

2021 UALE CONFERENCE AGENDA

[PP – Panel Panel, RT – Roundtable, TD – Teaching Demonstration]

All programming will be available in Spanish via Interpretation.

Spanish version coming soon.

Eastern Time Zone	Monday, May 24
11:00 – 11:45am	<p>Conference Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Bellman, UALE President
11:45 – 12:00pm	<p>Break</p>
12:00 – 1:00pm	<p>PLENARY – COVID & BLACK WORKERS</p> <p>This plenary examines the role of the COVID-19 pandemic on the present and future struggles for African American workers. It features historians with expertise in various aspects of African American labor, urban studies, and working-class politics and resistance. Attention will be paid to the broader significance of the political economy of Black workers, along with specific themes such as the role of urban rebellion, the experiences of Black women workers, the impact of healthcare struggles on Black workers, and the legacy of racism and pandemics in the twentieth century and beyond.</p>
1:00 – 2:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe William Trotter, Jr. – Carnegie Mellon University • Lou Turner – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Ashley Howard – University of Iowa • Augustus Wood, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Moderator & Labor Studies Journal Special Issue Editor
2:00 – 3:30pm	<p>Break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SESSIONS (1.5 HOURS)</p> <p>M3 - Labor Education in a Crisis: Did labor education help build solidarity in 2020? (RT)</p> <p>The three predominant crises of 2020—the COVID pandemic, escalating white supremacist violence, and the economic collapse—all pose strategic and organizing challenges to unions. Union leaders have faced decisions about what public stance to take, what issues to prioritize, and what remedies to fight for, to name just a few, knowing each decision would please some members and displease or confuse others. In crises such as these, education can play a crucial role in building the shared analysis necessary to forge the will to fight together for remedies. In this roundtable discussion, we will bring together union leaders and educators to reflect on how they used education to</p>

engage their members and built solidarity in the face of these three crises. What educational approaches did they take? What did members respond to? What were the challenges in building a shared analysis? What were the break-through moments?

- [Anneta Argyres, UMass Boston Labor Resource Center, Labor Extension Program](#)
- [Elizabeth Pellerito, UMass Lowell, Labor Education Program, Department of Sociology](#)

M4 - The Trouble with Land Acknowledgements and Why I Write Them (TD)

In Canada, land Acknowledgments are now a regular practice in the arts, education and labour sectors. For example, the Toronto public schools start each day with an acknowledgment of the Indigenous land on which they stand. Any major union conference in Canada starts with reading a brief acknowledgment of the traditional occupants of the land and their ongoing presence in the society. Often this is done along with a reading of an anti-harassment policy approved by the union. The acknowledgments that are currently done tend to seem rote and unemotional and while members are usually silent during these two ceremonies, there is also plenty of fidgeting and impatience. This workshop proposes asking questions, introducing new information and engaging members in an inquiry about their own history, knowledge of Indigenous history and their connection to the original occupants of Turtle Island.

- [Denise Hampden, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Education Officer](#)
- [D'Arcy Martin, Veteran Labour Educator](#)

Author Spotlight featuring:

- Ellen Reese and Jake Wilson, [The Cost of Free Shipping: Amazon in the Global Economy](#) (Pluto Press, 2020) **UALE Best Book Award Winner!**
- Montse Feu, [Fighting Fascist Spain: Worker Protest from the Printing Press](#) (University of Illinois Press, 2020)
- Mark Selden, [Dying for an iPhone: Apple, Foxconn, and the Lives of Chinese Workers](#) (Haymarket Press, 2020)

3:30 – 4:30pm

4:30 – 5:30pm

SESSIONS (1 HOUR)

M5 - How Apprenticeship Expands Opportunities for Dislocated Workers (RT)

The apprenticeship model of education and training is most effective in a collaborative environment where employers, unions, workers and experienced labor educators work together to craft a program that combines classroom education, work-based learning and the documented achievement of occupational skills. Successful apprenticeship programs help to realize a world in which groups work in partnership to advance the career aspirations of participants from diverse backgrounds. The objective of this roundtable discussion is to examine how an apprenticeship program at an Electrolux Products factory in St. Cloud, Minnesota, operated to benefit manufacturing workers who would be displaced from the factory when it closed down. The program was the subject of an extended case study by the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute.

