

# NAOMI R WILLIAMS

Assistant Professor, Labor Studies and Employment Relations  
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

Assistant Professor, Rutgers University, September 2018 - Present

- U.S. Labor & Work before the End of Reconstruction; History of Labor & Work in the U.S. 1880 - 1945
- Labor/Employment History – Master’s level

Assistant Professor, The College at Brockport, 2017 - 2018

- Institutional Racism Introduction to AAS
- The Black Americas The Black Family
- Urban Economic Problems

Visiting Assistant Professor, The College at Brockport, 2016 – 2017

- Institutional Racism Introduction to AAS
- The Black Family

Visiting Assistant Professor, The Georgia Institute of Technology, 2014-2016

- African American History since 1865 United States Labor History
- African American History to 1865 American Business History
- The Civil Rights Movement

## EDUCATION:

PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2014

- Dissertation: “Workers United: The Racine, WI, Labor Movement and the Shifting U.S. Economy, 1950s-1980s”
- Committee: William P. Jones-chair, Colleen Dunlavy, Camille Guerin-Gonzales, Jane Collins, Tony Michels, Christina Greene
- Preliminary Exam Fields: U.S. Labor & Working-Class History and Gender & Sexuality
- Minor: Race and Nationalism & Oral History Methodology

M.A. U.S. History, University of South Florida, May 2009

- Major: U.S. History
- Minor: Post-Revolutionary Mexico

B.A. U. S. History, University of South Florida, May 2007

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS:

Labor & working-class history, urban history & politics, gender & women, race & politics, and social & economic movements

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

- Invited respondent, “African American Workers and the Coal Mining Industry,” Eberly Roundtable: Labor in Appalachia, Sept 2022, WVU
- Organizing Public Workers in Higher Education, Roundtable, OAH Annual Meeting, April 2022
- “Race and Unionism: A Conversation with Robin D.G. Kelley and Naomi R Williams,” Aydelotte Foundation, Swarthmore College, February 2022
- Invited keynote speaker, “Activist Scholars: Balancing Labor Action and Academia,” eCornell, February 2022
- Invited keynote speaker, Wisconsin Labor History Society Conference, Nov 2021
- Invited speaker, Notre Dame, Higgins Labor Program, “Workers Power and the Politics of Narrative,” Nov 2021
- “Where is Critical Race Theory in the Field of Industrial Relations?” LERA, June 2021
- “Where is Critical Race Theory in Industrial Relations,” ILERA, June 2021
- “Worker Participation for Just Wages,” Just Wage Conference, Notre Dame, invited participant, 11 June 2021
- “Writing and Teaching a Labor History of Contingent Faculty,” UALE May 2021
- “Community Organizers and the Building of Worker Power,” LAWCHA May 2021
- “Collective Bargaining from All Sides: Unionism, the Faculty Senate, Contingent Faculty, and Academic Administrators,” LAWCHA May 2021
- “Contingent Faculty in a Time of Coronavirus: Views from the Front Lines,” OAH, April 2021
- Reinserting Gender and Social Reproduction into the History of Capitalism (discussant), Fordham University, Feb 2021
- “Labor Power: Affects of Large Employers, the Presence of Unions and Trade (discussant), LERA@ASSA, January 2021
- “Black Women’s Voting Rights and Elections in Historical and Contemporary Perspective,” Seneca Falls Dialogues, Oct 2020
- “Collective Bargaining from All Sides: Unionism, the Faculty Senate, Contingent Faculty, and Academic Administrators,” Collective Bargaining in Higher Education Conference, Oct 2020
- “Economic Citizenship and Civil Rights in the Urban North,” Urban History Association, Oct 2020 – canceled due to COVID-19
- “The Politics of Care in the Late Twentieth-Century United States,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, May 2020 – canceled due to COVID19
- “Critical Theoretical Directions in Labor Studies,” International Labour Process Conference, April 2020 – symposium accepted – canceled due to COVID19
- “Southern Strategy!” plenary, Labor Research and Action Network and Jobs With Justice Joint Conference, invited speaker, March 2020 – canceled due to COVID19
- “Black, Radical, and Working Class,” African American Intellectual History Society, March 2020
- “Building a Broad-Based Labor Community for Worker Resistance,” LAWCHA, June 2019
- “Contingent Faculty and Independent Scholars and LAWCHA, plenary LAWCHA, June 2019
- “Whither Labor History,” LAWCHA, June 2019

