

TOBIAS HIGBIE

Professor of History and Labor Studies
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Director: Institute for Research on Labor & Employment, 2022-2025

Chair: Labor Studies interdepartmental degree program 2008-2012, 2014 to 2022

Professor: Department of History, University of California Los Angeles, 2017 to present.
Associate Professor, 2007-2017.

Assistant Professor: Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, Labor Education Program,
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2005 to 2007.

Director: Center for Family and Community History, the Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois,
2000-2005.

Visiting Assistant Professor: History Department, University of Illinois, 1999.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, January 2000

M.A., History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 1993

B.A., with distinction in History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 1988

PUBLICATIONS

Research Article: Tobias Higbie and Gaspar Rivera Salgado, "The Border at Work: Undocumented Workers, the ILGWU in Los Angeles, and the Limits of Labor Citizenship," Labor: Studies in Working-Class History 19 (December 2022): 58-88.

Report: "LAWCHA Watch: Making Labor and Working-Class History in Los Angeles," Labor: Studies in Working-Class History 18(March 2021): 6-9.

Book: Labor's Mind: A History of Working-class Intellectual Life (University of Illinois Press, 2019).

Research Article: "Heartland: The Politics of a Regional Signifier," Middle West Review 1(Spring 2014): 81-90.

Research Article: "Why Do Robots Rebel? The Labor History of a Cultural Icon," Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas 10 (Spring 2013): 99-121.

Co-authored Essay: Kathryn J. Oberdeck and Frank Tobias Higbie, "Labour and Popular Print Culture," chapter 12 in Christine Bold, ed., U.S. Popular Print Culture, 1860-1920 (Oxford History of Popular Print Culture) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Book Chapter: "Unschooling but Not Uneducated: Print, Public Speaking, and the Networks of Informal Working-Class Education, 1900-1940," pp. 103-125 in Adam R. Nelson and John L. Rudolph, eds., Education and the Culture of Print in Modern America (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010).

Book Chapter: "Between Romance and Degradation: Navigating the Meanings of Vagrancy in North America, 1870-1940," pp. 250-269 in Augustus Lee Beier and Paul Osofsky, eds., Cast Out: A Global History of Vagrancy. Ohio University Press, 2008.

Research Article: "Rural Work, Household Subsistence, and the North American Working Class: A View from the Midwest," International Labor and Working Class History 65(Spring 2004): 50-76.

Book Chapter: "'Like the Flock of Swallows That Come in the Springtime': The Uneasy Place of Hobo Workers in Midwestern Economy and Culture" in Donna Gabaccia, James Grossman, and Marc Rodriguez, eds., Repositioning North American Migration History: New Directions in Modern Continental Migration and Citizenship (Rochester: Rochester University Press, 2004).

Book: Indispensable Outcasts: Hobo Workers and Community in the American Midwest, 1880-1930. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003.

Research Article: "Crossing Class Boundaries: Tramp Ethnographers and Narratives of Class in Progressive Era America," Social Science History 21:4 (Winter 1997): 559-592.

Research Article: "Indispensable Outcasts: Harvest Laborers in the Wheat Belt of the Middle West, 1890-1925," Labor History 38(Fall 1997): 393-412.

GRANTS, AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Research Grant (2022-23), *UCLA Academic Senate, Council on Research*.

Research Enabling Grant (2019-20), *UCLA Academic Senate, Council on Research*.

Fellow, *UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy*, 2017-18. Project title: "Reframing Solidarity: What History Can Tell Us about Labor Policy and Social Movement Strategy in the Trump Era."

Lemelson Award for Innovative Digital Projects in Social Research (with Janna Shadduck-Hernandez, Saba Waheed, and Preeti Sharma), *UCLA Division of Social Sciences*, 2015. Project title: "Young Workers Animated for Change."

Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History, The Newberry Library, Chicago (2013-2014).

Best Article Prize, volumes 9 and 10 of *Labor* (2014) for "Why Do Robots Rebel?"

