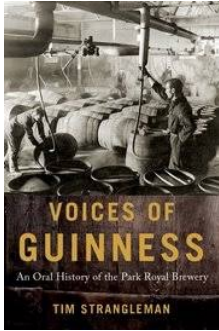


BOOK NOTES

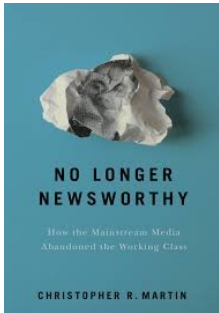


***Voices of Guinness: An Oral History of the Park Royal Brewery* (Oxford U. Press), Tim Strangleman**

Guinness' Park Royal Brewery in West London was established in the 1930s as a capitalist attempt to satisfy rising worker unrest and expectations in the early 20th century. A beautiful but highly functional building in a park-like setting, with the full range of welfare capitalist amenities, including free beer, Park Royal attempted to put into practice what it called "industrial citizenship." *Voices of Guinness* is a history of the rise and fall of this stirring experiment.

Drawing on oral history interviews with workers and management in addition to archival and photographic sources, Tim Strangleman traces the backstory of the brewery's 2005 closing and the forces that led to that closing. With special attention to how changes were experienced on the shop floor from the 1960s on, the book shows "how the history of one plant tells a much wider story about changing attitudes and understandings about work and organization in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries." Strangleman is a former president of the Working-

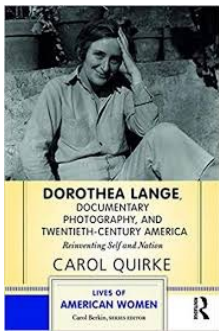
Class Studies Association (WCSA) and one of the organizers of our conference this September at the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK.



***No Longer Newsworthy: How the Mainstream Media Abandoned the Working Class* (Cornell U. Press), Christopher Martin**

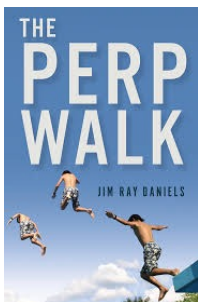
This book explains how American newspapers from the late 1960s onward changed business models to appeal to an "upscale" audience with the money to purchase higher-margin products that advertisers would pay more to reach. In the process the news media gradually abandoned covering labor unions and workers or even attempting to speak to working-class readers. Christopher Martin traces the consequences of this momentous change up to today. As the working class became invisible in the media, it lost an important part of its political voice,

leading to "the emergence of a more conservative media in the form of Christian television, talk radio, Fox News, and conservative websites." Martin, a professor of Communications Studies at the University of Northern Iowa, closes with recommendations for how mainstream media could "once again embrace the working class as critical to its audience and its democratic function."



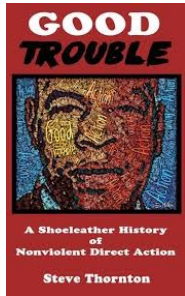
***Dorothea Lange, Documentary Photography, and Twentieth Century America: Reinventing Self and Nation* (Routledge), Carol Quirke**

This biography of Dorothea Lange begins with her childhood in immigrant, metropolitan New York and tracks her young adulthood as a New Woman who apprenticed herself to Manhattan's top photographers and then established a career as a portraitist to San Francisco's elite. When the Great Depression shook America's economy, Lange was profoundly affected. Leaving her studio, Lange confronted citizens' anguish with her camera, documenting their economic and social plight. This biography synthesizes recent New Deal scholarship and photographic history and probes the unique regional histories of the Pacific West, the Plains, and the South. Lange's life illuminates critical transformations in the U.S., specifically women's evolving social roles and the state's growing capacity to support vulnerable citizens. The author utilizes the concept of "care work," the devalued nurturing of others often considered women's work, to analyze Lange's photography and reassert its power to provoke social change.



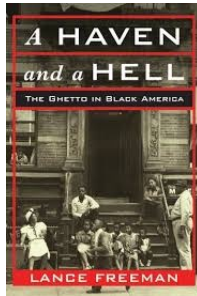
***The Perp Walk* (Michigan State U. Press), Jim Ray Daniels**

In *The Perp Walk*, his latest collection of linked stories, Jim Daniels again maps the emotional turmoil of coming of age in a blue-collar town in the Great Lakes State, where people work hard, play hard, and aren't paid nearly enough for their efforts. Alternating flash fiction pieces with longer narratives, the publisher promises, Daniels suggests that "sometimes we need both the long version of the short version and the short version of the long version . . . [and] invites his readers to settle on some truth in between the versions. Coming to terms, coming of age, or just plain aging. In Daniels's work, the check is always in the mail but somehow never arrives, and honor is more than a certificate—it's something we strive for, even while doing our various perp walks through life. Compromises are made, as they must be. Sometimes we get what we want for just a second or two, but for these characters, that has to be enough happiness to live on."