- “Academic Unions and Historians in an Age of Political Realignment,” Roundtable participant, OAH Annual Meeting, April 2018
- “Building a Stronger Community: Work, Welfare, and Politics in Racine, WI,” Labor and Working-Class History Annual Conference, June 2017
- “Race, Labor, and Coalition Building in a Deindustrializing City,” HTS Speaker Series, The Georgia Institute of Technology, April 2015
- Labor and Lives in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Wisconsin, Oral History Association Annual Meeting, October 2014
- “Workers United: Working-Class Identity and the Transformation of Capital, Racine, WI 1970-1979,” OAH Annual Meeting, April 2014
- “Sustaining a Labor Movement in Turbulent Times,” Midwest Labor and Working-Class History Colloquium, University of Illinois at Chicago, April 2014
- “A New Union: Enlisting the Public in Worker Activism, 1970s – 1980s,” Labor and Working-Class History National Conference, June 2013
- Roundtable on Campus Labor and the Corporate University, Panelist, Labor and Working-Class History National Conference, June 2013
- ““Wages, Not Welfare”: Hospital Service Workers and their Struggle for Economic Justice, 1976 – 1985,” Southern Association for Women Historians Conference, June 2012
- ““Wages, Not Welfare”: Low-Wage Women Workers, Union Radicalism, and Political Engagement, 1970s – 1980s,” OAH/NCPH Annual Meeting, April 2012
- “Local Struggles and Labor’s “Decline”: Hospital Workers in Racine, Wisconsin, 1976-1985,” University of Memphis Graduate Student Conference, November 2010

#### **LABOR EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS:**

- Being the Change, Inclusivity in our Unions and Workplaces, IATSE Local 52, Nov 2022
- New Union Academy, ULA, LEARN Oct-Nov 2022
- Labor History Teach-In for Labor Organizers, The People’s Forum, NYC, Mar 2022
- Anti-Racism, UAW 2322, Rutgers LEARN, Feb-Mar 2022 (3, 3-hour sessions)
- Being the Change: IATSE, 2-day, 12-hour course, Mar 2022
- U.S. Labor History course, Rutgers LEARN, 6-week course for Union Labor Academy certificate program, Nov-Dec 2021
- “Race, Labor, and Coalition Building in Racine, WI,” The People’s Forum *Histories of the Working Class in North America Series*, Aug 2021
- Intersectionality & Movement Building, UNITE-HERE 274, Rutgers LEARN, Mar 2021
- Labor History for Movement Building, Tennessee Rabble Rousers Training, July 2020
- Intersectionality and Movement Building,” NoVA Central Labor Council, Dec 2019
- “Full-time faculty Support for Part-Time Faculty,” Raritan Valley Community College Professional Development Series, Oct 2019
- Labor Herstory, Women Innovating Labor Leadership (WILL) Empower Emerging Leader Cohort Retreat, Center for Innovation in Worker Organization, April 2019
- Movement Building Challenge: Intersectionality and Connecting Emerging Movements, Mid-Atlantic Labor Leadership Initiative, December 2018

#### **GUEST LECTURES:**

- Importance of CRT in Labor History, Spelman College, Oct 2022

- Federal Writers Project, with Professor Michele Fazio, UNC at Pembroke, Nov 2021
- U.S. Labor History, with Professor Daniel Graff, Notre Dame, Nov 2021
- The Labor Movement and Reparations, UMASS Amherst, April 2021
- “Labor and Social Movements,” Masters Intro to LSER course, Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019
- “Incorporating Workers in Business Proposals,” Writing in Labor Studies & Employment Relations, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019
- “From Civil Rights to Social Justice: Black Activism in Racine after the 1960s,” University of Arizona Black History Month Lecture, February 2015
- “Hospital Workers and Welfare Rights Activism,” Guest Lecture, “Race and Gender in U.S.,” Professor Christina Greene, UW-Madison, November 2010

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS:

- Teaching Award, Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department, Rutgers, AY 2020-2021
- NEH Summer Institute on the New Deal Era’s Federal Writers’ Project, July 2021
- John A. Peters Fellowship, Friends of the U.W. Madison Libraries, June-Jul 2016
- Conference Travel Grant, Labor and Working-Class History Association, April 2014
- Vilas Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate School, April 2014
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies, 2013
- Department Fellowship, UW-Madison History Department, Fall 2013 (declined)
- Vilas Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate School, June 2013
- Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, UW-Madison, 2012 – 2013 & 2009-2010
- Frank Zeidler Academic Award for Research in Wisconsin Labor and Working-Class History-Graduate Student Category, Wisconsin Labor History Society, 2010
- W.E.B. Dubois Fellowship, USF Graduate School, 2007 - 2009

