Mission Statement

The labor question—who will do the work and under what economic and political terms?—beckons today with renewed global urgency. As a site for both historical research and commentary, Labor: Studies in Working-Class History hopes to provide an intellectual scaffolding for understanding the roots of continuing social dilemmas. We invite submissions that explore the situation, subjectivity, or strategy of working men and women in any era. Although the tradition from which we emerge and to which we still pay critical homage has focused primarily on social movements and institutions based on “free” industrial labor, we mean to give equal attention to other labor systems and social contexts (e.g., slavery and other coercive labor forms, agricultural work, unpaid and domestic labor, the contingent or informal sector, the professions). While we begin with the US experience, we intend to extend our literacy not only across the American hemisphere but also, by way of transnational, international, and comparative themes towards a truly global reach. To these ends, we look not only to academic historians but also to other scholars, journalists, labor educators, poets, and writer-activists for research articles, interpretive essays, notes and documents, and reviews.