

Program
10th GLU Conference
Washington, DC
September 30 – October 2, 2015

Wednesday, September 30

4:30-5:30pm: Registration; AFL-CIO lobby. Refreshments; AFL-CIO

5:30-7pm: **Plenary 1** (Chair: Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO), *Gompers Room*

Short Comments by Hosting Institutions

- Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO
- Devan Pillay, GLU
- Paul Clark, Penn State University
- Mirko Herberg, FES
- Christoph Scherrer, ICDD
- Sharan Burrow, ITUC, welcome video.

Keynote Presentations (Chair: Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO)

- Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO
- Q&A

7:30pm-9:00pm; GLU/Dinner Reception; AFL-CIO Lobby

Thursday, October 1

8:30am: Continental breakfast in AFL-CIO [Registration continued, lobby]

9:00am – 10:30am: **Plenary 2**; Strategies and possibilities against international corporate power (Chair: Frank Hoffer), *Gompers Room*

- Rosa Pavanelli, PSI
- Christoph Scherrer, ICDD; Kassel University
- Tefere Gebre, AFL-CIO
- Praveen Jha; Chairperson, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, JNU

10:30am – 11am: Coffee Break

11am-12:30pm: Break Out Sessions I [See Appendix.]

12:30pm-2:00pm: Lunch

- Option 1: Film viewing [Gompers Room] *A Day's Work* by Dave DeSario;
- Option 2: Racial Justice Discussion/Carmen Berkley [President's Room]

2pm-3:30pm: Break Out Sessions II [See Appendix]

3:30pm-4:00pm: Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:30pm, **Plenary 3:** Labor and Worker Struggles in China, Chair: Mark Anner, *Gompers Room*

- Katie Quan, UC Berkeley. “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back? Labor Struggle in China Today”
- Chris Chan, City University of Hong Kong, “Migrant Workers’ Struggle in China: a historical perspective.”
- Elaine Sio-ieng HUI, City University of Hong Kong, "Labour strikes and trade union elections in China"

6:00pm: AFL-CIO Human Rights Award/Reception; Vincent Ncongwane and Patrick Mamba; Trade Union Confederation of Swaziland (TUCOSWA)

Friday, October 2

8:30am: Continental breakfast in AFL-CIO Lobby

9am—10:30am: Break Out Sessions III [See Appendix.]

10:30am – 11am: Coffee Break

11am—12:30pm: Break Out Sessions IV [See Appendix.]

12:30-1:30pm: Lunch

1:30-2:30pm: **Plenary 4:** *Gompers Room*. Book launches; Chair: Frank Hoffer. Nicolas Pons-Vignon; "Struggle in a time of crisis"; Alex Gallas and Michelle Williams; GLJ, Special Issue; “Combating Inequality.” Workers’ Rights database launch, Mark Anner.

2:30pm—4pm: Break Out Sessions V [See Appendix.]

3:30pm-4:00pm: Coffee Break

4:30-6:00pm: **Plenary 5;** “What next - from Anger to Action” Chair: Frank Hoffer. *Gompers Room*

- Jenny Holdcroft, IndustriAll
- Clair Ruppert, CUT-Brazil
- Ashim Roy, Asian Floor Wage
- Paliani Chinguwo, SATUCC
- Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO
- Bruno Dobrusin, CTA-Argentina

Evening free.

APPENDIX: BREAK OUT SESSIONS PROGRAM

Thursday, October 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP I

I:1 Trade Agreements in Action: Case Studies - *GOMPERS ROOM*

Chair: Thea Lee, AFL-CIO

Fundizwi S. Sikhondze, Swaziland Union of Non-Academic Staff, "Multi-National Agreements, Trade Agreements and Workers' Rights - - A Case of Textile Workers of Swaziland."

Janet Checkley, and John A. Hosinski, Solidarity Center. "A Fundamental Shift: Envisioning a New Direction for the African Growth and Opportunity Act."

Vincent Ncongwane, Swaziland Federation of Labor. Title: tba.

I:2 Unchained: Global Supply Chains - Wages, Rights, and Strategies - *PRESIDENT'S ROOM*

Chair: Mirko Herberg, FES.

Hansjörg Herr, Berlin School of Economics and Law, and Behzad Azarhoushang, "The Effects of Global Value Chains on Global Income Distribution and Economic Development – Analysis and Reform Strategies."

Michael Fichter, GLU. "Transnationalizing Trade Union Strategies Along Global Value Chains: Conceptualizing New Approaches to Challenging the Power of TNCs."

Pravin Sinha, India Industrial Relations Association, India, "Restricting Labor Rights Violations in Global Value Chain in India."

