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The Texas Center for Working-Class Studies Conference



Thursday, March 31, 2016

Collin College, Spring Creek Campus
Living Legends Conference Center
2800 East Spring Creek Parkway
Plano, Texas 75074

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sherry Linkon



Dr. Sherry Linkon is Professor of English and Faculty Director of Writing Curriculum Initiatives in the Department of English at Georgetown University. Her research areas focus on Working-Class Studies and scholarship of teaching and learning. In Working-Class Studies, much of her work explores the cultural meaning and social costs of deindustrialization. She is currently working on a study of contemporary American literature that reflects the continuing influence of deindustrialization on working-class people and their communities.

Dr. Linkon's research and writing also focus on teaching about social class and supporting working-class students in higher education, as well as students' learning in the humanities. She has written about students' struggles with interdisciplinary analysis. While her publications are too numerous to list here, they include *Literary Learning: Teaching in the English Major*, *Teaching Working Class*, and her books with co-author John Russo, *New Working-Class Studies* and *Steeltown USA: Work in Memory in Youngstown*.

Session 3: 2:30–3:45

3.1: The Working Class in the Classroom, Conference Center A

- *Session Chair: Dallie Clark, Collin College*
- Lisa Kirby, Collin College
- Dallie Clark, Collin College
- Kris McIntosh, FDC Lessons
- Melody M. Miyamoto Walters, Collin College
- "Examining the Working Class in the Classroom: The Value of Non-Traditional Primary Sources"

3.2: Exploring the Workplace, Conference Center B

- *Session Chair: Larry Stern, Collin College*
- Jillian R. Yarbrough, Texas Tech University, "The Hawthorne Effect: The Twenty-First Century and Human Resources"
- Michael F. Thompson, University of North Texas, Deborah Fessenden, University of North Texas, Allison Bradley, University of North Texas, "Do Fast Food Workers Deserve Higher Wages?: Employee and Employer Rhetoric and the Fight for 15"

3.3 Book Talk: Mark A. Lause's *Free Labor: The Civil War and the Making of an American Working Class*, Conference Center D

- *Session Chair: Chad Pearson, Collin College*
- Mark A. Lause, University of Cincinnati
- Discussants: Theresa Case, University of Houston, Downtown, and Michael Botson, Houston Community College

3.4: Class and Gender, Conference Center E

- *Session Chair: Catie Brooks, Collin College*
- Amy Stavola, University of Texas at Dallas, "Cocktails and Commuting: The Sentimental Male's Crisis of Masculinity in Sloan Wilson's *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit*"
- Sarah Moore, University of Texas at Dallas, "Working Girls: Mid-Nineteenth Century Sexualized Representations of Street Workers"
- Simon Lee, University of California, Riverside, "Look at the State of this Place! Domestic Space and the Working-Class Imaginary"

Session 2: 1:00–2:15

2.1: The Working Life in Texas, Conference Center A

- *Session Chair: Michael Phillips, Collin College*
- Marie Nunoe, Workers United/Service Employees International Union
- Arash Farasat, Workers Defense Project
- Terry Dunn, AFL–CIO and Our Walmart
- Mark York, Principal Labor Officer, Dallas AFL–CIO Council

2.2: The Working Class in Literary Fiction, Conference Center B

- *Session Chair: Mark D. Popowski, Collin College*
- Jennifer Crumley, University of Texas at Dallas, “Mail Order Culture: How Grove Press Hybridized the 1960s Working–Class Reader”
- James Ray, KIPP San Antonio, “‘It’s really something’: Metaphysical Platonism and Meaning in Raymond Carver’s ‘Cathedral’”
- Mia Martini, University of Oklahoma, “‘They can still be heroes’: Working–Class Soldiers and the American Dream”

2.3: Texas Labor History, Conference Center D

- *Session Chair: Keith Volanto, Collin College*
- Keith Volanto, Collin College, “The Civilian Conservation Corps: Working–Class Relief during the Great Depression”
- Bart Thomas, Texas Christian University, “Plant and Playground: The Changing Relationship between Fort Worth and Air Force Plant 4”
- Max Krochmal, Texas Christian University, “*La Causa*, the Chicano/a Movement, and Texas Politics in the 1960s”

