

Labor in the Space Between, 1914-1945

June 2-4, 2022

Allen Memorial Medical Library
Case Western Reserve University



Co-hosted by the Space Between Society and Case Western Reserve University Medical Humanities Program and sponsored by the Case Western Reserve University Department of History, Department of English, and CWRU Social Justice Institute

The Space Between Society and Case Western Reserve University Medical Humanities Program welcome you to Labor in the Space Between, 1914-1945.

This conference brings together researchers from across the humanities to critically examine labor practices between 1914 and 1945 and the ways these practices have shaped our constructions of society, the body, and the self. While economics and the social sciences have provided the privileged disciplinary frameworks for thinking about labor, this conference asks what our diverse humanities disciplines have to contribute to contemporary critical thinking about labor. In addition to panels examining the intersection of labor with literature, history, visual culture, architecture and art history, this year's partnerships have brought health humanities into our program, and a designated stream of Feminist inter/Modernist Association (FiMA) examinations of suffrage as labor. We are excited to offer two workshops addressing academic labor, a roundtable of Cleveland experts discussing race and labor between 1914 and 1945, and cultural historian Professor Carol Quirke's keynote address "The Work of Photography in the Age of Labor."

The success of this conference depends on the enthusiasm and support of many individuals at Case Western who have generously provided their time and expertise, including Ken Ledford, Kurt Koenigsberger, Kimberly Emmons, Jonathan Sadowsky, Amanda Mahoney and Chris Dolwick. I am grateful to the Advisory Board of the Space Between Society for their input throughout the planning process, particularly co-Presidents Melissa Dinsman and Barbara Green, Web Manager Megan Faragher, who designed our extraordinary online content, Treasurer Marie Gasper-Hulvat, and Journal Editor Jennifer Nesbitt. Organizing our first in-person conference in three years during a pandemic has truly been an "all hands on deck" affair and you all have been an amazing team to work with. Many thanks to all of the CWRU faculty, staff and students who have volunteered their time, and in some cases their scholarship, this weekend. Finally, utmost thanks to our co-hosts, the CWRU Medical Humanities Program, and our sponsors the CWRU Department of History, CWRU Department of English, and CWRU Social Justice Institute for their generous support in making this meeting possible.

We are so appreciative of all of our speakers and attendees for coming together during a challenging time to share scholarship. We hope you enjoy this exciting lineup of presentations and encourage your insightful questions and lively discussion.

Sincerely,

Ravenel Richardson (organizer) and the committee: Barbara Green, Melissa Dinsman, Megan Faragher, and Marie Gasper-Hulvat.

PRACTICALITIES

Registration and all sessions, including the keynote address, take place in the Allen Memorial Medical Library. The Allen Memorial Medical Library is located at 11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44106.

Parking Options:

- Metered street parking where available on East Blvd and Bellflower
- Metered parking lots (Lots 52A and 79) can be paid via the [ParkMobile](#) app
- Severance Parking Garage, P-29, is across the street from the conference venue

Technology:

Case Western Reserve University has a public Wifi network: CaseGuest. Additionally, attendees are welcome to use the guest computers in Kelvin Smith Library (across Euclid Ave from the venue). The library requires that you check in at the Service Desk with a driver's license or valid ID before using the computers.

Dining:

Conference Registration includes breakfast Friday and Saturday, lunch Friday, and a Saturday evening reception at the Jolly Scholar Brewing Company, located in Case Western Reserve University Thwing Center. Conference attendees are responsible for Saturday lunch and dinners. Cleveland is famous for its food scene! We have provided a list of easily accessible local dining options in the conference packet and on the conference website. For those of you preparing meals in your lodging, Plum Market Cleveland is adjacent to campus on Euclid Avenue and has groceries and prepared meals, and the Murray Hill Market in Little Italy has a small grocery section and prepared meals.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

10:30 AM-12:00 PM **Tour of the Cleveland Museum of Art**

Guided by Dr. Marie Gasper-Hulvat and Diane Dias De Fazio. Meet in the Cleveland Museum of Art Lobby at 10:15 AM; entrance is off of Wade Oval Drive.

