

Working-Class Studies Association Conference 2026

In Person Schedule

17 - 20 June 2026

Note: this is a draft of the conference program, subject to revision. Please follow [this link](#) to fill out a form to add a title for your presentation or change it. That form also has questions about dietary preferences, your willingness to volunteer at the conference, airport logistics, childcare needs, and more. Please follow [this link](#) to register for the conference and to find information about lodging and logistics.

All in-person events are at the [Laramie Plains Civic Center](#) (LPCC), 710 E. Garfield Street. The LPCC is approximately one mile from the UW dorms and a mile and a half from the Hilton Garden Inn. Parking is plentiful near the LPCC; the venue is fully ADA accessible. Downtown Laramie is approximately six blocks from the LPCC and has coffee shops, restaurants, and bars, ranging from respectable to seedy. Most businesses in downtown Laramie are small and independent, including the excellent [Second Story Books](#). The [Albany County Public Library](#) is across the street from the LPCC and has space for working, as well as facilities for printing and copying. Sunshine Coffee, located in the LPCC, will have coffee and water for conference attendees; their shop in the LPCC has a larger variety of drinks and snacks for purchase.

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

5:00 - 7:00pm

Meet & Greet, hosted by Working-Class Academics Section

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

Catered by Grazing Cowboy

Thursday, 18 June 2026

9:00am - 5:00pm

Registration and information table; book exchange; coffee; space for loitering and conversation
South Gym
Catered by: Sunshine

10:00 - 10:20am

Welcome, Scott Henkel
South Gym

10:30 - 12:00pm

Session 1A: Studying the Working Class

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Jessica Femiani

Panelists:

Brigida Blasi, "Digging Deeper: Unearthing Black Miners' Legacy of Labor and Reform in the West"

Ibrahim Halawai, "Title"

Patricia Linner, "Build It Better: Universal Design for Learning as Working-Class Pedagogy"

Session 1B: Precarity and the Futurity of the Working Class

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Dan Auerbach

Panelists:

Giorgos Gouzoulis, "The Double Shift of Financialization - Personal Debt & Multiple Jobholding"

Natalie Blanton, "The Precarious Intimacies of the Polycrisis: Reproduction Under a Riskscape"

Emma Kauffman, "Title"

12:00 – 1:00pm

Lunch

Catered by: Turo (food truck on Garfield Street, at the north entrance of Laramie Plains Civic Center)

1:00 - 2:30pm

Plenary on Paul Dean's *Class Cultures and Social Mobility: The Hidden Strengths of Working-Class First-Generation Graduates*

Chair: Scott Henkel

Jackie Gabriel

Miranda Mosier

Terry Easton

Paul Dean

2:30 - 3:00pm

Refreshments

Catered by: Sunshine

Qigong with Michele Fazio

South Gym

3:00 – 4:30pm

Session 2A: Classical Sociological Theories of the Working Class

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Brigida R. Blasi

Panelists:

Sebastian Miscenich, “Marx and Durkheim on Religion: The ‘Hidden Abode’ of Ideological Production”

Roger Clayton and Brett Clark, “The Subsumption of Science as a Second-Order Mediation in Relation to Agribusiness”

Ganesh Trichur, “The Exhaustion of the US Regime of Accumulation and its Implications for the Working Class”

Session 2B: Working-Class Poetry Reading

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Michelle Tokarczyk

Panelists:

Michelle Tokarczyk, “Toward the City on the Hill: Poems about Working-Class Immigrants”

Jessica Femiani, “Writing Immigration, Writing Love”

Jaime Lee Jarvis: “Poetry from Occupied Washington DC”

4:30-6:00pm

Dinner on own

6:00-7:30pm

Reception for Working-Class Art Installation

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

7:30pm

Movie night curated by Dr. Beth Capper
Room 208 - Conference Room

Friday, 19 June 2026

9:00am - 5:00pm

Registration and information table; book exchange; coffee; space for loitering and conversation
South Gym
Catered by: Sunshine