2.4: Student Essay Contest Winners, Conference Center E

- *Session Chair: Lisa A. Kirby, Collin College*
- Joni Jackson, “Old Meets Young: Equals in the Workforce”
- Jourdan Kile, “Gender Inequality in the Workplace”
- Dolunay Kirmizi, “The Shattered Dream of Becoming an American”

Conference Schedule

8:00–8:30—Registration/Coffee

Living Legends Conference Center

8:30–9:45—Session 1

10:00–11:15—Keynote Address

Living Legends Conference Center, Room C

- Welcome, Dr. Mary McRae, Vice President/Provost, Collin College, Spring Creek Campus
- Announcement of Student Essay Contest Winners, Dr. Lisa A. Kirby, Collin College
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lisa A. Kirby
- Keynote Address, Dr. Sherry Linkon, Georgetown University, “Class Trouble: Why Working–Class Studies Matters”

10:15–10:30—Break

11:45–1:00—Ruth A. Allen Pioneer in Texas Working–Class History Lecture and Lunch

Living Legends Conference Center, Room C

- Presentation of Ruth A. Allen Pioneer in Texas Working–Class History Awards, Dr. George Green and Dr. James C. Maroney, Dr. Kyle Wilkison, Collin College
- Introduction of Speaker, Dr. Kyle Wilkison
- Dr. James C. Maroney, “Texas Labor Vignettes”

1:00–2:15—Session 2

2:15–2:30—Break

2:30–3:45—Session 3

3:45—Conference Ends

Session 1: 8:30–9:45

1.1: Representing the Working Class, Conference Center A

- *Session Chair: Michael Schueth, Collin College*
- Patricia Droz, University of Houston—Clear Lake, “Moving up the Line’: Working-Class Gender Performance and Kitchen Culture”
- Michael Schueth, Collin College, “Not So Broke Girls: Network Sitcoms & The Resurgence of Blue-Collar Stereotypes”
- Tyler Cochran, University of Texas at Dallas, “The Transition of Historical Writing into Literary Art through the Conduit of Davis”

1.2: Social Class in the Visual Arts, Conference Center B

- *Session Chair: Lupita Tinnen, Collin College*
- Byrd Williams, Collin College, and Lupita Tinnen, Collin College, “Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Social Science in the Digital Age”
- Toni McMillen, Collin College, “Genoism and the Working-Class: Effects of Genetic Modification in *GATTACA*”

1.3: Working-Class History, Conference Center D

- *Session Chair: Kyle Wilkison, Collin College*
- Andrew Hazelton, Texas A&M International University, “Before the Boycott: Farmworkers, Unions, and Labor Law”
- Mark Robbins, Del Mar College, and Christine Robbins, Texas A&M University—Kingsville, “Work, Residential Life, and Memory at the Robstown Migrant Labor Camp, 1940–2015”
- Aditya Gudapati, University of Texas at Dallas, “Healing Slave Labor: The Value of Labor Provided by Slaves through the Eyes of Medicine”

1.4: The Worker and Social Movements, Conference Center E

- *Session Chair: David Cullen, Collin College*
- Julie Sears, “Blue Vs. Green?: Examining the Belief that the Working Class and Environmentalists Are Fundamentally at Odds”
- Mark D. Popowski, “A Theoretical Discussion on the Failure of Socialism in the United States and The Texas Center for Working-Class Studies’ Purpose”
- Carl Hasler, “A Concern for the Working Class: The Catholic Land Movement in England – 1900 to the late 1930s”

Ruth A. Allen Pioneer in Texas Working-Class History Lecture

Dr. James C. Maroney



James C. Maroney is retired from Lee College in Baytown, Texas, where he taught for 44 years. He previously taught at Sam Houston State University, Amarillo College and as a teaching fellow at Sam Houston and the University of Houston. He holds BA and MA degrees from Sam Houston and a PhD in history from the University of Houston.

Specializing in labor history and the progressive era, his publications include numerous articles in professional journals and books. Following closely upon the heels of the founding generation of Texas working-class historians, Dr. Maroney has written about the struggles of oil field workers, Gulf Coast longshoremen, Texas coal miners, and East Texas workers in general.

In 2013 he and co-editor Bruce A. Glasrud, published *Texas Labor History*, the first book to survey the literature on the Texas labor movement from the 1830s into the 1970s. He also has published on other historical topics, including the teaching of the US history survey.