I:3 Packing and Shipping Worker Justice; *ROOM 4012*

Chair: Stephen DeMatteo, UNI.

Nick Weiner, Director, Ports Campaign, Change to Win/IBT. "The Port Truck Driver Campaign: Building Real Power for Workers in the On-Demand Economy"

Kathrin Birner, ver.di. "One click to empowerment? Chances and challenges for labour in the global value chain of e-commerce."

Luciole Sauviat, GLU alum, "Work Struggles at Amazon in Germany and Beyond. The Role of Solidarity Groups."

Thursday, October 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP I (cont.)

I:4 Gender at Work: Organizing & Mobilizing Among Women - ROOM 3012.

Chair – Lisa McGeown, Solidarity Center.

Archana Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). “Worker’s Organizations and the Challenges of Organizing Women Home Workers: A Case Study of Delhi (India) in Comparative Perspective.”

Lydia Edwards, Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Domestic Workers.

Mary Bellman, Penn State University, "Breaking through barriers: women's labor education as a mobilizing tool."

I:5 Organizing in the “Uber” Economy - MEANY ROOM

Chair: Paul Whitehead, Penn State University

New York Taxi Workers' Alliance. Speaker and title: tba.

Mac Urata, ITF, “Transport Workers Fighting Back – ITF’s Campaign on Uber.”

Kelly Ross, AFL-CIO, “Worker Rights in the On-Demand Economy.”

Thursday, October 1

2:00-3:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP II

II:1 Addressing Precarity: The Role of the State - ROOM 3012

Chair: Michele Williams, Wits University.

Christine Owens, Director, National Employment Law Project. Title tba.

Paliani Chinguwo, SATUCC, “Workers’ Rights and Labour Protection in Southern Africa: Context, Status and Sub-regional (SADC) Policy Response.”

Paulo Baltar and Eugenia Leone, Unicamp, “Growth with social inclusion and low income labor market in Brazil.”

Thursday, October 1
2:00-3:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP II (cont.)

II:2 Driving for Worker Power in the Global Auto Sector - ROOM 4012

Chair: Kristyne Peter, United Auto Workers (UAW)

Jorge Carillo, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte; (co-author: Graciela Bensusán) "Does Innovation go with Social Inclusion? Multinational Corporations in Mexico and the Auto Sector"

Praveen Jha, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University. "Corporations and Industrial Relations in the Era of Neo-Liberalism: Some Reflections from India."

Lorenza Monaco, SOAS. "Global production and local labour regimes: on the use of casual labour within the Indian Auto Industry."

II:3 Worker Action in the Informal Economy - GOMPERS ROOM

Chair: Devan Pillay, Wits University

Hao Zhang, Cornell University. "Informal Work and Labor Unrest in China."

Melisa R. Serrano, University of the Philippines; Edlira Xhafa, ILO, Geneva, "The 'positive transitioning effect' of trade unions: evidences from trade union initiatives facilitating the shift from informal and non-standard employment to formal and standard employment."

Martha Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO, "Organizing and Collective Bargaining by Informal Workers: Benefits, Challenges and Successes."

II:4 Sectoral Approaches To Organizing Worker Power on Global Supply Chains: Case Studies in Garment and Seafood - MEANY ROOM

Chair: Neha Misra, Solidarity Center

Anannya Bhattacharjee, Garment and Allied Workers Union, India, and Ashim Roy, Asia Floor Wage Alliance, New Trade Union Initiative, India, "Global Industrial Bargaining in Garment Industry."

J.J. Rosenbaum/Trudy Rebert, National Guestworker Alliance. "Bottom Up Approaches to Migrant Worker Organizing on Global Supply Chains in the Seafood Sector"

Frank Hoffer, GLU/ILO, "The Power of Migrants."

Thursday, October 1

2:00-3:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP II (cont.)

**II:5 What's New in the Toolbox? New Strategies for Global Corporate Campaigns -
*PRESIDENT'S ROOM***

Chair: Mark Anner, Penn State

Wilfried Schwetz, GLU Alumni, union researcher. "For a (Re-)Politization of Strategic Corporate Research: Using Social Movement Theory to Improve Strategic Research and Campaign Planning."

Tom Juravich, University of Massachusetts. "The Next Generation of Union Strategic Campaigns: Possibilities and Promises."

Jenny Holdcroft, IndustriAll. "Industrial Bargaining and Bangladesh."

Friday, October 2

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP III

III:1 Organized Business's Power in the Global Economy - *ROOM 3012.*

Chair: Alfred Mafuleka, COSATU

Elaine Sio-ieng Hui, City University of Hong Kong, (co-author: Chris King-chi CHAN). "The Associational Power of Overseas Business Associations in China—A Case Study of the Shenzhen Collective Consultation Ordinance and the Guangdong Regulations on Democratic Management of Enterprises."