9:30 - 11:00am

Session 3A: Working Class Literature
Room 208 - Conference Room
Chair: Dan Auerbach

Panelists:

Orion Liggett, “‘Getting Out’: Class Time and Queer Futurity in Justin Torres’ *We the Animals*”
Michele Fazio, “The Art of Labor in Mari Tomasi’s *Like Lesser Gods*”
Jeff A. Cabusao, “Filipino Diasporic Imagination and Class”

Session 3B: The Prison, A Site of Working-Class Struggle
Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery
Chair: Ganesh Trichur

Panelists:

Stephen Dillon, ““I love the Light Inside Your Shadow:” Racial Capitalism and the Poetic Elsewhere”

Olatunji Egungbemi, “Education, Incarceration, and Working-Class Life: Carceral Pedagogies from Nigeria to the United States”

Beth Capper, “Prison Labor and *Teach Our Children* ”

11:00 – 11:30am

Coffee

Catered by: Sunshine

Phoenix Ballroom

11:30 - 1:00pm

Plenary: Ecological-Material Conditions of the Working Class

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

Chair: David Roediger

Panelists:

Raymond Appiah, “Environmental Toxics and Structural Inequality: The Impact of Lead Exposure on Offending”

Winona Wood, “Projecting the Polluting Port: Risks to Workers at Proposed Development Sites Alongside the Declining Great Salt Lake”

Roger Renteria, “Title”

Jordan Giese, “Native Labor and the Environmental Consequences of Uranium Milling in Wyoming”

Dan Auerbach (discussant)

1:00 - 2:00pm

lunch

Catered by: Sweet Melissa’s

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Session 4A: Working Class Politics and Education

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Ganesh Trichur

Panelists:

Aggela Papadopoulou, "From Legalization to Institutionalized Marginalization: Trade Union Density in Greece, 1970-2020"

Jessica Femiani, "Demystifying Poetry in Working Class Middle School Classrooms: Latinx Students Write Themselves & the Revolution"

Session 4B: Work and Workers

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Natalie Blanton

Panelists:

Joe Varga, "Are Academics Workers? Public Sector Organizing in a Hostile State"

Corrin Baker, "'A Carpenter's Daughter: Working-Class Autoethnography'"

Patricia Linner, "Title"

3:30-4:00pm

coffee

Catered by: Sunshine

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Keynote

Marcie Kindred, Executive Director, Wyoming AFL-CIO

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

6:00 - 8:00

Awards banquet

WCSA Awards committee

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

Catered by: Eman Asher

Saturday, 20 June 2026

9:00am - 5:00pm

Registration and information table; book exchange; coffee; space for loitering and conversation

South Gym

Catered by: Sunshine

9:00 - 10:30am

Session 5A: What Do We Talk About When We Talk about the Working Class?

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Giorgos Gouzoulis

Panelists:

Lauren Harvey, "Friends in Low Places: What it Means to Be Working-Class in a Dive Bar Context"

RS Deeren, "Reading and Writing the Working Class"

Joe Stapleton, “Class Struggle And Democracy On The Plane Of Immanence”

Session 5B: Resistance and Beyond

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Dr. Nathaniel (Nathan) Heggins Bryant

Miranda Mosier-Puentes, “Beyond the Portland Resistance Frog”: Documenting the Impacts of Immigration Enforcement in the Portland Metro Area, Fall 2025”

Amanda Bertana, “Title”

Dan Auerbach, “Title”

10:45-12:15pm

Session 5A: Material Culture of the Working Class

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Joe Varga

Panelists:

John Fleming, “Truth Crucified Still Lives: Haymarket Monuments and Historical Solidarity”

Nathaniel Heggins Bryant, “Traces of Workers: Company Scrip and a Material (Re)Turn in Working-Class Studies”

Josie Waters, “Observations from the Branding Pen: Women Ranchers and the Relational Practice of Care”

