operators, 1870- "

Despite many histories on the technology and business of the telegraph, the work of telegraph operators often falls out of view. Telegraph communication has been imagined, then and now, as an instantaneous, frictionless, or disembodied technology. Communication historian John Durham Peters said the telegraph meant "acuity of vision and hearing were no longer the limit to instantaneous remote contact; the only limits were the extent of the telegraph lines." But human acuity in vision and hearing were still the limits of the telegraph. This "disembodied" medium required humans to translate and transmit messages through trained senses. Operators needed to have keen hearing to receive Morse code coming through the clicking on their sounders. The telegraph was not just physically limited through its wires; it was always physically mediated through human operators. I argue that telegraph work was real, physical work, in a way that has too often been elided by the rhetoric of the telegraph network and that it is important to see operators as part of the working class. Ultimately, this presentation demonstrates the ways in which human bodies and human labour can be erased within large technological networks. I explore the historical significance of that erasure and its relevance for understanding the precarity of labour in high-tech industries today.

Michael Billeaux-Martinez, "I's da Power': The rise and fall of militant unionism among Milwaukee longshoremen, 1934-1942."

In 1934, longshoremen in the Port of Milwaukee formed a racially integrated, militant local (ILA 815) within the conservative International Longshoremen's Association. But by 1942, the radicals were defeated, and the local shifted from "class struggle" unionism to "business unionism." At the same time, the union's potential as a vehicle for black power was erased.

This presentation examines ILA 815 as a case study of failed interracial class formation in the U.S., highlighting often overlooked dynamics. The local's decline was not driven by racial divisions but by the market structure of the Great Lakes freight industry, mediated by organizational fragmentation and rising anti-Communism. This case underscores "race-neutral" barriers to interracial unity, showing how capitalism reproduces racial divisions without explicit racial dynamics. The case contributes to debates on racial capitalism, the relationship between race and class, and the connection between anti-Communism, the labor movement, and civil rights struggles.

Jonathan Weier, “The past, present and future of police unions in Canada.”

One of the most significant recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions relating to the right to unionize was the 2015 decision in favour of the Mounted Police Association of Ontario. This decision found that legislation prohibiting uniformed members of the RCMP from unionizing was unconstitutional. Supported in court by the Canadian Labour Congress this decision resulted in the passage of legislation, with NDP backing, in 2017. This led to the creation of the National Police Federation and the unionization, under its banner, of almost 20,000 RCMP officers.

In fact, as the reach of the security state has increased in the 21st century and as security and carceral workforces have continued to grow; many unions, police unions and broad public sector unions both, have looked to these workers as a growing source of new members.

This paper will examine the unionization of RCMP officers in this context. I will situate this moment within the broader discussion of police and carceral worker unionization in Canada. I will then consider how this trend has exacerbated conflicts within police workforces over what this unionization will look like, as well as within broad public sector unions which have large numbers of police or prison guard members. Finally, this paper will argue that this trend in unionization transforms and diminishes solidarity within unions themselves and within the labour movement more universally.

5.1 Labouring for the Future: Workers, Unions, the Environment, and Pensions / Travailler pour l'avenir : salariées, syndicats, environnement et pensions

Melissa Ziani, « Redéfinir le travail : quand la jeunesse place l'environnement au cœur de ses choix professionnels ».

À partir de données empiriques tirées d'entrevues qualitatives (n=23) menées auprès de finissant.es en gestion et en ingénierie inscrit.es dans des filières environnementales au Québec, cette communication interrogera la manière dont ces jeunes appréhendent le travail dans un contexte d'urgence climatique.

En juxtaposant la sociologie de la jeunesse aux études sociales sur le travail, nos résultats illustrent comment pour ces jeunes le travail (salarié comme bénévole) s'ancre dans un désir de donner du sens à leurs actions. De surcroît, la sociologie de l'environnement permet d'explorer la manière dont l'intégration de la question écologique dans la vision du travail de ces futur.es professionnel.les redéfinit la notion d'utilité.

Cette communication explorera comment les études sur le travail viennent à se renouveler à la jonction des sociologies de la jeunesse et de l'environnement, abordant comment les exigences écologiques façonnent désormais la perception du travail de ces jeunes diplômé.es, dessinant les contours de l'avenir du travail.

Chad Montrie, “Labour and Environment, Past and Present, Alberta and Ontario.”

This paper will reflect on the importance of labour history for understanding the origins of the environmental movement in Canada as well as the importance of environmental history for engaging with Canada's history of workers, unions, and working-class politics. Moreover, it contemplates the ways in which historical investigation along these lines opens up a critical perspective for challenging the common corporate-parroted

notion that workers have to choose between “jobs” and “environment.” To illustrate these observations, the paper will point to two examples, one from Alberta and the other from Ontario. The Alberta case will feature the role played (perhaps counter-intuitively) by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers in promoting an environmental consciousness during the 1970s. The Ontario case will highlight the part the Canadian Labour Congress played in encouraging provincial and local concern with environmental issues across the country as well as developing an early iteration of what became known as “just transition.”

Shannon Ikebe, “From Socialism to Neoliberalism: Swedish Origins of the Collective Workers’ Funds in Québec.”

The FTQ’s creation of the *Fonds de solidarité* in 1983 marked a shift for Québec labour towards concertation and accommodation with emerging neoliberalism, away from the militant orientations of the 1970s. Faced with a crisis of mass unemployment, the FTQ’s fund would solicit voluntary workers’ investment, investing in Québec firms to promote national economic development and job creation. Although the funds were collectively run by unions, they largely operated under the logic of private capitalist investment, seen as the motor of economic recovery.

The FTQ’s fund was directly influenced by Sweden’s Wage-Earner Funds model, which FTQ leaders studied during their pivotal visit to Sweden in 1979. The Wage-Earner Funds proposal was originally a radically socialist one, proposed by the powerful Social Democratic union LO in 1976, aimed at eventual worker control of the means of production. In Sweden, the Social Democratic Party leadership defeated the radical plan and transformed it into a qualitatively distinct plan, as part of the party’s new neoliberal program in 1981; the plan aimed at increasing investment capital for private firms at the expense of workers’ consumption.

In both cases, the radical potential of collective workers’ funds as a tool for workers’ democracy and economic planning was recuperated, and reinterpreted to align with the capitalist market imperatives. The juxtaposition of the two cases illuminates a process of transnational diffusion of ideas and social democratic accommodation to the neoliberal logic in the name of pragmatism, which was essential to neoliberalism’s global ascendance.

5.2 Indigenous Peoples, Capital, and Labour / Communautés autochtones, travail et capitalisme

Julie Guard, “Leslie Spillett: Kohkum, Knowledge Keeper, Cree and Métis Community Organizer, Labour Activist, Feminist.”

Leslie Spillett is a Cree and Métis community organizer, Elder, Knowledge Keeper, and Kohkum, who has been active in labour, Indigenous, and feminist grassroots social justice movements for over four decades. Yet, like too many left, labour, Indigenous, and social justice activists, especially women, her story has not been told. This presentation, based on an oral history conducted in 2025, provides an overview of Leslie Spillett’s remarkable life story.

In the 1980s, as an organizer and subsequently senior staff member in the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, representing mostly female and immigrant workers, Spillett battled exploitative employers, including the notorious sex-offender Peter

Nygaard, to win rights, liveable wages, equal pay, and paid overtime. She allied with activists from the radical Canadian nationalist Confederation of Canadian Unions and struggled against the increasingly bureaucratic labour movement, accusing it of relying on lawyers rather than mobilizing union members. She accused Manitoba's NDP government of failing the most vulnerable workers with much-lauded reforms to labour legislation that failed to protect the right to strike or prohibit scabs. In the 1990s, she turned her prodigious organizing skills to Indigenous justice, sovereignty, and equity. She founded a remarkable number of organizations, including Mother of Red Nations Women's Council and Ka Ni Kanichihk. She is active in numerous community and institutional organizations where she advocates for Indigenous women's health, rights, knowledge, and on behalf of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+, to name just a few. Leslie Spillett lives and continues the struggle in Treaty 1 territory.

John Lutz, "Indigenous Coal Miners of Vancouver Island."

While there are numerous articles and several books exploring coal mining and labour relations on Vancouver Island, none have yet considered the Indigenous coal miners that started the industry, worked alongside white miners, and integrated coal face labour into their traditional economic world. This presentation shows how Indigenous people claimed ownership of the coal, forced treaties to be made so that immigrants could work the mines, and how they integrated coal mine work with their longstanding seasonal cultural rhythms and relationships with neighbouring Indigenous groups in the years 1849-1912. From Indigenous testimony, Hudson's Bay Company, coal mine company and missionary correspondence, a picture emerges of Indigenous people turning coal mine labour into social capital in an Indigenous world.

Mathieu Tardif, « De l'activité de subsistance au travail : les rapports de production induits par la traite des fourrures en Nouvelle-France ».

Ces dernières années, le discours médiatique a souvent parlé d'une « grande démission » post-pandémie pouvant laisser penser que le travail serait une affaire de choix. L'inflation, la hausse des loyers et le spectre de la récession nous rappellent pourtant que le travail est une forme d'exploitation et qu'il conditionne la survie sous le mode de production capitaliste. Penser contre le capitalisme, c'est donc aussi penser contre le travail. Pour cela, il devient essentiel de comprendre dans quelles circonstances historiques le travail est susceptible d'apparaître. Dans cette optique, je propose de revisiter un thème classique de l'histoire canadienne, la traite des fourrures en Nouvelle-France, et d'observer comment elle a transformé l'activité productive autochtone en travail. Avant l'arrivée des Européens dans le Nord-est américain, les Autochtones vivaient selon une économie de subsistance dont le marché était absent. Au contact des explorateurs, des pêcheurs, puis, rapidement, des marchands et des militaires, ils consentirent progressivement à produire et à transporter de la fourrure pour le marché européen. Ils devenaient ainsi producteurs de valeur d'échange au profit du capital commercial européen. Avaient-ils pourtant le choix ? Les historiens ont souvent affirmé que les acteurs autochtones conservèrent une large marge de manœuvre pour participer ou non à la traite. Je propose au contraire de montrer comment les rivalités inter-autochtones déjà existantes et le fossé technologique euro-autochtone ont contraint un grand

nombre de nations à participer au commerce des fourrures. De là, je montrerai en quoi ce commerce a instauré des rapports de production proto-capitalistes.