Crispen Chinguno, Zimbabwe Institute for Socio-Economic & Labour Research, "Chinese investments, Marange diamonds and 'militarised capitalism' in Zimbabwe."

Nicolas Pons-Vignon, Wits University. "Is Outsourcing a Strategic Form of Corporate Restructuring? Dissenting Remarks on the South African Forestry Sector."

III:2 Weaving Workers' Power in the Global Textile Sector - *ROOM 7012.*

Chair: Judy Gearhart, International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF)

Sabrina Zajak, Institute for Social Movements, "Institutional layering and the emerging power of labour in Bangladesh."

Ravi Srivastava, Jawaharlal Nehru University. "What matters for labour standards in Indian garment factories? The impact of regulations, factory size, markets, and employment contracts on labour standards in the Delhi apparel industry."

David Cichon, Trinity College Dublin, "Financialisation and Labour Activism in the Global Garment Industry."

Friday, October 2

9.00 – 10:30 a.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP III (cont.)

III:3 Follow the Money: Banks, Debt, and Global Finance - *MEANY ROOM*

Chair: Heather Slavkin Corzo, AFL-CIO Office of Investment

Ana Rosa Ribeiro de Mendonça, Unicamp. “Country, public banks, banking inclusion and housing financing to low income population: a comparative study of the experience of Brazil and Chile in the 2000s.”

Trevor Evans, Berlin School of Economics. “The financial activities of multinational corporations.”

Behzad Azarhoushang, Kassel University and Berlin School of Economics and Law (BSEL). “The Effect of FDI on China's Position in the Global Value Chain.”

III:4 Building Global Worker Power in Global Supply Chains - *ROOM 4012*.

Chair: Euan Gibb, GLU alum.

Özge Berber Agtas (ILO-GLU) [co-author, Pınar Bilge Yenigün (ILO-GLU)] “A Struggle for Bargaining in a Multinational Corporation: IKEA Turkey.”

Janet Munakamwe, Wits University. “The interface between the legal and illegal mining processes: unpacking the value chain of illegally mined gold”

Michael Bride, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), “Turning Global Solidarity into Organizing Power: The Zara Experience”.

III:5 Economic Literacy, Interactive Workshop - *PRESIDENT'S ROOM*

Facilitators:

Yvette De La Cruz – AFL-CIO Popular Education Coordinator

Charlie Fanning – AFL-CIO Global Advocacy and Research Coordinator

This participatory workshop spotlights the AFL-CIO’s Common Sense Economics® member education tool. The featured workshop encourages workers to deconstruct the corporate rules of the global economy, identify how workers across the globe are connected, and take action to change the rules of the global economy.

Friday, October 2

9.00 – 10:30 a.m. Break Out Sessions GROUP III (cont.)

III:6 The Right to Strike - *GOMPERS ROOM*.

Chair: Stefanie Lorenzen, Berlin School of Economics.

Janice R. Bellace, University of Pennsylvania. “Defining International Labor Rights: Can There Be Freedom of Association without a Right to Strike?”

Jeff Vogt, ITUC, Discussant #1

Helen Russell, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (UK), Discussant #2.

Friday, October 2

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions Group IV

IV:1 From the Bottom to the Top: What Does It Take To Build Worker Power Up and Down Supply Chains? – *MEANY ROOM*

Chair: Praveen Jha, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Sabrina Zajak, Ruhr-University Bochum; [Co-authors: Hui Xu & Chris K.C. Chan.] “Mediating the Boomerang: Local Preconditions for Transnational Labor Activism.”

Aelim Yun, Korea National Open University, “Empowering ‘the bottom’ of supply chains to establish corporate responsibility.”

Bruno Dobrusin, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, “Working (and struggling) in the upper-side of the chain. The case of pharmaceutical representatives in Argentina.”

IV:2 Changing Climates, Changing Economies: Global Workers and the Environment - *GOMPERS ROOM*

Chair: Roxanne “Roxy” Brown, United Steelworkers (USW)

Jana Silverman, AFL-CIO Solidarity Center, “Neo-Developmentalism versus Sustainability?: An Analysis of the CUT Brazil’s Current Strategies to Reconcile Ecology, Industrial Policy and Economic Growth.”

Dimitris Stevis Colorado State University; [co-author: Romain Felli; “Green Transitions, Just Transitions? Fusing Social and Environmental Justice.”