Session 5B: Working Class Voices in Working Class Studies

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Natalie Blanton

Panelists:

Erin Heisner

Barbara Jensen
David Greene

12:15 - 1:15pm

Business meeting & lunch
WCSA officers
Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom
Catered by: Grazing Cowboy

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Session 6A: Settler Colonialism and Empire

Room 208 - Conference Room

Chair: Giorgos Gouzoulis

Panelists:

Sarah Crossley, "Title"

Vincent Crowson, "Title"

Joshua McDermott, "Title"

Session 6B: Race, Unions, and the Working Class

Room 332 - Gorgon Gallery

Chair: Dr. Nathaniel (Nathan) Heggins Bryant

Panelists:

Terry Easton, "Our people allays lived hard': Appalachian Coal Camps in Fiction and Film"

Trisha Martinez, "Manito Migration: A Legacy of Chicano Working-Class Movement"

Ben Schmack, “Surveillance, Deportation, and Curation: The Whitening of Arizona’s Working Class”

3:15 - 3:30pm

Wrap up

Room 271 - Phoenix Ballroom

4:00pm

Visit to [High Iron](#)

Dinner on own

Working-Class Studies Association Conference 2026

Zoom Track Schedule

27 June 2026

Note: All times are MST (UTC -7)

8:45 - 9:00am

Welcome and logistics

9:00 - 10:30am

Panel 1A: Working Class Literature and Film

Chair:

Zoom link:

Simon Lee, "The Mental Costs of Precarity: Reading The Bee Sting Through Cognitive Load Theory"

Aqsa Ishaq, "Childhood, Class, and the Myth of Mobility in *Ragged Dick*"

Sérgio Dias Branco, "Beatitudes of the Coalfields: Prophetic Christianity, Class Solidarity, and Working-Class Thought in Matewan (1987)"

Raymond A. Mazurek, "'Lawrence, 1912' and Other Poems: A Reading of Working-Class Poetry"

Panel 1B:

Chair:

Zoom link:

Stephen Ashe, Vikki Boliver, and Ragini Khurana, "The Affluent Workers Study"

Chunhua Huang, "Raciolinguistic Ideologies and Experiences in International Schools in Global South"

Sarah Crossley, "Title"

Michael Zweig, “Working Class Politics in the Current Moment”

11:00am - 12:30pm

Panel 2A: Working Class Culture, Education, and Careers

Chair:

Zoom link:

Evelyn Morreel, “Title”

Anthony Casamassima, “Working-Class Cultural Labor in Music: An Autoethnographic Analysis of Capital, Precarity, and Survival”

Hakan Yilmaz, “The Fight for the Common Good and Teachers’ Union Revitalization in Los Angeles”

Yinong Li, “The Discourse of ‘Self-’ in Migrant Workers’ Memory”

Panel 2B: Working Class Inclusion/Exclusion

Chair:

Zoom link:

Molly Coyle, “Title”

Joel Woller, “Title”

Kacper Lesniewicz, “Us vs. Them – Symbolic Boundaries of the Working Class in Post-Socialist Poland”

Melissa Boehm, “The Post-Election Framing of the Working Class in the *New York Times*: A Mixed Method Study”

1:00 - 2:30pm

Panel 3A: The Red Christ: The Dangerous Memory of Christianity in Modern U.S. Literatures of Social Protest (a new book by Anthony Dawahare)

Chair: Janine Giordano Drake

Zoom link:

Anthony Dawahare
Janine Giordano Drake
Matthew S. Pehl
Heath W. Carter

Panel 3B: Practice and Performativity

Chair:

Zoom link:

Sally M. Kessler, “Uncovering Disabled Workers’ Voices Through Ephemera”

Grace Batley, “Title”

Pinar Abdal, “Political Relations as Class Practice”

Miranda Mosier-Puentes, “Beyond the Portland Resistance Frog”: Documenting the Impacts of Immigration Enforcement in the Portland Metro Area, Fall 2025”