1:00-2:00 PM **Conference Registration | Foyer**

2:00-3:30 PM **Workshops**

1: Balancing Labor in Writing Groups | Powell Room

Co-Facilitators: Aimee Armande Wilson and Ravenel Richardson

2: The Labor of Mentoring | Herrick Room

Co-Facilitators: Melissa Dinsman, Barbara Green, and Heather Robinson

3:45-5:15 PM **Panel Session 1**

1A: Industrial Capitalism and the Representation of Productivity | Powell Room

Moderated by Melissa Dinsman

“‘That Centre of the Roar and Buzz’: Noise and Embodiment in Henry Green’s *Living*”
Ian Whittington, Associate Professor of English, University of Mississippi

“Conscientious Objection as Withheld Labor During the Great War”
Austin Riede, Professor of English, University of North Georgia

“Cogs in the (Capitalist) Machine: The Triumph of the Neo-Liberal Mindset in Walter Greenwood’s *Love on the Dole* (1933)”
John Attridge, PhD Candidate in English Literature, University of Surrey

1B: The Politics of Women’s Domestic Labor | Herrick Room

Moderated by Barbara Green

“‘Damn the State’: Feminism, Eugenics and Representations of Caregiving during World War I and the COVID-19 Pandemic”
Layne Parish Craig, PhD, English and Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Texas Christian University

“‘A Mucking Muddle’: Gender and Class Tensions in Women’s Wartime Narratives of Work”

Geneviève Brassard, University of Portland, Oregon

“A Mother’s Work is Never Done: The Invisible Labor of Liudviga Malevich”

Marie Gasper-Hulvat, Associate Professor of Art History, Kent State University

6:00 PM **Informal Dinner Gathering**
Tinkham-Veale University Center Lobby

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

8:00-9:00 AM **Executive and Advisory Board Meeting | Lennon Board Room**

8:00-9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast | Foyer**

9:00-10:30 AM **Panel Session 2**

2A: The Spaces and Geographies of Labor in the Space Between | Powell Room

Moderated by Marie Gasper-Hulvat

“ ‘Go Along with the Loco and See Cadbury’s Cocoa’: Factory Tourism in Interwar England” Richard Hornsey, Associate Professor in Modern British History, University of Nottingham

“Fordist Education: The Wayside Inn Boys School and the Work of Film”
Michael McCluskey, Associate Teaching Professor of English, Northeastern University

“From ‘Dust’ to ‘Dirt’: Bodily Environmental Engagement in Henry Green’s *Living*”
Regina Young, PhD Candidate in English, University of Mississippi

“Outreach Exhibitions as Institutional Labor”
Sara Woodbury, PhD in American Studies, Curator

2B: Professionalizing the Domestic: Women’s Labor and Class in the Space Between | Herrick Room

Moderated by Melissa Dinsman

“Talking Shop: Celia Fremlin and Invisible Work”
Luke Seaber, Senior Teaching Fellow, University College London

“Labor on the Line: Women’s Work as Social Primer in Jesse Redmon Fauset’s Fiction”
Patricia Milanes, Assistant Professor of English, CUNY-York College

“Embodying Normativity: Betty Crocker at Work”
Elizabeth Blake, Assistant Professor of English, Clark University

10:45 AM-12:15 PM Panel Session 3

3A: Hard Labor in the Space Between: Ghettos, Gulags, the Death of the Human, and Resistance | Powell Room

Moderated by Ravenel Richardson

“The Labor of Transmission: Abraham Sutzkever’s Epic Yiddish Poem, *geheymshot* (1945-47), and the Anti-Commemorative Elegy”

Michael T. Williamson, Professor of English, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Labor in the Gulag and the Labor of Making It Known: The Memoir of Evgeniia Ginzburg” Alexis Pogorelskin, Professor Emerita of History, University of Minnesota-Duluth

“Tortuous Labor: Women’s Resistance in Auschwitz”