5.3 Syndicalisme, féminisme reproduction sociale / Union Movement, Feminism and Social Reproduction

Camille Robert, « Pour un « troisième front » : luttes féministes et syndicales face au tournant néolibéral québécois ».

Les années 1980 sont généralement perçues comme un moment de recul dans l'histoire du syndicalisme, notamment à la suite d'offensives des gouvernements contre les syndicats du secteur public. Malgré un contexte défavorable, cette période a été déterminante pour l'affirmation d'une militance féminine et féministe au sein des structures syndicales. L'historiographie du syndicalisme québécois s'est toutefois peu intéressée aux mobilisations des femmes à l'intérieur des centrales, ainsi qu'aux dimensions féministes des luttes dans le secteur public. En m'appuyant sur des entrevues menées avec des travailleuses et sur les archives produites par les comités syndicaux de condition féminine, je souhaite poser quelques jalons afin de mettre en lumière la militance de ces syndiquées dans le contexte du tournant néolibéral québécois.

J'avancerai également que l'essor des luttes féministes dans le mouvement syndical mériterait d'être reconnu comme véritable « troisième front » qui s'est développé de manière distincte du « deuxième front ». Ce dernier s'était déployé à l'appel de la CSN (1968) autour de luttes sociopolitiques, mais en accordant une place relativement marginale aux femmes et à leurs revendications. Les contributions spécifiques des militantes syndicales, dans les années 1970 et 1980, reste largement à reconnaître. Par leur engagement, elles ont jeté les bases de plusieurs réformes à portée sociale – équité salariale, congés parentaux, garderies – qui toucheront l'ensemble des travailleuses au cours des décennies suivantes.

Diego Latorre, “Learning from Labour Movement’s Failure on Feminized and Precarious Employment: the Young Christian Workers on Domestic Service during Franco-era Spain.”

The 1960s and 1970s in Spain were a period of intense social mobilisation against the Franco's dictatorship. The clandestine and democratic labour movement was the main political agent behind the efforts to improve working conditions and to get a political transition towards democracy in Spain. However, within this context, domestic workers were alien to this process. The Francoist dictatorship did not consider domestic service to be a form of employment, and thus excluded maids from the labour laws and social protection measures. Furthermore, main anti-Franco unions also forgot domestic workers. However, this does not mean that there were no alternatives for collective action outside the purview of traditional working-class organisations. The Young Christian Workers (YCW) did focus on domestic workers' struggles although without much success.

This paper focus on the YCW activity in domestic service aiming to contribute to two contemporary workers' issues which are of particular concern to this conference: the unions' crisis and the workerist discourses' reactionary threat. This paper seeks to elucidate some lessons from the past that can be valuable for the present regarding to the labour movement's limitations in mobilizing feminised and precarious workers. The study of past social movements' failures can offer valuable insights for the

present. Furthermore, it is crucial to underscore the long-lasting significance of women's work. This emphasis enables to face reactionary workerist discourses that seek to equate the working class exclusively with blue-collar, male, and white workers in order to exclude women and migrants from political and trade union agendas.

Mia Michael, “Show us how to do it”: Home Care Workers & Organized Labor’s Revival Despite Reagan.”

“*I got fun out of going out there and fighting for it,*” Geneva Evans informed the *Boston Globe* in 1987. “*We got dignity and respect.*” Employed in Massachusetts’ home care system since 1974, Evans performed essential yet undervalued labor. Reduced services and hours jeopardized elderly clients as meager pay and inconsistent schedules flung workers into poverty’s realm. Evans, a middle-aged Black woman and home care paraprofessional, wasn’t a typical union member. Even so, she joined the rising tide of low-wage Americans unionizing to demand economic justice.

Unionism wasn’t an obvious solution to home care aides’ plight during the 1980s. Cast as a period of unionism’s weakness, dormancy, and decline, low-wage workers *also* made it a time of hope and agitation, of revival rather than repose. As part of United Labor Unions (ULU) Local 1475, hundreds of home care aides including Geneva Evans mobilized around metropolitan Boston to improve their degraded working conditions. As one local pro-labor publication concluded: “*The strategy of organizing simultaneously at the workplace, in the community and in the legislature is one that more and more unions will have to adopt.... ULU Local 1475 is helping to show us how to do it.*”

Ultimately, my paper explains the emergence of a powerful and unexpected form of labor organizing – the *new labor activism* – that is community-based, multi-issue oriented, and propelled by working-class women of color. Today, amidst spiraling economic inequality and political gridlock, let’s rethink how we characterize recent labor history and learn from their struggles.

Thomas MacMillan, “We Can Do It Ourselves”: A Feminist Union and the Fight For Maternity Leave.”

In 1970s British Columbia, a number of feminist workers self-organized their workplaces, most prominently clerical and other support staff workers at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. They were inspired by the successes of the resurgent women’s movement, distressed by the lack of interest in them by male-led unions, and aided by progressive Canadian breakaway unions. The largest of these unions, the independent Association of University and College Employees (AUCE), worked to eliminate sex-based discrimination in the workplace in two major ways. First, it sought to increase wages for the lowest paid members through flat “across the board” raises in each contract. It also negotiated a landmark maternity leave provision which took advantage of the newly-established maternity leave provisions passed by the federal government’s Unemployment Insurance system. AUCE negotiated a unique “top-up” clause which eliminated financial penalties for taking maternity leave. This was the first fully paid maternity leave provision in Canada and, in so doing, challenged existing unions to be more inclusive and democratic, especially regarding women’s roles in organized labour. After successfully defending paid

maternity leave against the federal government, the plan was then adopted by major unions, including the Front commun in Quebec and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

5.4 Race, Ethnicity, and the Canadian Labour Movement, 1920-1982 / Race, ethnicité et mouvement syndical canadien (1920-1982)

Jane Komori, “Interwar Asian immigrant and Indigenous workers on the West Coast.”

This presentation will focus on the political organizing of Asian immigrant and Indigenous workers on the West Coast in the interwar period. Focusing on and comparing the structures, politics, and aims of the Native Brotherhood, the Japanese Camp and Mill Workers Union, the Chinese Labour Association, and the Ghadar Movement, the presentation will illuminate the way that each of these groups took up and adapted the structures of labour unions and leftist political organizations to forward their unique agendas. In particular, the presentation will argue that each of these organizations did not only respond to the intense moment of labour militancy and leftist activity of which they were a part; but that they also exerted important influence on the unions, organizations, and political parties more often studied and understood to constitute the region’s leftist political landscape during the interwar period.

Edward Dunsworth, “Labour Socialists and the Immigration Question in Interwar Canada.”

This paper will examine the approaches of interwar labour socialists to the often vexing political issue of immigration. For labour and the left, the “immigration question” raised contradictory impulses: on one hand, towards the protection of Canadian workers from competition from low-wage foreigners; on the other, towards openness to immigration informed by ideologies of solidarity and anti-discrimination. The paper will explore debates and actions on these questions within labour socialism, from the grassroots (anti-deportation campaigns, mutual aid, etc) to the halls of parliament, where a small number of elected representatives of labour and the left were able to sometimes extract concessions on immigration matters from governing parties. The paper will use the labour socialist Abraham Heaps as a focal point for these questions. A working-class Jewish immigrant, Heaps came up through the Independent Labour Party of Winnipeg and later represented the CCF in federal parliament. He lobbied for an end to political deportations and for the admission of Jewish refugees in the 1930s, but at other times favoured restriction of certain immigrants. This paper will contribute a nuanced, theoretically informed understanding of the left’s engagement with immigration politics in this period.

David Goutor, “Human rights campaigns and organized labour in 1940s revisited.”

This presentation will revisit the interaction between human rights campaigns and organized labour in 1940s Canada. Ross Lambertson, Ruth Frager and Carmella Patrias have shown how human rights activists successfully campaigned against discrimination, and won the support of many interest groups, including unions. Goutor’s paper will take a deeper look at the politics behind labour’s shift from constant hostility towards immigrants and racialized workers to joining what Stephanie Bangarth calls the “human rights community” in Canada. It will particularly examine how human rights campaigns convinced union

leaders that in the new political context of the 1940s, becoming part of the human rights community was in labour's interest.

Sajdeep Soomal, “*A Time to Rise: Labour and feminist organizing in the South Asian diaspora in Canada following the Emergency in India (1975–1977).*”

This presentation, will discuss Anand Patwardhan and Jim Munro's 1981 labour documentary *A Time to Rise* (Uthan da Vela), which depicts the struggles of Punjabi farmworkers in British Columbia and their efforts to unionize, leading to the formation of the Canadian Farmworkers Union (CFU) in 1980. To mark the film's 40th anniversary, Sajdeep organized a public screening in June 2021, featuring a talkback with filmmaker Anand Patwardhan and key figures from the film and union movement. This event highlighted the intersection of guerilla filmmaking, labour organizing, and diasporic South Asian political thought in the 1970s and 1980s. This presentation revisits the making of *A Time to Rise*, exploring the political engagement of South Asian activists in Canada following the Emergency in India (1975–1977), and their involvement in labour and feminist organizing.

6.1 Global and Socialist Politics / Politiques globales et socialistes

Sarah K. Miles, « On édite pour le plaisir : l'engagement militant intellectuelle et travail entre capitalisme et anticapitalisme dans l'ère des fronts communs ».

Dans une lettre de 1972, le directeur des Éditions Parti Pris, Gérard Godin, décrivait à un auteur anonyme le fonctionnement de leur maison d'édition pour expliquer leur recul : on ne « se fend pas le cul à travailler. On édite pour le plaisir. Et quand on est écœurés... on arrête net d'éditer. » Malgré leur manque d'horaire ou de but financier, Godin et son équipe d'éditeurs (entièrement bénévoles) ont réussi à faire paraître 95 livres en 12 ans de travail. Cette présentation reprend l'histoire de Parti Pris pour examiner l'engagement des militants intellectuels au Québec comme forme de travail révolutionnaire – non seulement au sens de la critique et de l'imaginaire qu'ils apportaient au travail (comme objet d'analyse), mais aussi à leur façon de fonctionner comme travailleurs intellectuels (comme sujets d'analyse). En tant qu'association enregistrée auprès de l'État, mais sans ressources indépendantes comme l'appui d'un parti politique ou d'un syndicat, Parti Pris avait l'obligation de rester rentable sans la volonté de tirer un profit quelconque de leurs livres. En plus de repenser l'histoire de l'engagement militant dans les années 1970 comme travail intellectuel (et donc comme partie prenante de l'histoire du travail de cette époque), cette présentation propose de remettre de l'avant le modèle de travail anticapitaliste dans une société capitaliste que Parti Pris incarnait, pour une vision critique du travail intellectuel du vingt-et-unième siècle.