UCLA Institute for Research on Labor & Employment, Course Development Grant, 2010 for the "Southern California History of Organizing Project."

University of California Labor and Employment Research Fund, 2008 for Research on "Working Class Readers, Libraries, and Networks of Self-Education in the United States, 1900-1950.

Philip Taft Labor History Book Award. Annual award of the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations for best book in labor history awarded jointly to *Indispensable Outcasts* and Robert Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism*.

Allan Sharlin Memorial Award of the Social Science History Association, 2004. Annual award of the Social Science History Association for outstanding book in social science history awarded to *Indispensable Outcasts*.

Dissertation Completion Fellowship: University of Illinois Graduate College, 1998-1999. Fellowship based on University-wide competition among advanced doctoral candidates.

Joseph Ward Swain Publication Award: Department of History, University of Illinois, 1998. Awarded for "Crossing Class Boundaries" in *Social Science History*.

William C. Widenor Teaching Fellowship: Department of History, University of Illinois, 1997-98.

PUBLIC and DIGITAL HISTORY

Research Director, *Memory Work Los Angeles* (community archives, oral histories, and digital collections), <https://memorywork.irle.ucla.edu/> (ongoing)

Co-Principal Investigator (with Janna Shadduck-Hernandez), *Young Workers Animated for Change*, Lemelson Award for Innovative Digital Projects in Social Research, 2015-16.

Principal Investigator, *Networks of Economic Justice* (research and open data project, ongoing), <http://socialjusticehistory.org/projects/networkedlabor/>

Co-Principal Investigator (with Gaspar Rivera Salgado), *Mobile Data Collection Tool for Student Field Research*, UCLA Instructional Improvement Grant, Office of Instructional Development (2012).

Project Director, *North American Midlands Website Project: Resources for Teaching and Learning American History in a Global Perspective*. Funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2004-2006. Website released August 2010 as "Frontier to Heartland: Making History in Central North America": www.publications.newberry.org/frontiertoheartland.

Project Director and Co-Curator, *Outspoken: Chicago's Free Speech Tradition* <http://publications.newberry.org/outspoken/>. Exhibit collaboration between Newberry Library and Chicago Historical Society funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, 2003-2005. Exhibit in place October 2004-January 2005.

Project Director, *"The Souls of Black Folk:" A Centennial Lecture Series and Exhibit at the Newberry Library on the Legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois*, January to April 2003. Funded by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council.

TEACHER EDUCATION PROJECTS

Co-Principal Investigator (with Ross Dunn, Kelly Lytle Hernandez, and Patrick Manning), *Alliance for Curriculum and Professional Development in World History* (2012-13). Social Science Research Council/British Council grant to the UCLA National Center for History in the Schools and the University of Pittsburgh World History Center.

Academic Director, *Connecting with American History Project* (2004-2005, project runs 2005-2007). U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History grant awarded to the Chicago Public Schools.

Academic Director, *Chicago History Project* (2002-2005). U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History grant awarded to the Chicago Public Schools.

Project Director, *National History Project, Chicago Summer Institute for Teaching Faculty*. A joint program of the National Council on Education in the Disciplines and the Newberry Library to create a research-oriented professional development project for high school and college faculty (summer 2001).

Project Director, *Work and Community History Workshop*. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded July 2001.

RECENT CONFERENCE and SEMINAR PARTICIPATION

Panelist, "The Mexican Left and the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s: The Political Legacy of Bert Corona," UCLA Center for Mexican Studies, April 27, 2022.

"Progressive Triangulation: Industrial Conversion, Municipal Politics, and Labor's Electoral Strategy in Los Angeles," with Gaspar Rivera Salgado. Labor and Working-Class History Association, June 2021.

"Roots of Resistance: Organizing Undocumented Immigrants in Los Angeles, 1965-1994," with Gaspar Rivera Salgado. Colloquium of the UCLA Center for the Study of International Migration, August 3, 2020.

Panelist, "Digital Labor History and Historical Sources as Data," Organization of American Historians, Philadelphia, April 2019.