- [Daniel Marschall, PhD. George Washington Institute of Public Policy and AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, Moderator](#)
- [Todd Dahlstrom, Minnesota AFL-CIO, Organizing/Growth Director](#)
- [Joe Baratta, Chairperson, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers \(IAMAW\) Local 623](#)
- [Mary Kay McVey, Organizational Partners, Instructor](#)
- [Heidi Braun, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Director of Workforce Development and Training](#)

M6 - Writing and Teaching a Labor History of Contingent Faculty (PP - Joint with [LAWCHA](#))

This panel brings together contributors to the edited volume *Contingent Faculty: A Labor History* (under consideration by the University of Illinois Press). The book and the panel examine the causes and consequences of precarious work among higher education faculty, along with the robust resistance to these trends, using the lens and methods of labor history to deepen the analysis. For this UALE panel, participants will discuss how to teach this history in both labor education and other higher ed settings and engage the audience in conversation about how to support organizing and other collective action against contingency.

- [Joe Berry](#) and [Helena Worthen](#), “Higher Education in the United States: How a Major Social Institution Changed to Fit the Times”
- [Claire Goldstene](#), “Reflections on the Isolation of Contingency”
- [Jeff Schuhrke](#), University of Illinois at Chicago, “Graduate Worker Organizing and the Challenges of Precarity in Higher Education”

- [Naomi R Williams](#), Rutgers University, Discussant
- [Eric Fure-Slocum](#), St. Olaf College, Chair

Break

Regional Meetings & Canada Meeting

5:30 – 6:30pm

6:30 – 7:30pm

8:00 – 10:00pm

Artistic Inspiration for Global Transformation

- A Virtual Tour - [Maxo Vanka Murals](#), St. Nicholas Croation Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, PA
- Performances by:
- [Hiphop artist Jendog Lonewolf](#)
- [Spoken word performer Blaq Ice](#)
- [Singer/Songwriter Tom Juravich](#)

Eastern Time Zone

Tuesday, May 25

Coffee Hour – Zoom in to informally to discuss various topics

11:00 – 11:45am

- Room 1 – Labor Education Topics – LGBTQ
- Room 2 – What is UALE?

11:45 – 12:00pm

Break

SESSIONS (1 HOUR)

T1 – Immigration Reform – Which Way Forward? (RT)

After more than a decade, immigration reform is back on the national agenda as a result of the Biden/Harris victory in November, and the flipping of the Senate following the Georgia election. A center-piece of Trump and the Republican Right’s racist agenda has been deporting immigrants, eliminating DACA, caging children and separating families at the U.S. Mexico border, and attacking Temporary Protected Status (TPS.) The U.S. labor movement needs to intensify a commitment to fight for immigration reform, to build multi-racial unity, and to challenge white supremacy and anti-immigrant sentiment within our own unions. If we can succeed in providing a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are being denied basic human rights, we can fundamentally shift the political environment nationally and build a powerful progressive majority.

12:00 – 1:00pm

- [Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO](#)
- [Yanira Merino, President, LCLAA](#)
- [Monica Thammarath, President, APALA](#)
- [Ilse Escobar, Organizer, United Teachers, Los Angeles and Undocumented Immigrant Activist](#)

- Moderator: [Kent Wong, UCLA Labor Center](#)

T2 – Transforming the World through Public Labour History (PP)

Our session brings together academics, artists, and curators producing public labour history projects. History is an important resource for working people who want to build strong and inclusive movements for social change. Understanding past labour battles can help workers develop successful tactics and strategies to improve their lives and create a better world today.

- [Sean Carleton, University of Manitoba](#), “Reimagining the Winnipeg General Strike”
- [Robin Folvik, Independent researcher](#), “Labour History and Public Commemorations: Ginger Goodwin 2018”
- David Lester, Independent artist - “The Art of Labour/The Labour of Art: The Aesthetics of Drawing Labour History”
- [Julia Smith, University of Manitoba](#) - “Drawing Lessons from the Past: Producing a Graphic History of the Strike in Canada”

1:00 – 2:00

Break

SESSIONS (1.5 HOURS)

T3 – Popular Education in a Virtual World (TD)

Popular education is inherently social. But over the past several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us as educators to do most of our work online. How have we adapted, and how can we best facilitate radical, learner-driven workshops in a virtual space? In this session, we will discuss and model different ways to practice popular education in an online learning environment. We will also create space for participants to discuss their own experiences in this area and brainstorm ways to improve their virtual practice.