### PUBLICATIONS:

- Book Review: Rich Thanks to Racism: How the Ultra-Wealthy Profit from Racial Injustice, by Jim Freeman *ILR Review* Vol 72 no 2 (March 2022):520-521.
- Co-author with Alison Parker and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman “Contemporary Black Women’s Voting Rights Activism: Some Historical Perspective” *The Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal* Vol 4, article 5 (2021): 37-49.
- “Worker Mobilization and Political Engagement – A Historical Perspective,” with Sheri Davis-Faulkner, *Revaluing Work(ers): Toward a Democratic and Sustainable Future*, eds. Tobias Schulze-Cleven and Todd E. Vachon, Labor and Employment Research Association, Cornell University Press (2021): 121-140.
- “Sustaining Labor Politics in Hard Times: Race, Labor, and Coalition Building in Racine, WI,” *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, Vol 18.2 May 2021:41-63.
- “Workers United: Intersectionality and Labor,” Whither Labor History?, *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, Vol 17.4 December 2020: 74-77.
- Book review: Joe W. Trotter, Jr., *Workers on Arrival*, *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, Vol 17.4 December 2020:147-149.
- Book review: “New (and unimproved) outsourcing,” *LERA Perspectives on Work*, 2019 Vol 23: 106-107.

- Book review: “New Histories of Twentieth-Century Capitalism,” *Reviews in American History*, 46:2 (June 2018): 287-293.
- “LAWCHA Watch: Working Together for Economic Justice,” *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, 12:3 (September 2015): 7-8.
- Contributor, “20<sup>th</sup>-Century Labor History,” *The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook*, 2013

#### **In Progress**

- “Workers United: Race, Labor, and Coalition Building in Deindustrializing America,” book manuscript in progress
- “Building Labor Solidarity Across Tenure Lines,” co-authored with Jiyoung Park, chapter in *Contingent Faculty: A Labor History*, University of Illinois Press – under review
- Co-editor of *Industrial Relations and a Racial Reckoning LERA Research Volume 2022*, under review
  - “Origin Stories: Labor History and Industrial Relations,” – chapter contribution

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND WORK HISTORY:**

#### **Faculty (Rutgers University)**

Spring 2021 - History of Labor & Work in the U.S. 1880 – 1945; Labor/Employment History, Master’s

Fall 2020 – U.S. Labor & Work before the end of Reconstruction; History of Labor & Work in the U.S. 1880 - 1945

Spring 2020 – Labor/Employment History, Master’s

Fall 2018/Spring 2019/Fall 2019 – U.S. Labor and Work before the end of Reconstruction

#### **Faculty (The College at Brockport)**

Spring 2018 – Institutional Racism; Intro to AAS: The Black Family

Winter 2018 – Study Abroad: Ghana Program

Fall 2017 – The Black Americas; Urban Economic Problems, Institutional Racism

Summer 2017 – Institutional Racism (online)

Spring 2017 – Institutional Racism; Intro to AAS; Criminal Justice in Rochester Internship

Winter 2016 – Institutional Racism (online)

Fall 2016 – Institutional Racism (2 sections); Intro to AAS; The Black Family

#### **Faculty (The Georgia Institute of Technology)**

Fall 2015 – The Civil Rights Movement; U. S. Labor History

Spring 2015 – African American History to 1865; American Business History

Fall 2014 - African American History since 1865; U.S. Labor History

#### **Teaching Assistant (UW-Madison)**

Spring 2012 – HIS 247 History of American Capitalism

Fall 2011 – HIS 398 The United States Since 1945

Spring 2011 – HIS 102 The United States Since 1865

Fall 2010 – HIS 242 Modern Latin America

#### **Teaching Assistant (University of South Florida)**

Spring 2009 – LAH 2020 Latin American Civilization

Fall 2008 – LAH 2020 Latin American Civilization

Spring 2008 – LAH 2020 Latin American Civilization  
 Fall 2007 – AMH 2020 American History II (1865 – Present)