Marcel Nault Jr, « De Parti pris au CISO. Un héritage anti-impérialiste au syndicalisme québécois (1964-1979) ».

Les luttes syndicales au Québec, marquées par des conquêtes sociales emblématiques telles que le régime public d'assurance maladie et la démocratisation de l'éducation, témoignent de l'adaptabilité du syndicalisme dans un contexte sociopolitique en pleine mutation pendant la Révolution tranquille. Inspirées, en partie, par les combats anti-

impérialistes en Amérique latine, notamment au Chili, et nourries par les écrits d'intellectuels néonationalistes, socialistes et marxistes-léninistes québécois, ces luttes ont renforcé une solidarité internationale tout en alimentant une réflexion critique sur l'émancipation des travailleurs de notre belle province.

Des concepts tels que le « socialisme décolonisateur » de Gabriel Gagnon et la « justice sociale ardente » promue par Michel Chartrand se trouvent au cœur de cette refonte syndicale. Ces idées se sont traduites par des initiatives concrètes, comme la fondation du Secrétariat Québec-Amérique latine (SQAL) en 1973 et l'ouverture du Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO) en 1975, qui marquent une étape décisive pour mobiliser les travailleurs autour de valeurs transformatrices. Ce contexte a permis de repenser les assises du syndicalisme québécois tout en posant un regard critique sur les défis économiques et socioculturels de l'époque.

Tout au long de cette conférence, nous analyserons comment l'anti-impérialisme a influencé le mouvement ouvrier des années 1960-1970 à travers des publications comme *Parti pris*, *Maintenant*, le *Bulletin populaire* et le journal du groupe marxiste-léniniste québécois *En lutte!* pour mieux comprendre comment son héritage contribuerait à redéfinir la valeur du travail au Québec dans une optique de justice sociale renouvelée; un mouvement constamment tiraillé entre social-démocratie et praxis révolutionnaire, entre révisionnisme et militantisme.

Nicolas Lépine, « Lockout et blackout : la grève La Canadiense de 1919, une action réussie de la base ».

En 1919, des commis de bureau protestaient contre les ponctions salariales à la *Barcelona Power, Light and Traction*, communément appelée *la Canadiense* en raison de son actionnariat canadien. Leur renvoi déclencha une grève générale dirigée par la *Confederacion national del trabajo* (CNT) anarchiste, dont l'aboutissement fut l'octroi par le gouvernement espagnol de la journée des 8 heures de travail.

La Canadiense constituait, d'une part, un réseau hydroélectrique à la fine pointe de la technologie, et d'autre part, le symbole par excellence de l'impérialisme nord-américain en matière de services publics. Sa direction patronale ne s'attendait guère à ce que ses pratiques cavalières puissent faire déborder le vase. Or, il en allait autrement à la *Generalitat* où l'on gardait en tête le souvenir de la Semaine tragique de 1909 et de l'Été révolutionnaire de 1917. C'est que la Catalogne était le berceau de la première centrale syndicale au monde, de surcroît révolutionnaire.

Afin de mettre en lumière cette mobilisation réussie, je présenterai d'abord le contexte précédant la grève : réalisation du front commun avec les socialistes, lutte des femmes contre l'austérité, adoption du « One Big Union » et collaboration de classe. Ensuite, j'exposerai comment la CNT désormais bien équipée fera reculer la corporation patronale tout en arrachant à l'État des revendications majeures, pour finalement mettre un terme à la grève devenue générale. Je terminerai sur les événements subséquents, soit le débordement des cadres anarchistes par leur militance, les lockouts du patronat de combat, pour aboutir au triste épisode dit du *pistolerismo*.

6.2 Capitalism, Domestic Work and Collective Organization / Capitalisme, travail domestique et organisation collective

Sinead Petrasek, "Gendered relationship between production and reproduction in capitalist society."

How have crises of social reproduction been co-opted by right-wing politics? This question animates my contribution to the matter of labour in our present conjuncture. With reference to my archival research on the Wages for Housework campaign, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and periodicals like *Chatelaine*, I will examine the political history of domestic labour through the figure of the housewife. Bringing the past to bear on the present, I offer a deeper understanding of the contemporary re-emergence of the housewife as a representative figure for the gendered relationship between production and reproduction in capitalist society. I contend that a strong labour movement that properly values social reproduction is critical to combat chauvinism.

Adia Giddings, "The Fight for Wages in the Household: The Household Workers' Association and Support Networks for Black Household Workers in Montreal, 1975–1980."

Labour shapes every aspect of public and private life. This includes labouring in a factory, but also the mostly unpaid work within the household that ensures laborers are prepared to enter and sustain the workforce. Historically, this work has been categorized as "women's work," these tasks were increasingly commodified in the 20th century through machinery, foreign caregivers, and household workers. This commodification, combined with the exploitation of female foreign labourers who were overworked, isolated, and underpaid raises questions about how we arrived at this moment.

Founded in 1975, the Household Worker's Association of Montreal (HWA) established itself as a representative of all household workers. This enabled them to explore broader labour issues, like immigration, race, gender, and labour activism. Understanding their work highlights the historical neglect of the home as a key site of labour and the racial and feminist solidarity built in the 1970s to demand protections and recognition for domestic workers. Examining the relationship between Montreal's (HWA) and the Negro Community Centre of Little Burgundy, Montreal reveals how racial solidarity and advocacy networks were formed. Additionally, this history offers insight into how the legacy of programs like the West Indian Domestic Scheme influenced Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers Program and shaped growing debates on labour, feminism, and migration.

Frédéric Barriault, « Un mouvement ouvrier Urbi et Orbi? Les prêtres-ouvriers et l'émancipation collective des milieux populaires au Québec (1964-1980) ».

La parution du documentaire *Les Fils* de Manon Cousin a relancé l'intérêt des chercheuses et chercheurs pour l'expérience des prêtres-ouvriers au Québec. Largement documenté en France, l'histoire des « curés rouges » est à l'état embryonnaire de ce côté-ci de l'Atlantique. Loin de se cantonner au travail en usine et à l'engagement syndical, l'action des prêtres-ouvriers repose sur une vision élargie de l'émancipation collective des milieux populaires. En résonance avec les manifestes syndicaux des années 1970 qui refuse de cantonner l'action syndicale à la seule négociation de conventions collectives et à l'amélioration des conditions de travail. Conscients qu'il y a une vie à l'extérieur des murs de

l'usine, prêtres-ouvriers et syndicalistes prolongent leurs engagements dans l'émancipation collective des habitants des faubourgs populaires, à travers la conscientisation et la politisation de ces derniers. À milles lieues d'une vision apolitique et affairiste du mouvement ouvrier.

6.3 Education as Resistance: How we teach about and learn from class struggle / L'éducation comme résistance : comment nous enseignons et apprenons de la lutte des classes

John-Henry Harter: "Roles of Resistance in the Classroom: Teaching and Learning About Class Struggle."

This presentation will examine how role plays, games, and simulations can be used in the classroom to challenge dominant discourses around class and working-class resistance. John-Henry will be using roles plays from his book (cowritten with Mark Leier) *Roles of Resistance: Game Plans for Teachers and Trouble Makers* to demonstrate how we can teach in a way that does not ignore the working class as agents of their own history and thus challenges the structures that oppress us.

Andrea Samoil: "Boycotts and Physical World Activism."

Many post-secondary students today practice online activism. While this medium has its strengths, including ease of engagement, it can have serious limitations in building solidarity. This paper will discuss how boycotts, a form of activism most students are familiar with (such as the week long Amazon boycott 7 to 14 March 2025), provide a way to discuss historic successes and failures of protests movements. Boycotts provide a familiar starting point to encourage students to consider creative forms of resistance and solidarity in the present.

Jim Selby: "Labour History for Union Activists."

Teaching labour history to trade union activists is a complex endeavour. Knowledge of the class struggle roots of trade unions encourages militancy, but will also create activists who will challenge the movement as it exists. Effectively teaching labour history to activists with widely disparate language skills and work experience requires knowledge of history and pedagogical skills.

7.1 Deindustrialization in question: periodization, structural changes and regional struggles / La désindustrialisation en question : périodisation, changements structurels et luttes régionales

William Gillies, "The Power Politics of Regional Deindustrialization: The Cape Breton Development Corporation, State Ownership, and Pit Closure in Canada's Coal Industry 1967-2001."

The Cape Breton Development Corporation (DEVCO) was an ambitious attempt by the Canadian federal government to manage the deindustrialization of coal mining on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Created in 1967 by nationalizing the unprofitable collieries, DEVCO's original mission was to incrementally close them, while fostering an alternative economic base in the area. The mines operated until 2001 when they finally closed. DEVCO has primarily been studied as an example of federal regional development policy, as its

Industrial Development Division experimented with many projects to stimulate economic growth. However, DEVCO's Coal Division has remained almost entirely unstudied, despite absorbing the vast majority of the money, and well outliving the regional development programs. Not only that, managed wind-down was quickly abandoned, and from 1973 the Coal Division massively expanded, a process that continued into the 1980s. I argue that the Coal Division's history significantly modifies our understanding of DEVCO, as regional development was only one factor in the crown corporation's trajectory. Those other factors mostly related to coal, which the Canadian state was deeply entangled with through energy policy, labour relations, and political patronage. Furthermore, as a state-owned enterprise, DEVCO had key differences from private sector deindustrialization, as this formally politicized pit closure and made governments vulnerable to pressure from those most impacted, particularly workers. DEVCO was a unique response to deindustrialization, which has some enduring implications for shutting down fossil fuel infrastructures today.

Steven High, "Deindustrialization is not the Historical Book End of the Industrial Era."