2:00 – 3:30pm

- [Zach Cunningham, Training and Education Extension Associate, Worker Institute, Cornell University](#)
- [Darby Frye, AFSCME Council 28/WFSE](#)
- [Richard Gaboton, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada \(PIPSC\)](#)
- [Sarah Hughes, Labor Notes](#)

T4 – The Novel: Imaginary Solutions to Real Social Problems (RT)

Moderated discussion about how the novel frames social issues and their solutions, how writers research issues and explore them in a realistic framework, and how teachers employ them in the classroom.

- [Tim Libretti, NEIU Department of English](#)

- [Bill Fletcher, Jr., Independent Scholar, *The Man Who Fell From the Sky*](#)
- [Eric Lotke](#), author
- [Alejandra Domenzain](#), children’s book author
- [Nicole McCandless](#), children’s book author
- [Victor Narro, UCLA Labor Center](#)
- [Tim Sheard, National Writers Union, Metro NY Labor Communications Council, *The Lenny Moss mysteries*, Moderator](#)

Author Spotlight featuring:

3:30 – 4:30pm

- Cicero Fain, [Black Huntingdon: An Appalachian Story](#) (University of Illinois Press, 2019)
- Teri Caraway, [Labor and Politics in Indonesia](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2020)
- Matt Sedillo, [Mowing Leaves of Grass](#) (Flowersong Press, 2019)
- Sharon McConnell-Sidorick, [Silk Stockings and Socialism: Philadelphia’s Radical Hosiery Workers from the Jazz Age to the New Deal](#) (University of North Carolina Press, 2017)

SESSIONS (1 HOUR)

T5 – A Canadian Perspective on Education, Equity, Evaluation, and Accountability (PP)

This panel explores various strategies by three different Canadian unions on addressing equity principles, teaching methodologies especially in light of the current global COVID pandemic, and innovative strategies such as the USW’s member-facilitators to guide course participants.

4:30 – 5:30pm

- [Cynthia Watt, AMAPCEO Vice President, “Measuring What Matters: Assessing 'Success' in Union Education & Equity”](#)
- [Kay Singh, Education Officer, Ontario Public Service Employees Union \(OPSEU\), “Empowering Union Members through Education during a Time of Pandemic”](#)
- [Adriane Paavo, Department Leader, Education & Equality, Canadian National Office, United Steelworkers \(USW\), “Just Because We Can, Should We?”](#)
- [Kai Lai, Education & Equality, Canadian National Office, United Steelworkers \(USW\), Moderator](#)

T6 - Regional Power Building Comes of Age - Local and State Progressive Power in the 21st Century (RT)

For over a decade the UALE Central Labor Council taskforce presented case studies of the regional power building model that first emerged in California and which spread across the country. Regional power building projects support innovative solutions to our nation's economic and environmental problems. At its core these efforts seek to transform our nation by organizing and building the progressive capacity to govern from the regional level on up. Labor councils and individual unions have typically playing a key role in launching this work and the institutions which anchor it such as Stand Up Nashville and Georgia Stand Up. This roundtable presents the latest findings on this now mature movement by bringing together contributors to the new book *Igniting Justice and Progressive Power: The Partnership for Working Families Cities* (David Reynolds and Louise Simmons eds, Routledge, forthcoming).

- [Donald Cohen, Director Public Interest, PWF Board Member — The Hidden Power of Cities](#)
- [Harrold Barnette, writer and consultant in Atlanta — Georgia Stand Up](#)
- Terri Lee Spetainick, Vanderbilt University — Stand Up Nashville
- [Amy Dean, founder Working Partnerships USA — Regional Power Building Comes of Age](#)
- [David Reynolds, University of Michigan, Moderator](#)
- [Louise Simmons, University of Connecticut, Moderator](#)

5:30 – 6:30pm

Break

6:30 – 7:30pm

Workers of Color Caucus Meeting

8:00 – 10:00pm

Movie Showing & Panel Discussion – [9to5: The Story of a Movement](#)

- Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar, Academy Award winning filmmakers & *9to5* Directors
- Lane Windham, Historian, Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University
- Ciara Fox, Fight for \$15 Organizer
- Kim Cook, Cornell Worker Institute/Past President of SEIU 925, Moderator

11:00 – 11:45am	Membership Meeting & Elections
11:45 – 12:00pm	Break
12:00 – 1:00pm	Membership Meeting & Elections
1:00 – 2:00pm	Break

SESSIONS (1.5 HOURS)

W3 – *LSJ* Special Issue Panel – COVID & Black Workers (PP)