### **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE:**

LEARN Committee, January 2020; spring 2021  
 LSER Diversity Advocate, 2020-2021  
 Panelist, New Faculty Orientation, “What I Wish I knew,” Fall 2020, 2021  
 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee, LSER, 2019-2021  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture Series committee chair, Brockport 2017-2018  
 Strategic Goal #1 Making Brockport a great place to learn Committee, 2017-2018  
 Strategic Plan for Undergraduate Retention Committee, Brockport 2017-2018  
 Faculty advisor, The Movement student organization, Brockport 2016-2017  
 Department representative and academic delegate, United University Professions, Brockport Chapter, 2017  
 Committee Member, Marion Schrank Student Leadership Award Committee, Brockport Feb-March 2017  
 Minor in Poverty Studies working group, Brockport 2016-2017  
 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Council, UW History Department, 2013-2014  
 History Department Mentor, 2013-2014 & 2010-2012  
 Panelist, Organizing Your Dissertation Workshop, October 2013  
 Panelist, New T.A. Training Workshop, September 2013

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

Program Coordinator, Higher Ed Labor United Winter Summit, Jan – Feb 2022  
 Manuscript peer review, Vanderbilt University Press, Oct 2021  
 Manuscript peer review, Anthem Press, Dec 2020  
 Nominating Committee, Labor & Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA), 2020-2022  
 Contingent Faculty Committee, LAWCHA, 2015-Present  
 Peer review for *Histoire sociale/Social History Journal*, summer 2019  
 Editorial Board, *The North Meridian Review*  
 Advisory Council, Labor Research and Action Network (LRAN), 2019-2021  
 Conference Planning Committee, LRAN, 2019-2021  
 Advisory Council, Advancing Black Strategists Initiative, 2019-2021  
 Projects Committee, LRAN, 2018 – 2021  
 Program Committee, LAWCHA, 2016 - 2017  
 Board of Directors, LAWCHA, March 2014 - February 2017

### **MEDIA:**

- Interviewed for “Thanks to Trump U.S. No Longer in Denial of Racism,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 02 Nov 2020, [Thanks to Trump, U.S. no longer in denial of racism - SFChronicle.com](https://www.sfgate.com/chronicle/article/Thanks-to-Trump-U-S-no-longer-in-denial-of-racism-14678177.html)
- Interviewed for “On Monday, thousands of food workers will walk off the job in a ‘Strike for Black lives,’” *The Counter*, 17 July 2020, <https://thecounter.org/strike-for-black-lives-july-20-labor/>
- Interviewed for “Reparations for slavery are back on the table. Here’s how likely it is lawmakers take action on them and what it could mean,” *Insider*, 14 July 2020,

<https://www.insider.com/black-americans-are-calling-for-reparations-heres-what-that-means-2020-7>

- Interviewed for “Layoff payoffs,” NJBIZ, 3 Feb 2020, <https://njbiz.com/layoff-payoffs-nj-businesses-brace-new-jerseys-mandatory-severance/>
- Interviewed for “For the First Time a State Will Mandate Severance Pay During Mass Layoffs,” *Route Fifty*, 24 January 2020, <https://www.routeifty.com/finance/2020/01/nj-mass-layoffs/162636/>
- Co-authored blog post, “LAWCHA 2019: Contingent Faculty, Independent Scholars, and LAWCHA,” *Labor Online*, 5 Sept 2019, <http://www.lawcha.org/2019/09/05/lawcha-2019-contingent-faculty-independent-scholars-and-lawcha/>
- Interviewed for Women in Wisconsin Labor, by Ellen La Luzerne of *Labor Radio* and *Her Turn*, WORT Sept 2019
- Quoted in “Hardest-Working States in America,” by Adam McCann, *WalletHub*, 26 Aug 2019, <https://wallethub.com/edu/hardest-working-states-in-america/52400/#expert=naomi-r-williams>
- Interviewed for “Why are New Jersey’s suburbs so segregated?” *NJTV News*, 3 May 2019, <https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/why-are-new-jerseys-suburbs-so-segregated/>

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:**

NEH Summer Institute on the New Deal Era’s Federal Writers’ Project, July-August 2021

4-week institute tracing the history, accomplishments, and cultural legacy of the FWP

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity, 2020 Summer 14-day Writing bootcamp Program for Early Career Excellence (PECE), Spring 2020 – Spring 2021

Year-long faculty development and mentoring program

National Labor Leadership Initiative, Nov 2019-Feb 2021

3 week-long leadership retreats for labor leaders to strengthen leadership skills and build community

SMLR Lunch & Learn program (2019-present)

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Labor and Working-Class History Association

Organization of American Historians

Labor Research and Action Network

Labor and Employment Relations Association

United Association for Labor Education

African American Intellectual History Association

Advancing Black Strategists Initiative

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region