Phyllis Lassner, Professor Emerita, Northwestern University

3B: Representations of Marginalized and Precarious Labor | Herrick Room

Moderated by Megan Faragher

“Ubiquitous: The Tramp’s Mobile Masculinity”

Pamela Robertson Wojcik, Chair and Professor of the Department of Film, TV and Theatre, University of Notre Dame

“Precarious Labor in *Minty Alley*”

Matt Morgenstern, PhD Candidate in Literature, Theory and Cultural Studies, Purdue University

“George Orwell and the Desecration of Bread”

Elysia Balavage, Lecturer in the Department of English, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

12:30-2:00 PM Lunch and Business Meeting | Powell Room

2:00-3:30 PM Panel Session 4

4A: Narrative Examinations of the Violence of Exploitative Labor | Powell Room

Moderated by Jennifer Nesbitt

“Violence as Labor and Violence as Work”

Michael Clune, Samuel B. and Virginia C. Knight Professor of Humanities, Case Western Reserve University

“‘Raggedy, Raggedy are We’: Sharecropping Unionization Narratives”

David A Davis, Professor of English, Associate Director of the Spencer B. King, Jr., Center for Southern Studies

“Race Management: Modernism and the Fordist Factory”

Joshua Lam, Assistant Professor of English, Michigan State University

4B: Print Journalism and the Gendered Labor of Production | Herrick Room

Moderated by Aimee Armande Wilson

“Fashion is Work: Socialist-Feminist Fashion Writing in The Woman’s Outlook”

Barbara Green, Professor of English and Concurrent Professor in Gender Studies, University of Notre Dame (FIMA)

“Endeavoring to Create a Feminist Space: Pamela Colman Smith’s Green Sheaf”

Elizabeth Foley O’Connor, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Gender Studies Program, Washington College

“May Birkhead and the Gendered Labor of the Society Scoop”

Nissa Ren Cannon, Lecturer in the Program of Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University

3:30-4:00 PM Refreshment Break

**4:00-5:30 PM Roundtable: Race and Labor in the Space Between
| Powell Room**

Roundtable sponsored by the Case Western Reserve University Social Justice Institute.

This interdisciplinary roundtable brings together specialists from institutions in Cleveland and the surrounding area to explore what we learn when we approach the concept of labor from the framework of race.

Moderated by John Grabowski, Krieger-Mueller Joint Professor in History, Case Western Reserve University

“Defiant Nonutility: 20th Century Black Opulence”

Key Jo Lee, Associate Curator of American Art, Cleveland Museum of Art

“Sources for the Study of Jewish Labor in Cleveland, 1914-1945”

Sean Martin, PhD, Associate Curator for Jewish History, Western Reserve Historical Society and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

“A Recipe for Imperialism: Art and Labor under the United Fruit Company”

Shana Reisig Klein, PhD, Assistant Professor of Art History, Kent State University

"Deporting the Internationalists: How U.S. Immigration Policy Siloed the American Labor Movement"

John Flores, PhD, Associate Professor of History, Immigration and Labor Historian, Case Western Reserve University

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

8:00-9:00 AM Continental Breakfast | Foyer

9:00-10:30 AM Panel Session 5

5A: Propaganda and the Politics of Labor | Powell Room

Moderated by Ian Whittington

“Can I Do You Now?: ITMA and the Laboring Body”

Debra Rae Cohen, Professor of English, University of South Carolina

“Vote for the Workers-Peasants Unity!”

Maria Anna Rogucka, MA, PhD Candidate in the Humanities & Doctoral School in the Social Sciences, Jagiellonian University, Poland

5B: Re-envisioning the Labor of Maternal Roles in the Space Between | Herrick Room

Moderated by Ravenel Richardson

“Experiments in Reproductive Rights: Naomi Mitchison’s Critical Labor Utopias,”

Megan Faragher, Associate Professor, Wright State University – Lake Campus

“Special Work With Immoral Women: The Matrons of Ellis Island”
Ella Morton, BA-MA candidate in Material Culture and American Studies, CUNY

“Travel, Travail, and Labor in Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*,”
Aimee Armande Wilson, Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,
University of Kansas