British sociologist Tim Strangleman argued in an influential 2017 essay that the study of the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries offers us a model of how to think about the de-industrial revolution of the late 20th century. Drawing inspiration from E.P. Thompson's classic study *The Making of the English Working Class*, and applying Karl Polanyi's theorization of social dis/embeddedness under capitalism as well as Raymond William's related conceptualization of structures of feeling, Strangleman suggested that over the *longue durée* we see the making and unmaking of a social order. In his mind, these "two historically discrete epochs" of transformative economic change "can be thought of as two bookends of what was an industrial era." To visualize his argument, he helpfully produced a timeline with three overlapping circles demarcating the pre-industrial, industrial and deindustrial stages of societal development over a two-hundred year period. While this visualization of the past aligns with how many people in Europe and North America speak of the late 20th century as the end of the industrial age, I argue here that the historical bookends analogy mis-represents what is actually going on. The world didn't deindustrialize, far from it. But where things are made certainly changed.

Rather than a linear evolutionary process at the societal or global level, regional or sectoral deindustrialization is best understood as a normal feature of global capitalism. Writing back in 1981, sociologist Charles Tilly noted that waves of economic restructuring and deindustrialization accompanied European colonial expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries as well as mid-20th century decolonization. In India, for example, textile handicraft workers were displaced by the cheap textiles being mass produced in British factories during the colonial period. Tilly even noted that deindustrialization was present almost from the outset of Europe's industrial revolution. The late 20th century likewise saw concurrent regional industrialization, mainly in Asia, and regional deindustrialization, mainly in Europe and North America (though not exclusively so, as many other economies pivoted from import substitution to export-industries). A geographic sensibility is therefore essential to understanding deindustrialization, something that is missing in Strangleman's linear and overly universalized explanatory framework. To explore this further, my proposed paper will explore the how and why of deindustrialization as well as the where and

when. Each register affords us important insights into deindustrialization as a socio-economic, cultural and political process.

Lachlan MacKinnon, “Negotiating the End of Coal: UMW District 26 and the DEVCO Coal Closures, 1999-2000.”

In January 1999, the Government of Canada announced plans to close the remaining two nationalized coal mines in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The mines had been taken over by the federal government in the 1960s and had launched two significant hiring waves during the 1970s. As a result, although the workforce was aging, nearly 2,000 coal miners would fail to qualify for pension under the terms of the initial closure announcement. District 26 of the United Mineworkers of America, the union that represented the Cape Breton miners since the early 20th century, responded immediately by calling for ongoing negotiations with DEVCO management and representatives of the federal government. While the bargaining team met management in Ottawa, rank-and-file miners launched an illegal occupation of the Prince Mine while others vandalized DEVCO headquarters in Glace Bay. Through oral history interviews with former members of the union executive, coal miners, and their supporters, this presentation explores the lessons gleaned from organized labour under conditions of industrial closure.

7.2 The Past, Present, and Future of Organizing in Academic Staff Associations in Canada / Le passé, le présent et l'avenir de l'organisation dans les associations de personnel académique au Canada

This panel will explore the strategic evolution of academic staff associations, offering insights into their historical trajectory and future potential as labour organizations. Facilitated by Susan Spronk (University of Ottawa and Co-Chair of CAUT's Equity Committee) and Larry Savage (Brock University and past Chair of CAUT's Collective Bargaining and Organizing Committee), the discussion will feature faculty activists from select universities reflecting on innovations related to bargaining strategy and member organizing. To ground the papers, panelists will reflect on the organizing methods associated with Jane McAlevey, the degree to which such methods have been integrated into the university sector, and the pitfalls and possibilities related to such methods in the context of Canadian universities. The panel contributes to a broader understanding of labour's strategic repositioning in the sector, providing valuable reflections on how to fight growing precarity and the stratification of academic labour in the context of the neoliberal university.

7.3 Working the Front Line: Social Work and Labour / Travailler en première ligne : travail social et syndicalisme

The panel presents the work of 7 community and academic researchers engaged in the study of social work in the context of labour organizing and work processes. The presentations focus on understandings of historical and contemporary framings of social work as work, and social workers as workers who provide services within the health and social welfare sector which contrasts with contemporary framings of social work as a self-regulating profession. The papers assembled for this panel demonstrate how worker resistance and union

involvement are taken up as a means of resisting professionalization discourses by social workers in practice and where the absence of these solidarities matter most. Critical analysis of work design and worker experiences are presented as a means of demonstrating how a history of social unionism in social work may be leveraged as a means of exploring possibilities for future resistance and continued commitment to social work as social change, even in the current neoliberal context of health and social welfare.

7.4 Changing the world one research project at a time: crossed perspectives on collaborative and transformative research practices / Changer le monde un projet de recherche à la fois : regards croisés sur les pratiques de recherche collaboratives et transformatrices

This bilingual roundtable brings together four researchers who collaborated on *La recherche engagée sur le terrain du travail précaire : réflexions méthodologiques, éthiques et épistémologiques* [Engaged field research on precarious work: methodological, ethical, and epistemological reflections], published by Presse Universitaire du Québec (PUQ) in 2004.

These researchers are deeply committed to engaged research practices trying to challenge the precarization of work and employment and, more broadly, the impoverishment of workers in Canada. Through collaborative practices and partnerships with social actors, their knowledge production aims at actively taking a stand and contributes to labor struggles in precarious work settings.

This roundtable will explore their perspectives, highlighting the evolution of their practices and reflections as presented in the book. Four key themes will be addressed:

1. The role of research and knowledge production in advancing labor struggles.
2. The determinants of research usefulness and its effectiveness in driving social transformation.
3. The intersection of academic environments and social justice practitioners.
4. The role of engaged research spaces and collectives in shaping research practices.

Biographies / Notices biographiques

Fernando Aiziczon holds a PhD in History from the National University of Córdoba (Argentina). He serves as a lecturer in the Social History of Argentina course within the Department of Anthropology at the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities of the National University of Córdoba. He is an independent researcher at CONICET. He has published numerous books, book chapters, and more than 50 academic and popular articles related to his research line, which focuses on worker self-management movements, social protests, and left-wing activism from the 1970s to the present. He is the Secretary of Training of the Internal Board of the Association of State Workers (ATE). He leads the research team "Workers, Parties, and Unions in Contemporary Córdoba."

Benjamin Anderson is Ad Astra Fellow and Assistant Professor of Creative & Cultural Industries in the School of Art History, Cultural Policy and Industries at University College Dublin. His research involves the working conditions, workplace cultures, and pathways toward collective organising in creative, craft, and cultural industries. He is also interested in the often unseen background work of the global logistics industry. His work has appeared in *Labour/Le Travail*, the *Global Labour Journal*, *TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, and elsewhere.

Michael Arfken is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Prince Edward Island, Chair of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and member of the CAUT Executive Committee. He is also the former President of the UPEI Faculty Association (UPEIFA) and current Chief Grievance Officer for the UPEIFA. His work focuses on a number of areas including Canadian labour law, Labour Process Theory, and labour organizing.

Courtney Atlee received a Social Service Worker Diploma at Mohawk College before attending McMaster University to complete a BA in Political Science, a Bachelor of Social Work, and a Minor in Indigenous Studies. After graduating she worked for six years in the child welfare system as an Indigenous Family Service, Intake, and After-Hours Emergency Service Worker. After experiencing burnout caused by her workplace environment and culture, Courtney started engaging with her union, where she became Vice President of CUPE Local 181. Over time, she recognized that she needed further knowledge to support her social work practice and is nearing completion of the MSW: Critical Leadership program at McMaster University. Courtney recognized that labour unions can be a tool for transformative change and completed her MSW placement with CUPE 2316 where she worked with Aubrey Gonsalves to develop the 4C's of critical social work leadership.

Joanne Azevedo worked for many years in child welfare and recently completed her PhD in Social Work from York University. Currently Joanne is a member of the Child Welfare Truth Telling Collective, is working with the Federal Government of Canada and is teaching Social Work at Trent University in Oshawa, ON.

Frédéric Barriault est doctorant en histoire à l'Université Laval. Sous la direction de Martin Pâquet (Université Laval) et de Catherine Foisy (UQAM), il complète une thèse sur la trajectoire du jésuite Jacques Couture qui a été tour à tour prêtre et militant sociocommunautaire dans le quartier Saint-Henri, candidat à la mairie de Montréal, député péquiste de Saint-Henri, ministre du Travail et de l'Immigration dans le gouvernement de René Lévesque, puis missionnaire à Madagascar. Spécialiste de l'histoire du catholicisme québécois contemporaine, ses recherches s'intéressent au christianisme social et aux mobilisations de la gauche chrétienne en solidarité avec les mouvements sociaux dans la deuxième moitié du 20^e siècle. Avec un intérêt marqué pour l'histoire du mouvement ouvrier.

Annabelle Berthiaume est une professeure adjointe à l'École de travail social de l'Université de Sherbrooke, impliquée dans les CUTE.

John Bessai, PhD, specializes in Canadian cultural policy, media studies, and labour representation in film. He teaches at Okanagan College and University College of the North, where his research examines the intersections of labour, public service media, and digital storytelling. His work critically engages with the Canadian aporetic condition, analyzing how institutions like the National Film Board of Canada (NFBC) navigate contradictions in national identity, cultural multiplicity, and media representation. His research has explored NFBC projects such as HIGHRISE, Supreme Law, and Do Not Track as case studies in labour discourse and digital counterpublics. His forthcoming publications examine how public storytelling platforms challenge corporate media consolidation, emphasizing accessibility, inclusion, and working-class advocacy within Canadian cultural institutions.

Michael Billeaux-Martinez teaches sociology at Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin. His current research focuses on waterfront workers of the Great Lakes. His writings have appeared in *Labor: Studies in Working Class History*, *Historical Materialism*, *Du Bois Review*, *Jacobin*, *Conter*, and elsewhere. He is a member of Local 243 of the American Federation of Teachers.

David Blocker teaches at Huron University College and Conrad Grebel University College in southwestern Ontario and has published articles in *Labour/Le Travail* and *Active History*. His first book, *The New Left in Canadian Politics: The Waffle and the New Democratic Party during the Long Sixties, 1965-1975*, is under contract at UBC Press and will be published within the year. Following the careers of a couple of Wafflers northwards led him to begin research on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry and pursue his next project, a new political history of the Berger Inquiry and the Canadian left in the 1970s.

Adrien Bouvet est diplômé en 2018 du master droit social de l'Institut d'études du travail de Lyon (France), puis en 2023 de la maîtrise en droit du travail de l'UQÀM. Dans son mémoire, il s'est intéressé au rôle de l'inspection des établissements industriels dans la lutte contre les accidents du travail au Québec entre 1885 et 1910. Il poursuit maintenant une thèse en cotutelle entre Nantes Université (France) et l'Université de Montréal. En 2023, il est co-lauréat du concours de financement organisé par le Parcours doctoral national en santé

travail, mis en place par l'École des hautes études en santé publique de Rennes. Son projet de thèse s'intéresse au droit de refuser un travail dangereux au Québec et en France, et plus largement au rôle individuel du travailleur salarié dans le droit de la prévention en santé et sécurité du travail.