- [Augustus Wood](#), "Towards a Theory of Superexploitation: Harold "Hal" Baron and the Political Economy of Black Labor."
- [Clare Hammonds, Professor of Practice, University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) and [Jasmine Kerrissey, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst](#), "At Work in a Pandemic: Black Workers' Experiences of Safety on the Job"
- [Christy England, The Employee Rights Advocacy Institute for Law & Policy](#), "Old Boundaries, New Horizons: How Anti-discrimination Law Can Better Protect Black Gig Workers in the Time of COVID-19"

2:00 – 3:30pm

W4 – IFWEA's Online Academy (OLA): 10 Years of Building Global Workers' Education Capacity (RT)

Over the past decade the International Federation of Workers Education Associations has invested most of its resources in building the capacity of its affiliates and allies to organize and educate workers in all sectors in every continent. With the support of the Swedish Workers Education Association (ABF Sweden) and the Olaf Palmer Center (OPC) this effort became crucial during 2020. In this workshop leaders and staff of IFWEA will describe their efforts and engage with participants on critical lessons learned from engaging in on-line workers education in a variety of countries using a varying of technologies – including places where workers have access to only one cell phone per household and very little bandwidth.

- [Sue Schurmen, IFWEA President](#)
- [Sahra Ryklief, IFWEA General Secretary](#)
- [Saliem Patel, Programme Manager, IFWEA](#)
- [Renaldi Prinsloo, Education & online curriculum developer, IFWEA](#)

Documentaries for Labor Education

- Deborah Rosenstein, Educator
- [Lucy Phenix](#), Filmmaker

3:30 – 4:30pm

YouGotToMoveShorts.com brings together four newly released short documentary films highlighting stories of extraordinary systemic change made by ordinary people. They were created from the 16 mm archives of the original 1985 film *You Got to Move: Stories of Change in the South* (by Lucy Massie Phenix and Veronica Selver), chronicling movements supported by the Highlander Center in Tennessee. All of the shorts have open access and are available for free on the website. This session will screen *We Have the Power, We Can Do it: The Story of Bill Saunders*, a grassroots leader from Johns Island, S.C. who helped to organize support for the 1969 Hospital Workers strike that closed the city of Charleston for 100 days. How labor educators can best utilize the shorts will also be discussed.

SESSIONS (1 HOUR)

W5 - Developing Stewards as Working-Class Leaders: Using Historical and Ideological Frameworks to Engage in Class Struggle and WIN! (TT)

4:30 – 5:30pm

This workshop will present, demonstrate, and invite feedback on portions of the Communications Workers of America’s new “Steward Strong” curriculum. Developed by the CWA Education Department in partnership with the University of Iowa Labor Center, this new popular education curriculum centers union stewards’ roles as organizers, representatives, and contract enforcers in relation to union values, labor history, and the challenge of building power to fight the influence of corporate America at the worksite and beyond. Integrating practice in key leadership, communication, and representation skills with attention to how such skills are critical to building local unions and larger movements, the curriculum includes exercises, video clips, skits, and small group discussions.

- Rose Levy, Communications Workers of America
- [Melissa Matos, Communications Workers of America](#)
- [Robin Clark-Bennett, University of Iowa Labor Center](#)
- [Guillermo Morales, University of Iowa Labor Center](#)

W6 – New Generation Panel (PP)

This panel features research by emerging scholars in the field of labor studies. The panelists were chosen from a competitive field of applicants by a UALE committee. One of these finalists will be select

to win the New Generation Award. The winner will be announced at this evening's Awards' Ceremony.

- [Eladio B. Bobadilla, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky](#), "Without Borders": Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Labor Question
- [Shay Olmstead, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of History](#), "Transcending Termination: Employment Discrimination Lawsuits as Trans Activism, 1970-1985"
- [Jen Ayers, New York University](#), "No One is Here for the Money: Exploitation in Non-Profit Thrift Stores"

5:30 – 6:30pm

Break

6:30 – 7:30pm

Women's Caucus Meeting

8:00 – 9:00pm

Awards Night

We will be presenting the following awards:

- Best Book
- New Generation
- Contribution to the Field of Labor Education
- Best Article, *Labor Studies Journal*

Eastern Time Zone

Thursday, May 27

11:00 – 11:45

Coffee Hour – Zoom in to informally to discuss various topics

- **Room 1** – Topics in Labor Education – Gender Violence in the Workplace
- **Room 2** – How Do I Get Involved in UALE?