Devan Pillay, Wits University, “Trade Union Revitalisation and the Prospects of an Eco-Socialist Working Class Politics in South Africa.”

Friday, October 2

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions Group IV (cont.)

IV:3 Strikes, Labor Activism, and the Global Crisis - *ROOM 4012.*

Chair: Chair: Mike Fichter, GLU

Immanuel Ness, CUNY and University of Johannesburg Centre for Social Change. "South African Mineworkers Militancy and Strikes, 2009-Present."

Alexander Gallas, GLU. "Strikes against the Cuts: Is there a Re-politicization of Trade Unionism in the UK?"

Jesse Wilderman, Service Employees International Union. "From Flexible Work to Mass Uprising: The Western Cape Farm Workers' Struggle."

IV:4 Labor Standards and Challenges in Today's Economic Structures - *PRESIDENT'S ROOM.*

Chair: Hansjorg Herr, Berlin School of Economics

Magda Barros Biavaschi, Unicamp, "Brazil, ILO Convention 158, The Right to Employment and the Challenges to Implementation in Brazil: Contradictions and Social Tensions. "

Christoph Scherrer, Kassel University. "What is the Price for a Social Chapter in an International Trade Agreement? The Risk of Co-optation."

Thea Lee, AFL-CIO. "Fresh Challenges for Enforcing Workers' Rights in Today's Global Economy."

IV:5 New Visions of Political Power: Worker Change at the Ballot Box. *ROOM 3012.*

Chair: Tobias Schulze-Cleven, Rutgers

Ian Perry, Global Labour University alum, Scotland, "Challenging neoliberalism in Europe - new coalitions of resistance in Greece and Spain"

Karen Nussbaum, Working America.

Eddie Cottle, Labour Research Service. "Class Collaboration and the Diminishing Power of Labour in South Africa."

Friday, October 2
2:30 – 4:00pm Break Out Sessions Group V

V:1 New Rules for the Global Economy: Where Are We Now? - *PRESIDENT'S ROOM*

Chair: Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO

Rafael Peels, ILO, "Reference to Corporate Social Responsibility in International Trade and Investment Agreements: Implications for MNCs and Workers' Rights."

Rosa Pavanelli, PSI. title tba.

Jeff Vogt, ITUC, "Taming Global Value Chains: Holding Corporations Accountable."

V.2. Sustainability and Resistance in the Face of Neoliberalism – *ROOM 3012*

Chair: Carolin Vollman, ITUC .

Bilge Çoban, GLU. "Unions Reflections on Urban Resistances of 2013 in Brazil and Turkey."

Anselmo Luis dos Santos, Campinas State University, Brazil. "Development and labor movements in Brazil."

Donna McGuire, University of Kassel, "Challenging the Power of Corporations. Lessons To Be Learned from Union Mobilization against the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)."

V:3 Solidarity: Local Activism and Global Corporations in Brazil - *MEANY ROOM*

Chair: Carlos Salas. Unicamp.

Leonardo Mello e Silva, University of São Paulo [co-authors: Ricardo Framil Filho, Raphael Freston] "Global Union Networks: The Brazilian Recent Experience."

Ana Paula Melli, Clair Siobhan, and Helio da Costa. "Trade union local action revitalizing the struggle against global capital; trade union networks: a path to follow?"

Scott Martin, CUNY, and Katuscia Galhera, UNICAMP/Penn State. "Wal-Mart in Brazil: From Global Diffusion to National Institutional Embeddedness"

Friday, October 2
2:30 – 4:00pm , Break Out Session, Group V

V:4 Building Power for Workers in the Construction and Textile Sectors – ROOM 4012

Chair: Patti Devlin, Laborers International Union of North America.

Jens Lerche, SOAS, University of London, UK, “The Triple Absence of Labours’ Rights: Triangular Labour Relations and Informalisation in the Construction and Garment Sectors in Delhi and Shanghai.”

Ramon Certeza, GLU Alumnus. Targeting textile and construction sector MNCs implied in sports mega-events: A Manual for labour campaigns to secure workers’ rights

Lane Windham, Penn State University. “The Cannon Mills Case: Out of the Southern Frying Pan, into the Global Fire (1974-1985).”

V:5 Bargaining with Buyers in GSCs: Bangladesh and Beyond - GOMPERS ROOM

Chair: Archana Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Uday Mahale, Siemens Employees Federation. “Siemens Workers Union, Country, Organizing Precarious Workers and Global Framework Agreements.”

Jyoti Sinha, University of Massachusetts, Boston. “Garment Workers from India and Bangladesh: Health and Safety Issues at Work.”

Garrett Brown, Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network. “Effective protection of workers’ health and safety in global supply chains.”