

# Labor and Capital in U.S. History

The transnational turn has introduced significant new perspectives on the history of labor and capitalism in the United States. While the state remains an important object of analysis, decentering the nation in labor history provides additional lenses that focus on circulations, interactions, and connections below or beyond the nation-state. According to Ian Tyrell, they focus attention on exchanges across national boundaries, the impact of asymmetrical power exerted by one nation, and networks of relations not contained by nation-states. In questioning a coherent, all-encompassing national narrative, the voices and visions of people and groups who have been marginalized in the context of a nationalist myopia are reclaimed.

The experiences of non-citizens and migrants, labor sojourners and "birds of passage," inhabitants of border regions, workers of international corporations, and new digital and remote workers help provide a more complete and more complex picture of what both labor and capital have meant in various historical contexts. Negotiations of labor rights, property rights, the rights of capital or corporate personship from the emergent nation-state to globalization accounts for different appraisals of labor heroes or radicals, benevolent tycoons or robber barons. Historians such as Kiran Klaus Patel, for example, root the history of the New Deal in a global context, connecting the history of labor and capital to that of U.S. hegemony in the twentieth century. Others, such as Julie Greene, connect the immigrant experience with American empire. Likewise, Donna Gabaccia focuses on the migration world of Italian workers, and Mae Ngai traces the role of "impossible" illegal immigrant workers in the making of America.

## 2022 Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association for American Studies DGfA/GAAS

This conference brings together scholars working on labor and capital in U.S. history for virtual panels.

Attendance is free of charge. Register for this two-day Zoom event via Eventbrite:  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/conference-labor-and-capital-in-us-history-tickets-243453605287](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conference-labor-and-capital-in-us-history-tickets-243453605287)

**All times CET** (subtract hours: UTC -1, EST -6, PST -9)

### Organizers

Axel Schäfer, Anja-Maria Bassimir, Torsten Kathke

Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

[www.obama-institute.com/laborandcapital](https://www.obama-institute.com/laborandcapital)

[dgfahist2022@uni-mainz.de](mailto:dgfahist2022@uni-mainz.de)



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für Amerikastudien

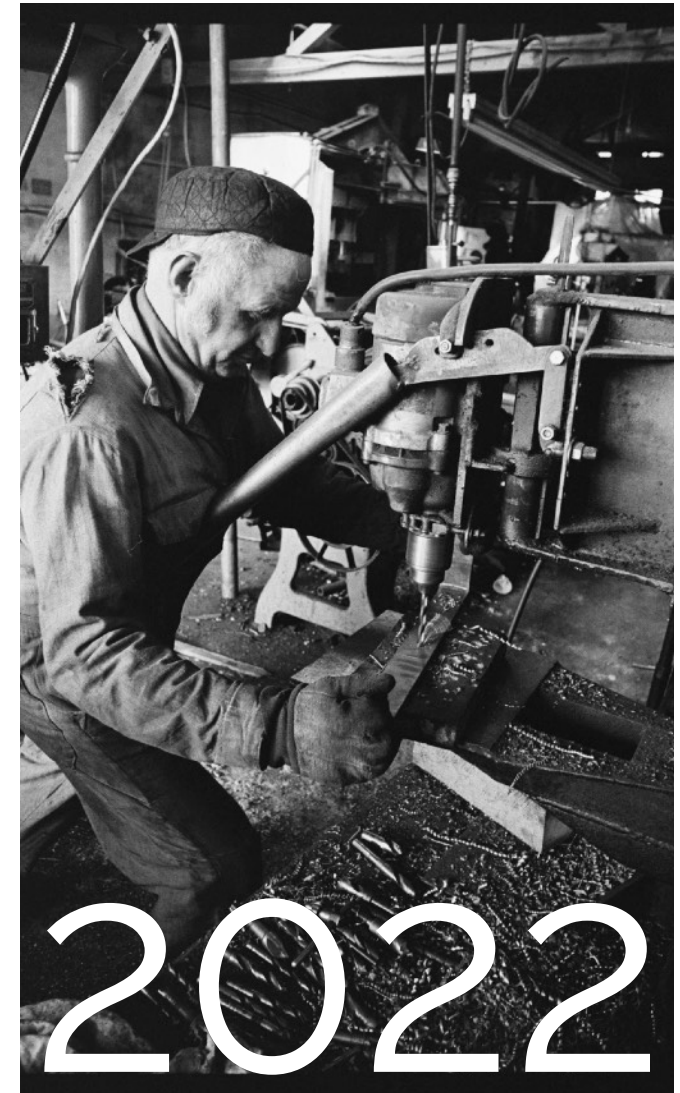


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# Labor and Capital in U.S. History

Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association for American Studies

**February 11–12, 2022**



# Conference Program

## Friday, February 11, 2022

- 11:00–11:30** *Conference Opening*
- 11:30–13:00** *Panel I: Normalizing Neoliberalism*  
Anja-Maria Bassimir, Torsten Kathke,  
Axel Schäfer
- 13:00–14:00* *Break*
- 14:00–15:00** *Gather.town I: Doctoral Poster  
Presentation and Organization  
Presentation*
- 15:00–16:30** *Panel II: Socialism and Marxism*  
Severin Müller, Cord Scott, Olga  
Thierbach-McLean
- 16:30–17:15* *Break*
- 17:15–18:30** *Keynote I: David Roediger*  
*“Is the US a Middle Class Nation?  
Past and Present”*



## Saturday, February 12, 2022

- 9:30–10:00** *Welcome and Housekeeping*
- 10:00–11:30** *Roundtable:*  
Dirk Hoerder, Axel Jansen, Jan  
Logemann, Natalie Rauscher
- 11:30–13:00** *Panel III: Internationalism,  
Transnationalism, and Empire*  
David Bebnowski, Lorenzo  
Costaguta, Richard Saich
- 13:00–14:00* *Break*
- 14:00–15:00** *Gather.town II: Doctoral Poster  
Presentation and Organization  
Presentation*
- 15:00–17:00** *Panel IV: Labor Law and  
Labor Rights*  
Dominic Allen, Sydney Ramirez,  
Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, D. Caleb  
Smith
- 17:00–17:15* *Break*
- 17:15–18:30** *Keynote II: Elizabeth Faue*  
*“Fighting for It Under a Different  
Name’: Collaboration and  
Conflict, Labor and the New  
Social Movements”*
- 18:30–20:00** *Business Meeting*  
DGfA/GAAS members only

## Zoom Conference

All of the conference will  
be held live via Zoom.  
Make sure to register via  
Eventbrite (see reverse).

## Poster Presentations

This conference will have  
poster presentations by  
doctoral students:

Ayman Al Sharafat  
Venus S. Bender  
Sandra Meerwein  
Alexander Reineke

## Thanks

This conference was  
made possible by the  
Obama Institute for  
Transnational Studies at  
Johannes Gutenberg  
University, the IEG Mainz  
and the German  
Association for American  
Studies, DGfA/GAAS.

Further presentations will  
feature organizations  
relevant to the field of  
U.S. history in Europe.

All poster presentations  
will be held via  
gather.town. Links will be  
made available during  
the conference.