10:45 AM-12:15 PM Panel Session 6

6: Working Against Myth: Women Writers and their American Readership | Powell Room

Moderated by Debra Rae Cohen

“Martha Gellhorn and Productive Rage”
Sarah Cornish, Associate Professor of English, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

“Janet Flanner and the Problems of a Postwar Peace”
Melissa Dinsman, Assistant Professor of English, CUNY-York College

““Sylvia Townsend Warner and the Genre Problem: ‘Foxcastle’ and Fairytales”
Jennifer Nesbitt, Associate Professor of English, Penn State York (FIMA)

12:15-1:30 PM Lunch (not provided)

1:30-3:00 PM Panel Session 7

7A: The Labor of Women’s Writing | Powell Room

Moderated by Claire Buck

“Felt Duration and Durable Relation: Sylvia Townsend Warner, Valentine Ackland, and the Work of Queer Archiving”
Sarah McDaniel, PhD Candidate in English Literature, University of Chicago

“Dorothy L. Sayers, Harriet Vane, and the Labor of Women’s Writing”
Heather Robinson, Professor of English, York College/CUNY

“Thinking Peace into Existence”: The World War II Era Work of Virginia Woolf and Jessica Dismorr”
Emily M. Hinnov, Professor of English, Great Bay Community College (FIMA)

7B: Transgressive Labor in the Age of Mechanization | Herrick Room

Moderated by Elizabeth Foley O’Connor

"A Labor of Limbs: Dance and Domesticity in Women's Fiction Between the Wars"

Kimberly Coates, Associate Professor in English, Bowling Green State University (FIMA)

“Desert and Oasis: The Meaning of Work in Saint-Exupery's Aviation Writings”
Aznavur Dustmamatov, MA, Independent Scholar

“The Grotesque Labor of Waiting in Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*”
Alex Anderson, PhD Candidate in English, Purdue University

3:15-4:45 PM Panel Session 8

8A: The Politics of Labor and its Visual Representation | Powell Room

Moderated by Sara Woodbury

“Reframing War Labor as Global Labor”
Claire Buck, Professor of English, Wheaton College

“Representations of Labor on the Western Front”
Karen Shelby, Associate Professor of Art History, Baruch College, CUNY.

“Half-tracks and Half-truths: *Life Magazine* and the Construction of WWII Memory in the United States”
Jonathan Gonzalez, Instructor in Art History, Kent State University

8B: The Intersections of Science and Labor in the Space Between (Health Humanities) | Herrick Room

Moderated by Sarah Cornish

“Efficiency, Obsolescence, and the Human Scrap Heap: Aging and Labor in the Space Between,” Erin Gentry Lamb, Carl A Asseff, MD, MBA, JD, Designated Professor in Medical Humanities, Faculty Lead of the Humanities Pathway, and Associate Professor Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

“No Wonder People Don't Trust Him”: Examining a Conversation between Doctors on Modern Science”
Shaun F. Richards, PhD, Independent Researcher

“Suffrage, Science, and Interwar Feminism: Edith Ayrton Zangwill's *The Call*”
Carey Snyder, Professor of English, Ohio University (FIMA)

5:00-6:15 PM Keynote Address

“The Work of Photography in the Age of Labor” | Powell Room

Carol Quirke, Professor and Graduate Director of American Studies, SUNY-Old Westbury.

Cultural historian Carol Quirke explores the intersection of 20th century social movements, politics, and visual culture, particularly documentary and news photography. She is author of two books, *Eyes on Labor: News Photography and America's Working Class* (Oxford University Press, 2012), and *Dorothea Lange, Documentary Photography, and Twentieth Century America: Remaking Self and Nation* (Routledge, 2019). Her essays on labor and photography have been published in the *Radical History Review* and *American Quarterly*, and more recently she has moved to exploring the image of labor in the postwar era, where documentary photography is understood to be depoliticized.

6:30-7:30 PM

Reception

The Jolly Scholar Brewing Company,

Case Western Reserve University Thwing Center