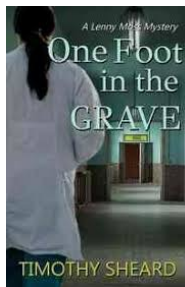
Good Trouble: A Shoelather History of Nonviolent Direct Action (Hard Ball Press), Steve Thornton

Steve Thornton is a retired union organizer who has spent 45 years on the front lines of student, labor, community, environmental, and anti-racist struggles. His new book tells the stories of more than 40 nonviolent direct action campaigns, including Civil Rights struggles, Fight for 15 strikes, tenant occupations, LGBTQ campaigns, and many others. The book's title comes from a quote by Congressman John Lewis, "Dr. King and Rosa Parks inspired me to get into trouble. Good trouble." Each good trouble here, the publisher promises, "focuses on the power of organizing and mobilizing, relevant in any context, and serves as an emergency tool kit for nonviolent direct action."



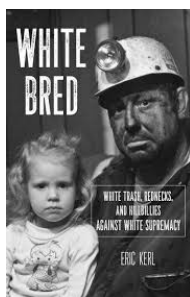
A Haven and a Hell: The Ghetto in Black America (Columbia U. Press), Lance Freeman

Resisting the image of the black ghetto as simply "a place of urban decay and social disarray," *A Haven and a Hell* argues that "while black urban neighborhoods have suffered from institutional racism and economic neglect, they have also been places of refuge and community." A work of history that offers planning and policy recommendations, the book shows how sometimes the ghetto "promised the freedom to build black social institutions and political power," while at other times "it suppressed and further stigmatized African Americans." Thus, the ghetto's role as a haven or a hell waxed and waned, "spanning the Great Migration, mid-century opportunities, the eruptions of the sixties, the challenges of the seventies and eighties, and present-day issues of mass incarceration, the subprime crisis, and gentrification." Freeman is professor of Urban Planning in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University.



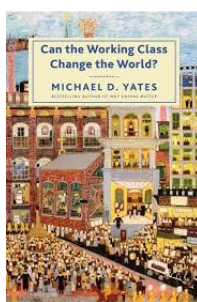
One Foot in the Grave: A Lenny Moss Mystery (Hard Ball Press), Timothy Sheard

At James Madison Hospital, death threatens the staff as well as the patients. Climate change has brought a new, aggressive Zika virus to Philadelphia, making pregnant women fearful they will become infected, and overloading the hospital with a crush of frightened patients. Pregnant nurses at James Madison beg to be relieved from caring for patients with the virus, but the Director of Nursing refuses. So the angry nurses turn to wily shop steward Lenny Moss for help in joining his service workers union. The mystery occurs when Rachel Austin, a popular family practice physician, is brutally attacked. Lenny Moss must investigate, all too aware that another killer is roaming the hospital.



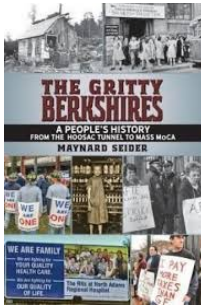
White Bred: Hillbillies, White Trash, and Rednecks against White Supremacy (Haymarket Books), Eric Kerl

This book promises to be an "antidote to the narrow and myopic characterizations of Appalachians" found in J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy*. Beginning with the colonization of the area by white bondspople from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany, Eric Kerl shows how the Civil War and Reconstruction exposed the crimes of black slavery, but also laid bare "the chasms of inequality, resentment, and bitter violence that existed within the white population." According to the publisher, "Kerl goes on to examine the dispossession, subjugation, racialization, and resistance movements of Appalachian people, from the role of country music in poor white and working-class life to the multiracial movements standing up to resist white supremacy and racism."



Can the Working Class Change the World (Monthly Review Press), Michael D. Yates

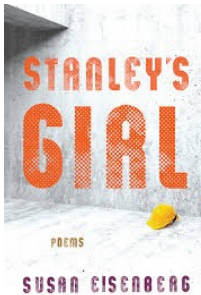
Mike Yates is the author of a series of books on working-class subjects, probably best known for *Why Unions Matter*. His new book is a broad reflection on the continuing potential of working-class people to live up to Karl Marx's prediction that they would change the world. According to the publisher, "Forcefully and without illusions, Yates supports his arguments with relevant, clearly explained data, historical examples, and his own personal experiences. This book is a sophisticated and prescient understanding of the working class, and what *all* of us might do to change the world."