Fred Burrill is a settler historian of the working-class who grew up in rural Mi'kma'ki. After several decades in Montreal, he is now an Assistant Professor of Historical Studies at the University of New Brunswick. He is working on a book project about death and dying on the deindustrialized rural resource frontier in Nova Scotia, and has published on Quebec working-class history and Canadian and Maritime historiography.

Peter Campbell is retired from the History Department at Queen's University, where he taught Canadian history, and the history of socialism, anarchism, and the women's movement. At the present time he is researching and writing on European-Indigenous contact in 17th century New France.

Donna Coombs-Montrose is a Community Activist and History Advocate who has resided in Edmonton, Alberta for over 20 years. Donna's activism began while a student in Toronto during the 1970s and continued her heritage exploration in her home country during the succeeding years, after completing her academic training in librarianship and archives. Since coming to Edmonton with her family she has served on the board of CARIWEST – Western Carnival Development Association – 1999-2017, including the last 10 years as its President. A recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2022, Donna is an avid painter who plays in the music band iLand.+ and serves as City of Edmonton Historian Laureate, 2024-2026.

Laura Dehaibi est professeure adjointe au Département des relations industrielles à l'Université Laval où elle enseigne le droit du travail. Elle est également co-chercheure pour le Centre de recherche interuniversitaire sur la mondialisation et le travail. Ses travaux de recherche portent sur les dimensions spatiales de la marginalisation au travail et la manière dont elles sont prises en compte dans la réglementation du travail. Elle s'intéresse également à l'organisation collective de proximité au sein de populations marginalisées, à la création de normes informelles au travail et aux questions de solidarité transnationale dans une perspective Nord-Sud. Elle a publié entre autres sur la protection de la liberté d'association des travailleurs en agriculture et dans l'industrie des plateformes numériques. Elle est l'auteure du livre *Property, Power and Human Rights* (Edward Elgar, 2024) où elle aborde les dimensions sociales du droit humain à la propriété et la relation entre justice sociale et territoire.

Godefroy Desrosiers-Lauzon est chargé de cours en histoire à l'UQAM et à l'Université de Montréal, président du Syndicat des chargées et chargés de cours de l'Université de Montréal.

Edward Dunsworth is an assistant professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. A historian of labour, migration, and the left, Dunsworth is the author of *Harvesting Labour: Tobacco and the Global Making of Canada's Agricultural*

Workforce (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022; winner of the Henry A. Wallace Award, Agricultural History Society, United States) and a collaborator with the St. Lucian-Canadian activist and former migrant worker Gabriel Allahdua on his memoir, *Harvesting Freedom: The Life of a Migrant Worker in Canada* (Between the Lines, 2023; winner of the Speaker's Book Award, Legislative Assembly of Ontario). An active public historian, Dunsworth is a member of the editorial collective at Activehistory.ca, a founding member of the Toronto Workers' History Project, and a frequent author of articles for broader audiences. His current research concerns left parliamentary politics and the politics of immigration in Canada.

Louis Durand est professeur dans le domaine des relations de travail et de la gestion des ressources humaines depuis plus de trente ans à la Faculté de Gestion de l'Université Laurentienne, à Sudbury, Ontario. Bachelier en Relations Industrielles de l'Université Laval en 1985, il a par la suite complété une Maîtrise en Administration des Affaires (MBA) à l'Université de Sherbrooke en 1989. Il est régulièrement consulté par les médias francophones en Ontario et au niveau national pour commenter les conflits de travail dans les domaines public et privé. Même si l'enseignement demeure sa priorité, ses champs d'intérêt demeurent l'évolution des relations de travail et du droit du travail au Canada.

Michael Feagan received his doctorate in History at the University of Western Ontario. His PhD dissertation examines the lives, work, and bodies of American and Canadian telegraph operators from 1870 to 1929. Michael's research draws on recent historiography such as the bodily turn in the history of medicine, gender, and working-class history and strives to make traditions such as Marxist materialism new again. His attention to the history of technology and labour in American and Canadian history focuses on bodies within networks of technologies, how bodies within those systems become erased, and the political significance of that erasure. This talk is based on the first chapter of his dissertation on telegraphers' work and networks.

Alvin Finkel has served as the president of the Alberta Labour History Institute since 2016; he was a founding member of ALHI in 1999. Finkel was book review editor for *Labour/Le Travail* from 2000 to 2012 and has served on the editorial board continuously since 2000; he is a long-time member of the editors' advisory committee. He taught History at Athabasca University from 1978 to his retirement in 2014. A prolific and co-author of history textbooks, monographs, book chapters, and articles on labour history and social policy history, his 14 books include 7 editions of the 2-volume *History of the Canadian Peoples*; *Social Policy and Practice in Canada: A History*; *Working People in Alberta: A History*; *The Social Credit Phenomenon in Alberta*; *Compassion: A Global History of Social Policy and Humans: The 300,000 Year Struggle for Equality*.

Paulo Fontes is an Assistant Professor at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (UFRJ) and a Researcher of the Brazilian Scientific Research Council (CNPq). At UFRJ he is the head of the Laboratório de Estudos de História dos Mundos do Trabalho (LEHMT), that leads the most important Brazilian labor history website as public history (lehmt.org). Paulo received his PhD in Social History from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas

(Unicamp) in 2002. Paulo was a Visiting Professor at Duke (2004) and Princeton (2006/7) Universities in the US and Visiting Fellow at the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam in 2013 and the re:work Institute of Humboldt University in Berlin (2014). Between 2011 and 2013, Paulo Fontes was the President of the *Mundos do Trabalho* Group, the labour historians association in Brazil. Currently he is a Fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute (2024/25). A historian of Brazilian labour and working-class culture after the World War II, Paulo is the author of several articles, book chapters and books. His book *Migration and the Making of Industrial São Paulo* (Duke U Press) was the winner of the first Thomas Skidmore Prize, sponsored by the Brazilian National Archive and the Brazilian Studies Association. Some of his recent books are *The Country of Football: Politics, Popular Culture, and the Beautiful Game in Brazil* (Hurst); *Brazilian Labour History: New Perspectives in Global Context* (Cambridge U Press) and *Lugares de Memória dos Trabalhadores* (Alameda).

Martin Gallié est professeur de droit social au Département des sciences juridiques de l'UQAM. Il est membre du Groupe interuniversitaire et interdisciplinaire de recherche sur l'emploi, la pauvreté et la protection sociale (GIREPS) et de la Communauté de recherche-action sur les droits économiques et sociaux (COMRADES). Ses recherches actuelles portent sur la judiciarisation des grèves et des luttes sociales.

Gabriel Gerbaldo holds a Master's degree in Political Parties and a Bachelor's degree in History from the National University of Córdoba. He has been a doctoral fellow at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) since 2020, specializing in democratization processes, political parties, the labor movement, and state agencies. He has published book chapters and more than 10 academic and popular articles related to his research topics, including “Labor reforms between democracy transitions in Spain and Argentina through Caro Figueroa’s political career” in *Cuadernos de Historia Contemporánea* (2024), published by the Complutense University of Madrid. Since 2018, he has participated in various national-funded research programs and projects on the history of the labor movement. Since 2022, he has served as a shop steward for the Union of Educators of the Province of Córdoba at a public school in the city’s capital.

Adia Giddings is a second-year history master’s student at Concordia University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from Concordia. Her research focuses on racialized migration, black Canadian studies, and Canadian labor history. In 2023, she was the Black History Archives Student Resident at Concordia’s Special Collections, where she examined the connections between Montreal’s Black community and organizations advocating for the rights of foreign household workers. Her master’s research explores the history and activism of English-speaking Caribbean domestic workers in Montreal from 1975 to 1981, tracing their struggles through earlier programs like the West Indian Domestic Scheme.

William Gillies is a History MA student and recipient of the 2022 Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time Masters’ Fellowship at Concordia University. He grew up on Cape Breton Island as it deindustrialized and moved to Calgary to find work, holding jobs in

cartography and later political organizing. William is a founding member, researcher, and writer for the award-winning Alberta Advantage podcast which produces episodes on current political events and working-class history. He recently returned and completed his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Calgary. William's primary historical research interests are labour, regional economic development, fossil-fuel capitalism, and state industrial policy.

Mason Godden holds a Ph.D. in Labour Studies from McMaster University. He is the author of "Contesting Big Brother: Legal Mobilization against Workplace Surveillance in the Puretex Knitting Company Strike, 1978-79," *Labour Le Travail* 86 (Fall 2020): 71-98 and "'Don't Dare': Labour, Feminism, and the Left on Strike at Dare Foods, 1972-1973," in Lisa Pasolli and Julia Smith (eds). *Rethinking Feminist History and Theory: Essays on Gender, Class, and Labour*, 19-39. He is currently preparing a monograph on the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU), 1969-1992 based on his dissertation research on Canadian left-nationalism and social movement unionism in the post-Second World War period.

Aubrey Gonsalves: received his B A in sociology and a Bachelor of Social Work from York University in, Ontario. After graduating, he started working at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto as a family service worker, where he became an active member of the Canadian Union for Public Employees. Aubrey currently holds leadership positions as president of his local, where he represents bargaining members, provincially as 2nd Vice-President of Ontario, and as National Diversity Vice-President for Black and Racialized Workers, where he is working towards implementing an anti-racism strategy within unions across Canada. Aubrey continues to be a leader in his community and has worked with members to develop nonviolent strategies. He leads with the belief that despite differences when people stand together, they can achieve anything.

David Goutor is the Director of the School of Labour Studies at McMaster University. He teaches a wide range of courses on the history of labour and the left, how unions operate in the 21st century, theory, and technology and the future of work. His historical research focuses on unions, immigration, human rights campaigns, and international leftist political activism. In addition to *Guarding the Gates*, his publications include a volume on the history of human rights in Canada, *Taking Liberties* (Oxford University Press), and *A Chance to Fight Hitler* (*Between the Lines*), a biography of Canadian veteran of the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War.