"Workers' Education and the Origins of Industrial Relations in California," Labor and Working-Class History Association, Seattle, June 2016.

"The Pacific Coast School for Workers and the Origins of Industrial Relations in the Multiversity," Social Science History Association, Chicago, October 2016.

"Networked Labor? Digital Metaphors and Social Movement Pasts," North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, October 2015.

Organizer and Panelist, "Laboring Big Data: Workshop on Digital Methods for Labor and Working-Class History" Labor and Working Class History Association, June 2015.

"Not by the Hand of Clark Kerr: The Pacific Coast School for Workers and the Origin of Industrial Relations in the Multiversity," Newberry Library Labor History Seminar, February 13, 2015.

"A Networked Labor Movement? Visualization and the Practice of Social History," UCLA Digital Labor Research Group Seminar, February 10, 2015.

"Imagining Knowledge as Power: The Visual Culture of Working-class Self-Education," Newberry Library Fellows' Seminar, November 2013.

"School of Hard Knocks: Learning, Living, and the Politics of Working Class Knowledge," Newberry Library Labor History Seminar, April 13, 2012.

"Return of the Open Shop: the Long View of Recent Labor Law Changes in the U.S.," Binational Video Conference on Labor Law Reform in the U.S.A. and Mexico, Institute for Transnational Social Change, UCLA Labor Center and Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Linea de Estudios Laborales, February 15, 2012.

"From 'Living Automats' to 'Mechanical Men': Shifting Images of Robots in the 1920s and 1930s," Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 2010 [title different in program].

"Not from What I Read but From What I Lived: Experience, Learning, and the Making of Working Class Rebels," Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 13, 2009.

RECENT INVITED LECTURES and PANELS

Panelist, "Labor and the Media: Labor Adapts its Message to New Media Environments," New York State Labor History Association, May 20, 2021.

Panelist, "Perspectives on Academic Freedom: Then and Now" UCLA History Department "Why History Matters" series, November 4, 2019.

Panelist, "What is the Midwest?" Newberry Library, October 5, 2019.

Panelist, "Forty Years of the Working Class in American History Series: Looking Forward, Looking Back," Newberry Library Labor History Seminar, October 27, 2018.

"Picturing Knowledge as Power: The Visual Culture of Workers' Education," Newberry Library Colloquium, April 2014.

ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of California.

UCLA History Department: Academic Personnel Committee (2011-13, 2015-17); Director, Public History Initiative (2014-2016); Teaching Review Committee (2012-13, 2016-17); Graduate Admissions Committee (2009, 2013); Undergraduate Program Committee (2011-12); Faculty Advisor, National Center for History in the Schools (2010 to present); U.S. Field Coordinator (2008-09); Graduate Affairs Committee (2008-09).

UCLA Labor Studies Interdepartmental Degree Program: Chair, 2019-2022. Chair, Labor & Workplace Studies minor (2008-2012, 2014-2019).

UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE): Faculty Advisory Board (2007-13, 2014-19); Associate Director (2008-2012, 2017-19); UC Labor & Employment Research Fund Review Committee (2008).

UCLA Academic Senate: College Faculty Executive Committee (2017-2019); Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication (2011-13, 2014-15, Chair, 2015-16); Review committee, Society & Culture General Education Requirement (2016); General Education Governance Committee (2012-13, 2014-15).

UCLA Office of Residential Life: Faculty-in-Residence (2012-13, 2014-22).

Peer Review

Associate Editor for Contemporary Affairs, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*.

Reviewed manuscripts for: *University of Illinois Press*; *University of California Press*; *Labor*; *Labor History*; *International Labor and Working-Class History*; *Labor Studies Journal*; *Left History*; *Middle West Review*; *Nebraska History*; *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

Professional Associations

Labor and Working-Class History Association: elected member, Board of Directors 2015-18.
Social Science History Association (Program Committee member for 2006 Annual Meeting).
American Historical Association (Local Arrangements Committee for 2003 Annual Meeting).