***The Gritty Berkshires: A People's History from the Hoosac Tunnel to Mass Moca* (White River Press), Maynard Seider**

The Gritty Berkshires tells the story of working-class families in Massachusetts' westernmost county, known mostly for its art museums, music festivals and beautiful scenery. Maynard Seider tells the story, for example, of the 1,000 men who built the Hoosac Tunnel, the nation's longest railroad tunnel, as well as "the thousands of men and women who worked in its textile mills and electronics factories and who struck, built worker co-ops, and community coalitions to improve their daily lives." According to the publisher, Seider "weaves a narrative that details the area's vibrant immigrant history, slavery's role in its textile industry, the battle for national unions and the ideological struggles with corporate elites over who best speaks for the community." Concluding with an account of how a group of brick buildings where generations of workers toiled until 1986 became the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass Moca), Seider concludes by

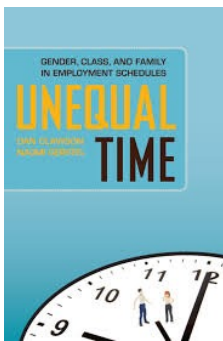
addressing the question: "Can a tourist-service economy provide a meaningful and economically sustainable life for its residents?"



***Stanley's Girl: Poems* (Cornell U. Press), Susan Eisenberg**

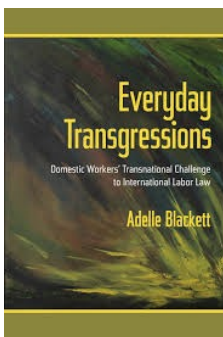
In this new collection of poems, Susan Eisenberg draws on her experience as one of the first women to work in the construction industry as well as from decades of gathering the stories of other women who were pioneers in entering the previously all-male industry. What the publisher describes as "fiercely lyrical poetry" probes various forms of sexual assault, workplace-linked suicide, and fatal accidents, sometime intentional, as well as the role of bystander silence. The publisher explains: "Eisenberg charts her own induction into the construction workplace culture and how tradeswomen from across the country grappled with what was required to become a team player and succeed in a dangerous workplace where women were unwelcome. The specifics of construction become metaphor as she explores resonances in other spheres—from family to other social and political issues—where violence, or its threat, maintains order. Prying open memory, her poems investigate how systems of discrimination, domination, and exclusion

are maintained and how individuals and institutions accommodate to injustice and its agreed-on lies, including her own collusion."



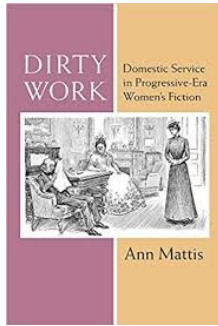
***Unequal Time: Gender, Class, and Family in Employment Schedules* (Russell Sage Foundation), Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel**

This 2014 book examines four occupations in the health care economy – professional-class doctors and nurses, and working-class emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and nursing assistants – to understand how class and gender interact to create differences in the amount of work they do, at home and work, and the stability of their work schedules. Among their interesting findings: "doctors, who are professional-class and largely male, have significant control over their schedules and tend to work long hours because they earn respect from their peers for doing so. By contrast, nursing assistants, who are primarily female and working-class, work demanding hours because they are most likely to be penalized for taking time off, no matter how valid the reasons."



***Everyday Transgressions: Domestic Workers' Transnational Challenge to International Labor Law* (Cornell U. Press), Adelle Blackett**

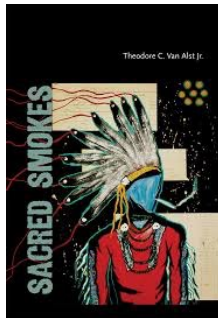
Adelle Blackett was the principal legal architect of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention No. 189, which establishes international protections and rights for millions of domestic workers laboring in other people's homes throughout the world. According to the publisher, the book "discusses the importance of understanding historical forms of invisibility, recognizes the influence of the domestic workers themselves, and weaves in poignant experiences, infusing the discussion of laws and standards with intimate examples and sophisticated analyses." In doing so, Blackett presents domestic workers as "both workers like any other, and workers like no other."



