

Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation CFP

Posted on October 22, 2018 by Rosemary Feurer

The Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) is pleased to announce its annual Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in U.S. Labor and Working-Class History, established in cooperation with the University of Illinois Press. LAWCHA encourages the study of working people, their lives, workplaces, communities, organizations, cultures, activism, and societal contexts. It aims to promote a diverse and cross-cultural understanding of labor and working-class history. And it encourages innovative, theoretically-informed and interdisciplinary approaches. Transnational and comparative studies are also welcomed.

The dissertation prize is named in honor of the late Herbert G. Gutman, a pioneering labor historian and a founder of the University of Illinois Press's Working Class in American History Series. LAWCHA hopes that the spirit of Gutman's inquiry into the many facets of labor and working-class history will live on through this prize.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$750 from LAWCHA along with up to \$500 in travel expenses to attend the awards ceremony, and a contract to publish in the Working Class in American History Series. The prize award is contingent upon the author's acceptance of the contract with the University of Illinois Press.

According to the Working Class in American History editors, the series publishes "research that illuminates the broad dimensions of working people's influence in North America. We define working-class history capaciously and encourage submissions that explore waged, non-waged, and/or coerced labor, rural and urban settings, and the wide range of labor performed in non-industrial settings, from agriculture to domestic service and beyond. We welcome consideration of the diverse contexts of the lives of those who work, including legal, political, and ideological aspects, as well as parameters of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration. As we seek to enhance understanding of pre-industrial and industrializing worlds, we also explore the new challenges that workers face amidst deindustrialization, globalized production, and an expanding service economy. We

particularly seek projects that reflect the mobile, international, and diverse nature of capital and labor and apply a transnational or comparative outlook to the study of the working class. We find compelling work that considers the centrality of working people within the history of capitalism.”

Eligible dissertations must be in English and defended in the academic year 2017-18 (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018). Applicants are not required to be members of LAWCHA at the time of the submission. The winner will be announced at our national conference.

To apply send two electronic copies of the dissertation (one in pdf and one in Word.doc format) along with a letter from the dissertation advisor confirming the date of the defense (a letter of recommendation is not required). Submissions should also include a cover letter with full contact information: name, professional or home address, email, and telephone. Entries must be submitted by January 3, 2019 to: LAWCHA lawcha@duke.edu with the subject line **Gutman Prize**.

Author



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Rosemary Feurer is Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. She is the author of *Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*, among other books and essays. She is working on *The Illinois Mine Wars, 1860-1940* and a new biography of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.