Julie Guard is a Professor of History and Labour Studies at the University of Manitoba. She works mostly on the history of the Canadian left with a focus on women, including labour, social movements, and repression and dissent, but also on labour and social policy. Her chapter on the translation of that book into a play, and another book chapter on the impact of austerity on Manitoba public sector workers, are forthcoming this year. She is currently working with community-based organizations to use the history of consumer organizing in campaigns for legislative solutions to food insecurity today. As part of that project, she is working on a graphic history (aka comic) based on her 2019 book, *Radical Housewives: Price*

Wars and Food Politics in Mid-Twentieth Century Canada, designed to reach a broad, non-academic audience, raise consciousness, inform policymakers, and animate progressive change.

Laurence Hamel-Roy est candidate au doctorat à l'Université Concordia, où elle mène un projet d'histoire orale sur l'impact des politiques publiques de l'emploi sur les parcours professionnels et militants des travailleureuses de la construction au Québec dans le tournant néolibéral. Ses travaux interrogent le rôle de la transformation des politiques publiques et de l'État dans le renouvellement des mécanismes de précarisation, de segmentation et de ségrégation des marchés du travail. Chercheuse engagée et attachée à la défense des droits du travail, elle a co-dirigé avec ses collègues du Groupe interuniversitaire et interdisciplinaire de recherche sur l'emploi, la pauvreté et la protection sociale (GIREPS) l'ouvrage *La recherche engagée sur le terrain du travail précaire : réflexions méthodologiques, épistémologiques et éthiques* qui est paru aux PUQ en 2024.

John-Henry Harter is a lecturer in history and labour studies at Simon Fraser University. He is an award-winning teacher whose research and teaching focuses on both environmental and labour history as well as pop culture and teaching. He has published in both academic journals and popular magazines. He lives with his partner and two dogs on the West Coast of what we call Canada. When not teaching or writing he is consuming far too much coffee and reality TV.

Steven High is Professor of History at Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. He is the author of many books and articles related to labour history, including his two most books *Deindustrializing Montreal: Entangled Histories of Race, Residence and Class* (MQUP, 2022) and *The Left in Power: Bob Rae's NDP and the Working Class* (Between the Lines, 2025). He is the principal investigator of the transnational SSHRC partnership project "Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Times" (DEPOT – deindustrialization.org)

Shannon Ikebe is a faculty member at John Abbott College in Montréal, Québec and holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of California, Berkeley. They have served as a guest scholar at University of Uppsala, University of Jena and the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, and given an invited lecture at Lund University (Sweden) and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (Germany). Their work has been published in multiple publications, including *Labour/Le Travail*, *Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme*, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* and *Jacobin*. They have been actively engaged in the student and labour movements, currently serving as a delegate to the Conseil central de Montréal Métropolitain-CSN.

Adam D.K. King is an assistant professor in the Labour Studies Program at the University of Manitoba. Prior to joining Labour Studies at U of M, he was a senior researcher at the Canadian Labour Congress. He is the co-author, with Mark P. Thomas and Andrew Jackson, of *Work and Labour in Canada: Critical Issues* (Canadian Scholars 2025). Adam is the author or coauthor of over a dozen scholarly articles in *Labour/Le Travail*, *Canadian Journal of*

Labour and Employment Law, Studies in Political Economy, and Global Labour Journal, among others. Adam also writes a weekly column on work and labour issues called “Class Struggle” at The Maple. He is an executive member of the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies (CAWLS).

Paula Kirman is the Administrator, Website Manager, and Records/Archives Manager with the Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI). She graduated with a Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) from the University of Alberta in 2023. Since 2005 she has been independently documenting Edmonton's activist scene, including labour actions, at RadicalCitizenMedia.com. She works as a freelance communications and media consultant mostly with non-profit and community media organizations. Paula has received numerous awards for her media activism, including Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal, Edmonton Social Planning Council Award of Merit for Social Advocacy, and the Human Rights Champion Award from the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Jane Komori is Provost's Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of Labor, Migration, and Racial Capitalism in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Her research focuses on the labor history and self-organization of Asian immigrant and Indigenous workers in western Canada's primary resource industries from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Jane's writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Labour/Le Travail*, *Radical History Review*, *Historical Materialism: Research in Critical Marxist Theory*, *Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal*, *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *Asia-Pacific Journal*, and *Qui Parle: Critical Humanities and Social Sciences*, as well as a number of public-facing venues, including *Viewpoint Magazine*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Ricepaper Magazine*, *Matrix Magazine*, *GUTS Canadian Feminist Magazine*, and *The Bulletin/Geppo*. She is managing editor of *Long-Haul*, a quarterly magazine of worker writing.

Parashar Kulkarni (PhD Politics, NYU) studies the political economy of religion and utopias in colonial and contemporary South Asia and the British Empire. In 2024-25, he is visiting the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, UCL. His work appears in literary and academic journals such as *Granta*, *Boston Review*, *Labor History*, *The Sociological Review Magazine*, *Social Science History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, and the *British Journal of Political Science*. His writing has received several prizes, including the British Academy's Brian Barry Prize, the Boston Review Aura Estrada Prize, and the Commonwealth Writers Short Story Prize. He is now working on a book about the role of religion in the labour movement in Bombay.

Sandrine Labelle est candidate au doctorat en histoire à l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Ses recherches doctorales portent les relations néocoloniales entre le Québec et l'Afrique ainsi qu'à leur rôle dans l'accumulation du capital et dans la restructuration de l'État québécois à la fin du XXe siècle. Son mémoire de maîtrise, portant sur l'histoire des internationalismes féministes durant la Guerre froide, s'est mérité le prix du meilleur mémoire de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec.

Yves Laberge est sociologue, il a été chercheur au Laboratoire de Communication et politique du Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), à Paris. Il a été nommé par la Gouverneure-générale du Canada comme administrateur (« trustee ») au Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne.

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Tor Laine is a PhD Student, McMaster University. Tor's doctor research explores social worker/police collaborations and the effects of work design on social workers experiences of practice. She has worked as a policy analyst for the Government of Canada and as a Crisis Social Worker in Ontario's northern region.

Tara La Rose is an Associate Professor, School of Social Work, McMaster University. Tara's research considers social workers' experiences of social policy as expressed in work design. Her scholarship also considers practices of resistance through social media and digital technology; as part of this research she considers process of digital literacy at the community level as resources that enhance digital access. Tara served as a researcher with the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (2000-2002) and served as the principle researcher on the Caseload Overload Project which explored changes in provincial social welfare policy on members of the social work/civil service local (Local One).

Diego Latorre is a Ph.D. candidate at Universidad Complutense of Madrid (2025), M.A. in Contemporary History (2020) and a B.A. in History (2019) at the same institution. I hold a Pre-Doctoral Teaching-Research Fellowship (FPU) granted by the Spanish Ministerio de Universidades (2021-2025). My research interests are labour discipline, coercion at work and workers' individual and collective resistances on feminised sector such as textile industry or domestic service. I have published articles in indexed academic journals such as "No es ciudad para vagos: disciplina y desobediencia laboral en Madrid (1962-1977)" *Historia del Tiempo Presente* and several in press such as "El fracaso de un proyecto obrero: servicio doméstico, empleadas de hogar y militancia en la JOC (1960-1976)" *Historia Contemporánea* or "Domestic Service and Labour Movement in Franco-era Spain: the Young Christian Workers and the Domestic Workers' Struggles (1960-1976)" *Labour History Review*.

Marie-Josée Lavallée est une historienne qui se spécialise depuis plusieurs années sur le mouvement ouvrier, les révolutions, les conseils ouvriers, le socialisme et le communisme, en particulier dans le contexte germanophone de l'époque de la Première guerre mondiale. J'écris aussi sur la démocratie dans le monde actuel, les impérialismes occidentaux et la théorie critique de la première École de Francfort. Je viens de compléter un livre sur la révolution autrichienne (à paraître chez McGill- Queens University Press) et je termine un livre collectif sur la diversité des théories et expériences socialistes en Europe au 20^e siècle (*Different Shades of Red*), inspiré d'un colloque international que j'ai organisé en 2023 à l'Université de Montréal. J'ai publié un livre collectif sur la question des impérialismes occidentaux (*The End of Western Hegemonies?*, 2022). J'ai également à mon actif des articles (dont certains à

paraître sur le communisme et le socialisme) sur les différents thèmes de recherche indiqués. J'enseigne l'histoire globale et européenne à l'Université de Montréal depuis 2016.

Nicolas Lépine enseigne l'histoire internationale et ouvrière à l'Université d'Ottawa. Sa spécialité concerne les organisations internationales et transnationales de l'entre-deux-guerres européen, plus particulièrement le thème de la solidarité transfrontalière du mouvement ouvrier. Publié par les Presses de l'Université Laval, son premier livre portait sur la solidarité politique des Internationales socialistes et la guerre d'Espagne de 1936 à 1939. Son second livre, cette fois publié par Routledge, relativisera la prédominance accordée par l'historiographie aux communistes dans les luttes antifascistes, plus particulièrement à l'époque de la guerre civile espagnole qui sévit de 1936 à 1939.

Patricia Linner is a Visiting Lecturer of Labor Studies at Indiana University-South Bend. She received her BA in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, and her MLS and MPA degrees from Indiana University. She is currently a doctoral student in Education at the University of Miami (FL). Her research focus is on women's issues at home and work and sustainability partnerships within the labor movement.

John Lutz is Professor of History at the University of Victoria.

Lachlan MacKinnon is an Associate Professor of History and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Post-industrial Communities at Cape Breton University. He is an active member of the Canadian Committee on Labour History, and his research deals with working-class experiences of industrial closure in Atlantic Canada. His most recent book, *Cape Breton in the Long Twentieth Century: Formations and Legacies of Industrial Capitalism*, was published in 2024 through Athabasca University Press. He also has interests in the history of regional and industrial economic development, working-class forms of protest, and deindustrialization.

Thomas MacMillan is a Ph.D. candidate at Concordia University researching labour and working-class activism at Concordia University under his supervisor, Dr. Steven High. He earned a B.A. in International Development and Social Change from Clark University in Massachusetts and an M.A. in History from the University of Maine. At Concordia, he was elected to three terms as mobilization officer of the Teaching and Research Assistants of Concordia (TRAC). His research is supported by the Canadian Committee on Labour History's 2024 Graduate Student Thesis Research Award.