***Dirty Work: Domestic Service in Progressive-Era Women's Fiction* (U. of Michigan Press),**

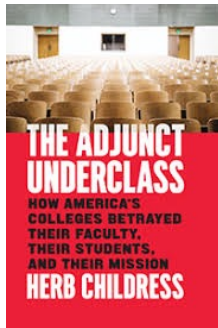
Ann Mattis

The relations between women employers and their household help were often discussed in early 20th century women's magazines, conduct manuals, and female-authored fiction. This book focuses on "the works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein, Nella Larsen, Jessie Fauset, Anzia Yezierska, and Fannie Hurst and their various depictions of the maid/mistress relationship." What is revealed is "a feminized and racialized brand of class hegemony." According to the publisher, though "modern servants became configured as racial, hygienic, and social threats," they played critical roles in both first-wave feminism and the New Negro movement.



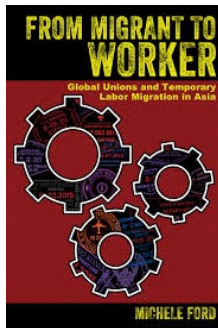
***Sacred Smokes* (U. of New Mexico Press), Theodore C. Van Alst**

The publisher describes the uniqueness of this collection of linked stories: "Growing up in a gang in the city can be dark. Growing up Native American in a gang in Chicago is a whole different story. This book takes a trip through that unexplored part of Indian Country, an intense journey that is full of surprises, shining a light on the interior lives of people whose intellectual and emotional concerns are often overlooked. [These] dark, compelling, occasionally inappropriate, and often hilarious [stories] introduce a character who defies all stereotypes about urban life and Indians. He will be in readers' heads for a long time to come."



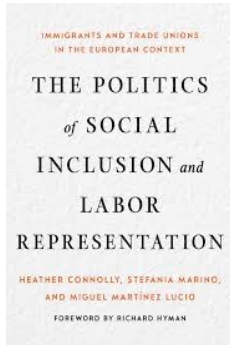
***The Adjunct Underclass: How America's Colleges Betrayed Their Faculty, Their Students, and Their Mission* (U. of Chicago Press), Herb Childress**

By some estimates as many as 70% of college professors in the U.S. are working course-to-course, with few benefits, little to no security, and extremely low pay – below minimum wage in many instances once you factor in prep time and grading. The publisher tells us: "Herb Childress draws on his own firsthand experience and that of other adjuncts to tell the story of how higher education reached this sorry state. Pinpointing numerous forces within and beyond higher ed that have driven this shift, he shows us the damage wrought by contingency, not only on the adjunct faculty themselves, but also on students, the permanent faculty and administration, and the nation."



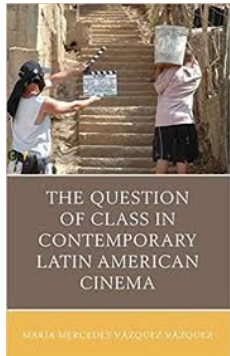
***From Migrant to Worker: Global Unions and Temporary Labor Migration in Asia* (Cornell U. Press), Michelle Ford**

This study shows that when global union federations combine with local unions in Asia to advocate for the rights of temporary migrant workers, local labor movements become stronger. Examining conditions in seven Asian countries, Michelle Ford finds that in Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand global unions have been successful in influencing local unions to organize and build solidarity with migrants. But where "resource flows and local factors" deny global unions influence, as in Japan and Taiwan, conditions for migrant workers and the strength of local labor movements suffer.



***The Politics of Social Inclusion and Labor Representation* (Cornell U. Press), Heather Connolly, Stefania Marino, and Miguel Martinez Lucio**

With dramatic changes in immigration patterns across Europe since the 1970s, labor unions have had a mixed record in their willingness and ability to build solidarity with immigrant workers. This study looks at union policies toward immigrant workers in the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. According to the publisher, “the authors closely examine the idea of social inclusion and how trade unions are coping with and adapting to the need to support immigrant workers and develop various types of engagement and solidarity strategies in the European context.”



***The Question of Class in Contemporary Latin American Cinema* (Lexington Books), Maria Mercedes Vazquez Vazquez**

This study examines the aesthetics and politics of class in a representative selection of films from the contemporary cinemas of Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. It explores the relationship of cinematic practices to conflicting socio-political transformations taking place in these five countries -- such as the intensification of neoliberalism, the Turn-to-the-Left, and the growth of the middle classes in the period from 2003 to 2015. Utilizing a critical comparative method, it sheds a critical light on the presumed depoliticization of contemporary Latin American cinema.