

September 2025 Newsletter



from walking tour of old Manila, August 2025

President's Address

Greetings from Quezon City, Philippines where I'm spending my fall sabbatical at the Ateneo de Manila University. Now that the haze of jet lag has dissipated, I'm able to fully appreciate the distance from my home institution in the United States – Bryant University in Rhode Island. While the distance gives me relief from the viciousness of the Trump administration, it also opens a space for reflection on working-class history and agency in the United States and beyond. In a few days, I'll depart for Binalonan, Pangasinan – the hometown of Carlos Bulosan, the legendary Filipino American working-class writer from the 1930s.

It's fitting that I start my term as president of the Working Class Studies Association (WCSA) in the Philippines, a not-yet postcolonial country that has witnessed the recent return of US military

bases. My predecessors Jen Rae Vernon and Sarah Attfield have been incredible mentors who paved the way for me and future WCSA presidents with their emphasis on diversity, internationalization, and solidarity within the context of working-class life and resistance. These concepts are evident in projects taken on by Jen Vernon (visit our beautifully updated website) and Sarah Attfield (see events scheduled for this year's WCSA conference in Sydney, Australia). I look forward to working with an awesome executive committee that includes new and returning members from various countries around the globe.

I also look forward to working with a wonderful presidential team at this historical moment – Sarah Attfield as past president (Australia) and Owen Clayton as president-elect (United Kingdom). The tremendous enthusiasm around Mamdani in New York, the global expansion of popular consciousness with regard to Palestine, and the dawning of a multipolar world provides an opportune moment to advance the field of working-class studies in new and creative directions through the interlocking lenses of diversity, internationalization, and solidarity.

Jeffrey Arellano Cabusao
WCSA President, 2025-2026

Message from WCA Leadership

Hi, I'm Miranda Mosier-Puentes and I'm excited to chair the Working-Class Academics section!

I'm an associate professor of Child, Youth, and Family Studies at Portland State University in Portland, OR, USA, where I have the pleasure of teaching many working-class students. I am the daughter of a millwright and paraeducator, the mother of two young adults and one 3 year old, and a grandmother of two. I come from a family of nurses, construction workers, lumbermen, bus mechanics, bank tellers, early childhood educators and child care workers, waitresses, certified nursing assistants and caregivers, and homemakers.

I'm a former first-generation student, and I know I'm doing work that my ancestors may not have dreamed was possible. My research focuses on the relational experiences of students who have historically been excluded from higher education, including working-class, first-generation, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. I teach classes in family stress, ways of knowing and critical thinking, and am working to build supports for pregnant and parenting college students. Outside of work, I'm working with community organizations supporting local mixed(immigration)-status families, in the face of increasing state violence.

This year, we'll build on the work done by our outgoing WCA chair, Mallorie Watts, to (re)launch the Working-Class Academics listserv. This will be a place for us to connect with other working-class academics (or blue-collar scholars!) to share news, ask questions, and support each other. Look for an invite to join the listserv in early October. If you're not already signed up as part of the Working-Class Academics (WCA) section, sign up [here](#).

We'll also be hosting some working-class academic talks -- stay tuned!

WCSA Conference 2025: December 2nd-5th, Sydney, Australia

Planning continues for the 2025 WCSA conference at the University of Technology Sydney in December.

The program is being finalised and will be ready to share soon, and there will be further updates to the [conference section](#) on the website as we get closer to the date.

Registration is now open. The registration fees are as follows:

Full-time waged: \$165 USD

Part-time unwaged: \$95 USD

Zoom only: \$20 USD

For on-ground attendees, the registration fee includes morning and afternoon teas, lunches and the conference dinner. You can find [information about registration](#) on the Working-Class Studies Association website. The 'Register here' button will take you to the members' portal. Once you are in the portal you can add 'purchases' to the cart via the 'store' button (ie, membership and/or registration).

Talking Class Webinar

Thursday, Sept 18th from 7:00-8:30PM (Eastern). [Register at Eventbrite](#)

Reach out to co-organizer Betsy Leondar-Wright, betsyclassmatters@gmail.com, for more on the Talking Class series or if you would like to plan a webinar.

Member Updates

Chair of the Alliance of Working Class Academics Worldwide and the University of Berkley's CCE Intersectional Class Working Group, Geraldine Van Bueren invites you to participate in a new Bluesky account focused on constructive conversations about poverty and intersectional class. You can find it at: [@geraldinevanbueren.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/geraldinevanbueren.bsky.social)

If you have an event coming up that you'd like to promote, or want to share the interesting things you've been working on, advocating for, or making lately, let us know! Reach out to Jennifer Forsberg, the WCSA Secretary, at secretary@workingclassassn.org with requests or to get more information.

Upcoming Opportunities

Tim Sheard of the labor & social justice imprint **Hard Ball Press** seeks 1-3 individuals to assume ownership of the company. Hard Ball publishes books for grownups and children, including fiction, history & memoir, organizing manuals and bilingual children's stories.

As a lifelong, 77-year-old labor activist who has mentored and published over 200 working class writers, I want my imprint to continue long after I am gone. Running the business requires much work and much dedication to justice. It also provides some income and a great deal of satisfaction.

Interested parties, contact Tim Sheard at hardballpress@gmail.com.