Erica Maloney is an Assistant Professor Chatham University Pittsburg PA. Erica's work focuses on addressing social justice issues: racial justice; poverty (special focus on distressed inner-ring suburbs), and health equity. She worked for many years as an anti-poverty community organizer, grant writer, and intensive service case manager. As a case manager, she worked with program participants to address barriers they are facing, such as helping people with disabilities access accommodations and assisting with applying for benefits such as SSI/D, supporting drug/alcohol treatment, served formerly incarcerated people as they reintegrate into society. She has practiced in the area of mental/behavioral health delivering

clinical services to children, adolescents, and young adults. She has extensive experience in program evaluation and worked as an evaluator for a number of nonprofit organizations in Pittsburgh.

Benoit Marsan est détenteur d'un doctorat en histoire. Il est chargé de cours au département d'histoire de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) et au département de relations industrielles de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais. Il est également chercheur affilié au Centre d'histoire des régulations sociales de l'UQÀM et membre du Comité exécutif du Comité canadien sur l'histoire du travail. Il est l'auteur de plusieurs travaux sur l'histoire du chômage et des sans-travail au Québec. En 2014, il a publié le livre intitulé « Battez-vous, ne vous laissez pas affamer » ! Les communistes et la lutte des sans-emploi pendant la Grande Dépression chez M éditeur. En 2026 paraîtra son plus récent ouvrage intitulé « L'heure des pétitions est passée » : les luttes des sans-travail au Québec, 1919-1939 chez McGill-Queen's University Press.

Dr. William J. Mello is an Associate Professor of Labor Studies at Indiana University Northwest. He received a BA in Historical Studies from Empire State College/ SUNY. He received an MA and PhD in Historical Studies and Political Science from the New School for Social Research. He is an affiliated faculty at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the Brazilian Studies Program at IU -Bloomington. Dr. Mello is also a leader of the research group The World of Work: Politics, History and Culture, located at the State University of Ceará (UECE), Fortaleza, Brazil, and is currently working on a book that explores the constraints of working class organization in Brazilian political development.

Mia Michael is an Assistant Professor of History at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. A historian of the modern United States specializing in labor, migration, and social movements, she completed her doctorate at Boston College in 2023. Mia's research explores the multigenerational struggle for dignity and legal rights waged by working-class women of color and migrants while employed as nannies, housecleaners, and caretakers during the late-twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Similarly, Mia's teaching on American labor history, modern world history, and public history prioritizes the voices and experiences of "ordinary" individuals who were shaped by but also influenced and challenged systems of power. A commitment to public engagement drives Mia's broader work as a scholar who investigates past human experience. She believes it is one of the most powerful ways to help individuals and communities see firsthand the relevance and transformative potential of studying history.

Sarah K. Miles est chercheuse postdoctorale CRSH, affiliée au département d'histoire de l'UQAM et au CRIDAQ, et anciennement postdoctorante de la Chaire de recherche en histoire contemporaine du Québec. Diplômée en histoire globale et européenne de l'Université de Caroline du Nord à Chapel Hill, ses travaux portent sur l'histoire intellectuelle et culturelle de la gauche dans le monde francophone au vingtième siècle. Elle est en train de terminer un manuscrit basé sur ses recherches doctorales qui s'intitule *Postcolonial Publishers, Radical Readers : Militant Print Culture and Francophone Universalism, 1959-1974* et développe un nouveau projet sur la mort et le militantisme au Québec dans les années

1960 et 1970. Ses travaux ont paru, parmi d'autres, dans *French Politics, Culture and Society* et le *Journal of Caribbean History*.

Chad Montrie is a Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. In 2023 he was a Fulbright Canada Research Chair at the University of Calgary, where he researched and wrote two articles, ““What is Labour’s Stake?”: Workers and the History of Environmentalism in Alberta,” for *Labour/Le Travail*, and ““Agenda for the 1970s’: A Genealogy of Organized Labour’s Environmental Activism in Ontario,” for *Papers in Canadian History and Environment*, both published in 2024. He has also published five books, including *The Myth of Silent Spring: Rethinking the Origins of American Environmentalism*, in 2018.

Marcel Nault Jr. est historien et auteur de *Cuba, Chili et Québec. La consolidation de la solidarité anti-impérialiste (1959-1979)*, son premier ouvrage publié le 28 août 2023 aux Éditions du Septentrion. Titulaire d'un baccalauréat en histoire (2013) et d'une maîtrise en histoire (2018) de l'Université de Sherbrooke, il a également été enseignant bénévole à l'Université du troisième âge en 2020. De 2012 à 2016, il a agi comme auxiliaire de recherche pour le professeur Maurice Demers dans le cadre du projet financé par le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines (CRSH), *La violence des pacifiques. La militance pour les droits humains en Amérique latine durant la guerre froide racontée par les missionnaires catholiques du Canada*. Passionné de radio, il anime actuellement son émission sur les ondes de CFAK 88.3 FM à l'Université de Sherbrooke et de CKIA-FM – Radio Urbaine à Québec. Ses champs d'intérêt sont l'histoire transnationale, l'histoire du Québec contemporain (de 1950 à aujourd'hui), l'histoire du militantisme au Québec, l'histoire de l'Amérique latine et la Guerre froide.

Don Nerbas is Associate Professor and St. Andrew’s Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. He is author of *Dominion of Capital: The Politics of Big Business and the Crisis of the Canadian Bourgeoisie, 1914-1947* (University of Toronto Press, 2013) and co-editor of two volumes, *Montreal’s Square Mile: The Making and Transformation of a Colonial Metropole* (with Dimitry Anastakis and Elizabeth Kirkland, University of Toronto Press, 2024), and *McGill in History* (with Brian Lewis and Melissa N. Shaw, McGill-Queen’s University Press, forthcoming 2025). The principal focus of his current research centres on Cape Breton Island’s political economy of coal during the long nineteenth century. His recent article ““Lawless Coal Miners’ and the Lingan Strike of 1882-1883: Remaking Political Order on Cape Breton’s Sydney Coalfield,” *Labour/Le Travail* 92 (Fall 2023) was awarded the Best Article Prize in Labour History by the Canadian Committee on Labour History in 2024.

Yanick Noiseux est professeur agrégé au département de sociologie de l'Université de Montréal et chercheur principal au Groupe interdisciplinaire et interuniversitaire de recherche sur l'emploi, la pauvreté et la protection sociale (GIREPS). Ses travaux portent principalement sur le renouvellement du syndicalisme et de l'action collective des travailleurs et travailleuses pauvres ainsi que sur les transformations du travail et les politiques sociales dans le contexte de la mondialisation. Il s'intéresse particulièrement à l'organisation

collective des travailleurs précaires au Canada, en Argentine et en Inde. Il est l'auteur de l'ouvrage intitulé « Transformations des marchés du travail et innovations syndicales au Québec » (2014) et a récemment codirigé, avec Laurence Hamel-Roy, Mylène Fauvel, Rabih Jamil, Manuel Salamanca Cardona et Cheolki Yoon l'ouvrage « La recherche engagée sur le terrain du travail précaire : réflexions méthodologiques, éthiques et épistémologiques » (2024, PUQ).

Anne B. O'Connell is an Associate Professor, York University. Anne's research focuses on contemporary and historical analysis of poverty, colonialism, race and empire, critical race theory and theories of whiteness.

Lorraine O'Donnell has a Ph.D. in History (McGill) and a Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development (Concordia). She is Senior Research Manager at Concordia University's Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) and Affiliate Professor with Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs. She has also been an archivist, researcher, teacher, and public historian. Lorraine's research focus is Canadian women's history and history/heritage projects that involve and help build communities.

Corey Orszak is a PhD candidate and teaching assistant (CUPE 3903 — Unit 1) within the Department of History at York University. He is a member of CUPE 3903's Archive Committee.

Chad Pearson is an assistant professor of history at the University of North Texas and is primarily interested in business and labor history. He has written two books: *Capital's Terrorists: Klansmen, Lawmen, and Employers in the Long Nineteenth Century* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022) and *Reform or Repression: Organizing America's Anti-Union Movement* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016). Additionally, he is co-editor of *Against Labor: How U.S. Employers Organized to Defeat Union Activism* (with Rosemary Feurer; University of Illinois Press, 2017). He has published essays in *Civil War History*, *History Compass*, *Labor History*, *Labour/Le Travail* and the *International Review of Social History*. He is currently writing a book called *The Hooded Bosses' Organization: The Second Ku Klux Klan and the War on Labor* for Verso.

Samuel Pelletier est titulaire d'une maîtrise en sociologie de l'Université de Montréal – spécialisé en sociologie du travail et des organisations - et d'une maîtrise en relations industrielles et ressources humaines de l'Université de Toronto. Son mémoire, *Le travail de l'Intelligence artificielle : rapport au travail et coup d'œil sociodémographique*, explore les dynamiques du travail dans le secteur en plein essor de l'IA à Montréal. Il possède une expertise en analyse des données RH et en intelligence d'affaires appliquée aux organisations. Il détient également un baccalauréat en administration des affaires de HEC Montréal et poursuit actuellement des études en droit à temps partiel à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, avec l'objectif de se spécialiser en droit du travail. Actuellement, il travaille dans la gestion des systèmes d'information RH et l'analyse stratégique des données.

Martin Petitclerc est professeur au département d'histoire de l'Université du Québec à Montréal et directeur du Centre d'histoire des régulations sociales. Ses recherches et publications portent principalement sur l'histoire des inégalités sociales, des mouvements sociaux et de l'État social au Québec. Il a notamment publié, avec Martin Robert, *Grève et paix. Histoire des lois spéciales au Québec* (Lux éditeur en 2018), ouvrage qui a obtenu le prix du meilleur livre d'histoire politique de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec. Il a aussi dirigé la production de la cyberexposition *Déjouer la fatalité* sur l'histoire de la pauvreté et de la marginalité au Québec : <https://dejouerfatalite.uqam.ca/>

Sinead Petrasek is an urban scholar with a strong focus on social reproduction. Prior to pursuing my doctoral studies, I worked in community engagement. I have a background in art that informs my attention to the visual culture of labour history. Most recently, I published “The Toronto Wages for Housework Committee: A Contribution to the Critique of Society and Space” in *Gender, Place and Culture* (2023) and “Social Reproduction in the Gentrified City: Resisting Displacement in Marketized Toronto” with Sophie O’Manique in *Research Agenda for Gentrification* (2023) edited by Leslie Kern and Winifred Curran. I also want to highlight my role as a Research Assistant with the Kensington Market Community Land Trust, University of Toronto (PI: Susannah Bunce) during their first acquisition of a member-owned building in the market. I have taught for several courses in the department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, most recently *Labour Geographies* with Deborah Leslie. Since 2024, I have been serving as a member representative of CUPE 3902 in discussion with the employer regarding childcare benefits.