11:45 – 12:00

Break

SESSIONS (1 HOUR)

12:00 – 1:00

TH1 - Labor and the First Amendment: Recovering the Past, Reclaiming the Future (RT – Joint with LAWCHA)

This roundtable uses the history of labor and the First Amendment to explore how labor could affirmatively use the First Amendment going forward to protect worker speech and protest. Bringing legal historians of the frontlines of labor protest in the 20th century in conversation with union lawyers working on the frontlines of labor protest today.

- [Laura Weinrib, Harvard Law School](#)

- [Donna T. Haverty-Stacke, City University of New York, Graduate Center and Hunter College](#)
- [Catherine Fisk, University of California, Berkeley Law](#)
- [Amanda Jaret, United Food and Commercial Workers](#)
- [Jessica Rutter, American Federation of Teachers](#)
- [Sophia L. Lee, University of Pennsylvania Law School](#)

TH2 - Walking Tours That Really Run: A reflection on memory and identity (RT)

The round table would begin by short self-introductions of all participants on Zoom, specifically mentioning one thing they like about walking tours as experiential urban geography exercises. Using an “appreciative inquiry” lens, the moderator would turn to each of the four panelists in turn, to pose questions like: How can the tour aspects listed by participants be expanded in future? What are their indicators of a successful tour? What planning and equipment really helps to bring a tour alive? How have these tours promoted equity? How do these tours pose critical questions about working class memory? What is the main force for historical amnesia among workers in southern Ontario? What practices of current Zoom tours can help and hinder the experience we seek? (e.g. “Tenlocals.org”)

- [Maureen Hynes, poet and former coordinator, School of Labour, George Brown College](#)
- [Jennifer Huang, lead organizer and labour educator, Toronto & York Region Labour Council](#)
- [Craig Heron, professor emeritus of history, York University, co-founder of Toronto Workers History Committee and Workers Arts and Heritage Centre](#)
- [David Kidd, former chief steward of CUPE Local 79 \(Toronto municipal workers\) and co-founder of Toronto Workers History Committee](#)
- [D’Arcy Martin, veteran labour educator](#), coordinator of UALE conference in Toronto 2013, Moderator

1:00 – 2:00pm

Break

SESSIONS (1.5 HOUR)

TH3 – Bargaining for the Common Good (RT)

Bargaining for the Common Good is an innovative organizing approach where unions use contract fights as an opportunity to organize local stakeholders around a set of demands that benefit not just the bargaining unit,

2:00 – 3:30pm

but also the wider community as a whole. In these campaigns, labor and community are equal partners who work together to build public support for solutions that will allow us to rebuild our communities, adequately fund community work and protect public and private sector quality middle class jobs.

- [KB Brower](#), Rutgers University
- [Puya Gerami](#), Yale University
- [Norma Martinez-HoSang](#), SEIU CT State Council
- [Marilyn Sneiderman](#), Center for Innovation in Worker Organization, Rutgers University

TH4 – Building a Workers’ Movement that Heals Collective Trauma

We know that trauma isolates us and makes us feel powerless – both of which are barriers to forming effective and inclusive unions and workers’ organizations. By recognizing the causes and impacts of trauma, workers can find ways to move beyond that isolation and build powerful movements at work. Since 2018, we have built a multi-session popular education curriculum for workers and union organizers that:

- Defines trauma and gives examples of its potential impacts in the workplace
- Explores the concept of burnout and strategies to use collective power to push back against burnout culture
- Introduces healing principles for collective action, radical imagination, and solidarity and asks participants to draw a connection between these principles and their organizing work
- Provides exercises and tools for participants to use in their own workplaces or unions

This session will provide a broad overview of the entire curriculum and a teaching demo of several activities we have used in this curriculum, as well as a discussion of the ways educators might adapt this work to different contexts and sectors.

- [Prachi Goyal](#), Staff, Pioneer Valley Workers’ Center
- [Tolle Graham](#), MassCOSH Retiree and National COSH Fellow
- [Melissa Markstrom](#), Staff, SHARE-AFSCME 4000
- [Elizabeth Pellerito](#), Director, UMass Lowell Labor Education Program

3:30 – 5:00pm

Closing Plenary – Innovations in Online Teaching: A Global Perspective

This closing plenary will focus on how two organizations prior to the current pandemic used online teaching to further workers' rights and to build power.

- [Sahra Ryklief, International Federation of Workers Education Associations, General Secretary](#)
- [Giovanna Larco, Executive President, PLADES, Programa laboral de Desarrollo \(Peru\)](#)
- [Mary Bellman, President, UALE, Moderator](#)

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