Susana Ponte Rivera, fille d’immigrant.es espagnol.e.s de la classe ouvrière, je m’intéresse depuis toujours au travail des personnes immigrantes et, féministes engagées, particulièrement à celui des femmes. J’ai approfondi mes connaissances théoriques sur ces enjeux lors d’études supérieures en sociologie du travail à l’Université de Montréal.

Mircea Raianu is Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is currently at work on a book project tentatively entitled, *Giving Away the Company: Global Experiments with Common Ownership under Capitalism*, which examines the creation of alternative forms of corporate organisation through transnational exchanges of ideas and legal techniques from the late 1920s to the early 1980s. Raianu is the author of *Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism* (Harvard University Press, 2021), and several articles in journals such as *Business History Review* and *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. He holds a PhD in History from Harvard University (2017) and a BA in History from the University of California, Berkeley (2009).

Camille Robert est stagiaire postdoctorale au département d'histoire de l'Université Concordia, où elle mène des recherches sur les mobilisations des infirmières d'origine caribéenne et philippine au Québec. Son projet de thèse, financé par une bourse d'études supérieures du Canada Vanier, portait sur les expériences des travailleuses de l'éducation et de la santé face au tournant néolibéral de l'État québécois. En 2017, elle a publié *Toutes les femmes sont d'abord ménagères. Histoire d'un combat féministe pour la reconnaissance du travail ménager* aux Éditions Somme toute. Elle a également codirigé, avec Louise Toupin,

l'ouvrage collectif *Travail invisible. Portraits d'une lutte féministe inachevée*, paru en 2018 aux Éditions du remue-ménage. Elle est membre du comité éditorial d'*HistoireEngagée* et du comité de rédaction de la revue *Labour/Le Travail*.

Dr. Jason Russell is a Professor of Labour Studies at Empire State University (SUNY) in Buffalo, New York. He is the author of *Canada, A Working History* (Dundurn Press, 2021), which describes the ways in which work has been performed in Canada from the pre-colonial period to the present day. His other books include *Our Union: UAW/CAW Local 27 from 1950 to 1990* (Athabasca University Press 2011), *Making Mangers in Canada, 1945 – 1995: Companies, Community Colleges, and Universities* (Routledge 2018), and *Leading Progress: The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, 1920 – 2020* (Between the Lines 2020). Russell has also published in leading history journals. His current research interests include examining the social history of retirement, and the development of labour and management in the United States and Canada since the 1940s.

Andrea Samoil's research focuses on modern Alberta labour history. She has taught history courses at Simon Fraser University (SFU), written a short popular history of the Gainers strike for the Alberta Labour History Institute, and contributed to *Roles of Resistance: Game Plans for Teachers and Trouble Makers*. She was part of the 2019 research assistant organizing drive by the Teaching Support Staff Union at SFU.

Larry Savage teaches in the Department of Labour Studies at Brock University. His research is focused on collective bargaining, union strategy, and labour politics. He is a long-time academic union activist and a former member of the Executive Council of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Most recently, he served as the chair of the Collective Bargaining and Organizing Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers from 2022-2024. He has published extensively on academic staff associations and has co-authored several books on the Canadian labour movement including his latest book with Stephanie Ross, *Shifting Gears: Canadian Autoworkers and the Changing Landscape of Labour Politics*, published the University of British Columbia Press.

Jim Selby is a retired researcher who worked for the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the Alberta Federation of Labour. He taught labour history to union activists at numerous labour schools. He is author of "Labour in Need of Revolutionary Vision," *Labour Le Travail*, 83 (2019), and "Delaying, Disarming, and Deceiving the Union: The Loughheed Government, Alberta Government Employees, and the Public Service Employee Relations Act, 1977," *Labour Le Travail*, 75 (2015).

David Sobel is a retired Canadian and occasional public historian. He co-authored, with Susan Meurer, *Working At Inglis: The Life and Death of A Canadian Factory*.

Sajdeep Soomal is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Toronto, where he writes about chemistry, colonialism and governmentality in 19th century Canada. His dissertation project, *The Chemicalization of Substance*, looks at how modern chemistry altered the way that settler colonists imagined and engaged with the environment

in 19th-century settler colonial Canada. He works on related curatorial projects about the politics of chemical visualization with artists who are re-imagining, playing with and altering our synthetic surround. Sajdeep serves as a board member of InterAccess, Sanghum Film and Foundation Chamar and is affiliated with the Technoscience Research Unit (TRU) at the University of Toronto. He holds a BA in History from McGill University and an MA in History from the University of Toronto.

Susan Spronk teaches international development and global studies at the University of Ottawa. She has been active in the academic labour movement since serving as Chief Steward Unit 3 of CUPE 3903 while a graduate student of Political Studies at York University in the early 2000s. More recently, she has served in various positions on the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa since 2013, including President, Past President and Mobilization Officer. She has served as the co-chair of the Equity Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers from 2021-2025. Her academic research has focused on the role of social movements in pushing for equity in public service delivery, including the labour movement. She currently serves on the editorial board of *Studies in Political Economy*. Her most recent publication is a co-edited book (with Thomas Marois and David A. McDonald) on *Public Banks and Public Water: Financing Options for Sustainable Development* (Routledge 2025).

Janis Thiessen is Professor of History at the University of Winnipeg. Her research interests include 20th century Canadian labour history, oral history, food history, and Mennonite history. She is the author of four books: *Manufacturing Mennonites: Labour and Religion in Post-War Manitoba* (University of Toronto Press, 2013), *NOT Talking Union* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016), *Snacks: A Canadian Food History* (University of Manitoba Press, 2017), and *Necessary Idealism* (Canadian Mennonite University Press 2018). She is co-author (with Kimberley Moore) of *Mmm...Manitoba: The Stories Behind the Foods We Eat* (University of Manitoba Press, 2024). She has been an active member of the University of Winnipeg Faculty Association, elected to Council for 12 years in succession and serving twice as lead negotiator for the UWFA-RAS collective agreement.

Duff Sutherland is chair of the School of University Arts and Sciences and history instructor at Selkirk College, in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia. He is a past president of the Selkirk College Faculty Association. Sutherland has a PhD (SFU) and an MA (MUNL) in Canadian and Newfoundland and Labrador labour history. He has published articles and reviews in *Labour/Le Travail*, *BC Studies*, *Newfoundland Studies*, the *Canadian Historical Review*, and the *BC Review*. Sutherland's most recent publication was "Sentiment Very Good for the IWW:" The Kootenay Logger Strikes of 1923 and 1924 in *BC Studies*. Sutherland's PhD thesis focused on Newfoundland and Labrador loggers from 1929-1959. He is returning to this work.

Matthieu Tardif: Sous la direction de Thomas Wien (UdeM), je rédige une thèse portant sur les rapports de production dans le commerce français des fourrures au Canada (XV^e -XVIII^e siècles). J'ai donné des communications sur le sujet lors du Congrès de l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française (2023) et lors de la réunion annuelle de la Société historique du

Canada (2024). Par ailleurs, je suis assistant de recherche de Marie-Christine Pioffet, titulaire de la Chaire de recherche de l'Université York sur les rapports franco-autochtones dans les Amériques. Dans ce cadre, j'ai déjà participé à l'organisation de deux journées d'étude intitulées « Regards autochtones sur la colonisation française » (Toronto, 22 mars 2024) et « Les traditions orales autochtones face à la présence européenne en Amérique : enjeux, méthodes et écueils » (Québec, 23 mai 2025). J'ai également donné des charges de cours.

David Tough is an Adjunct Professor in History and the School for the Study of Canada at Trent University. He is the author of *The Terrific Engine: Income Taxation and the Modernization of the Canadian Political Imaginary* (UBC Press, 2018), and is working on a history of anti-poverty in the 1960s.

Valerie Uher is a PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo in the Department of English Language and Literature. Her dissertation explores the cultural history of labour in Canada, examining how 20th century artists and writers depict labour struggles in the context of Canada's resource economy. Her research has focussed on such topics as petro-nationalism in modernist art, disability in strike novels, and feminist cultural theory. Valerie is co-editor of *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Critical and Cultural Theory* and her writing has been published in *Canadian Literature*, *ESC: English Studies in Canada*, and *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. As of October 2025, she will be a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto Scarborough. A lifelong labour advocate, Valerie served as chief negotiator for ESL teachers as part of OSSTF, and as an organizer at the University of Waterloo, where she is now a proud member of the newly-formed CUPE 5524.

Ramsha Usman is a PhD candidate in the department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research interests include work, labor, disability, debility, injury, occupational health, medical humanities, biomedicine, neoliberalism, and South Asia. Her research has been generously supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the American Ethnological Society, and University of California, Santa Barbara. Her work has appeared in the *Anthropology of Work Review* and *Platypus*, the CASTAC blog. She has served on the editorial board of *Platypus*, the CASTAC (Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology & Computing) blog and is a Digital Editorial Fellow for *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. She also serves as a board member for the Society of Anthropology of Work.

Joseph Varga is Associate Professor of Labor Studies at Indiana University-Bloomington. He is a proud graduate of Rutgers University, and of the New School for Social Research, where he received his Doctorate in Sociology. Dr. Varga researches the effects of deindustrialization on the US working class, and teaches courses in labor history, globalization, and the role of unions in US society. He is currently completing a book on the shifting allegiances of Indiana workers and the effects of new right populism on former union workers. He was a long-time rank-and-file militant in the Teamsters union before entering academia. He lives in Bloomington with his partners and many cats.

Victoria Vieira est une étudiante à la maîtrise en travail social à l'Université de Sherbrooke, et une militante pour la rémunération des stages.

Melissa Ziani est étudiante au doctorat en études des population, concentration jeunesse, à l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique. Dans le cadre de sa thèse, elle mène un projet de recherche qualitatif longitudinal au travers duquel elle explore la jonction entre le rapport au travail et le rapport à l'environnement des jeunes qui ont étudié.es en gestion et en ingénierie dans des filières environnementales. Elle s'intéresse, entre autres, à leurs intentions post-diplôme et leurs choix (ou non) d'insertion sur le marché du travail.