

STEPHANIE FORTADO

Labor Education Program, 504 E Armory Avenue #227, Champaign, Illinois 61820
217-722-7544 ♦ seawell2@illinois.edu

CURRENT AND PAST POSITIONS

- **October 2016-Present, Assistant Teaching Professor and Co-Director of Regina V. Polk Womens' Labor Leadership Program, Labor Education Program, University of Illinois**
 - Develop classes, lectures and workshops on a variety of labor topics, including race and labor, labor history, economics, women's leadership and communications for adult extension program.
 - Teach undergraduate classes including Labor History and Gender, Race, Class and Work.
 - Co-Direct The Regina V. Polk Women's Labor Leadership Program, which includes an annual conference and multi-month program to develop women's leadership in labor unions.
- **2014-2016, Executive Director, Illinois Labor History Society (ILHS)**
 - Taught labor history education workshops for national union conferences, state-wide conventions, apprenticeship programs, retiree groups, and other programs.
 - Developed two small gallery exhibitions using ILHS archival materials.
 - Coordinated two day-long high school teacher professional development trainings on railroad and canal labor history at Pullman National Site and the I&M Canal National Heritage Area.
 - Coordinated the annual Union Hall of Honor Dinner, including the 2016 dinner honoring the lives and achievements of Black Illinois labor leaders as part of a program entitled Illinois Labor and the Great Migration: 100 years.

EDUCATION

- PhD in U.S. History University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2014
(Specialties: African American History, U.S. Working Class History, Civil Rights and Black Power History, Environmental History, U.S. Urban History)
- MA in History, Indiana University, Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indianapolis, Indiana, 2006
- BA in Mass Communications, and Minor in History, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, 1998

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- June 2023, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Reading, Writing, and Teaching the Rust Belt: Co-Creating Regional Humanities Ecosystems
- Spring 2022, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
- Spring 2019, Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Labor Education, for Women and Power: Building a Toolbox for Leadership
- Spring 2018, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chicago Chapter, Olga Manar Award
- Fall 2013, Widenor Teaching Fellowship, University of Illinois, Department of History
- 2012-2013, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellow, University of Illinois
- 2012-2013, The Natalia Belting Fellowship, University of Illinois, Department of History
- 2009-2010, Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems Scholar, University of Illinois

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, with Emily Twarog, *Lowell, the Spindle City*, published by the Organization of American Historians in concert with the National Park Service, forthcoming 2023
- Burton, Fortado, et. al., "Histories of a Radical Book: A roundtable conversation on empire, colonialism, and E.P. Thompson's *The Making of the English Working Class*," *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, volume 22, number 2, Summer 2021.

- Co-Editor, with Antoinette Burton, *Histories of a Radical Book*, Berghan Books, November 2020.
- “Workplace Sexual Abuse, Labor and the #MeTooMovement” commentary, *Labor Studies Journal*, volume 43, issue 4, 2018.
- “Where do We Go From Here? Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Labor Legacy and the Current Attacks on Public Sector Unions,” *Illinois Public Employee Relations Report* (ITI Chicago Kent College of Law), Spring 2018.
- Co-Editor, with Antoinette Burton, Special Issue on World Histories and the 50th Anniversary of E.P. Thompson’s “Making of the English Working Class,” *Historical Reflections/Reflections Historique*, 2015.
- Review of Jack S. Blocker, *A Little More Freedom; African Americans Enter the Urban Midwest, 1860-1930*, *Journal of Illinois History*, v. 11, no. 3, Autumn 2008.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Steelworkers on Campus: 75 Years of the United Steelworkers of America Summer School” poster session, Labor and Employment Relations Association, Detroit, June 2023.
- “The Talking City: Labor, Landscapes, and Gender in Industrializing Lowell, Massachusetts,” Organization of American Historians, Boston, April 2022.
- “Drawing the Building Trades into Labor History,” poster session, United Association for Labor Education, Philadelphia, April 2019.
- “Shared Struggle, Strategy and Success! Labor Education Takes on Today’s Challenges” United Association for Labor Education, Seattle, April 2018.
- “Building Community Power: Youth Organizing and Recreation in 1960s Cleveland Ohio,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, September 2017.
- “Circuits of Struggle: Local and Global Networks of Activists and Ideas in the Black Midwestern Protest Tradition,” Roundtable, Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, April 2017.
- “University Special Collections as Community Spaces” Roundtable, Organization of American Historians, Providence, April 2016.
- “Dynamite in the Garden: Public Cultural Space During the Rise of Black Power and the Urban Rebellions, Cleveland 1960-1968,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Memphis, September 2014.
- “Planting Diaspora in a Garden: The fight to Establish Cleveland’s African American Cultural Garden, 1945-1977,” Remapping the Black Atlantic Diaspora: (Re)writings of Race and Space Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, April 2013.
- “Sport and Black Community Building in the Midst of Urban Renewal, Cleveland Ohio, 1945-1970,” National Council for Black Studies, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 2013.
- “The Jomo “Freedom” Kenyatta House: Black Power and the Development of Public Recreation Space in Cleveland, Ohio, 1964-1967,” The Vernacular Architecture Forum, Madison, Wisconsin, June 2012.
- “The Jomo “Freedom” Kenyatta House: Youth, Recreation and Black Power in Cleveland Ohio, 1964-1967,” The Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 2011.
- “From Urban Park to ‘Open Dump’: Race and the Disinvestment of Garfield Park in Cleveland, Ohio, 1942-1983,” American Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, October 2011.
- “Churches, Alleys, and Parking Lots: Building Playgrounds for Underserved Black Youth in Cleveland Ohio, 1945-1975,” National Council for Black Studies, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2011.
- “Six Tin Cans in a Field: Douglass Golf Course and the Building of Black Community in Indianapolis, 1926-2006,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2010.
- “The Sowinski Six: Rape, Race and Public Space, Cleveland, Ohio, 1963,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2009.

TEACHING

- 2017-Present, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 - 2021 American Immigration History (HIS312)
 - 2021, 2020 and 2019 US Labor History (LER 130), online course
 - 2021, 2020, 2019 Gender, Race, Class and Work (LER 320)
 - 2017 US Labor History, independent study directed research
- 2015, Substitute Lead Instructor – Roosevelt University, Chicago
 - Fall 2015, Labor Economics (one month substitute instructor)
- 2012-2014, Lead Instructor – University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 - Spring 2014, United States History of Emotions
 - Fall 2013, African American Environmental History (Widenor Teaching Fellowship)
 - Summer 2012, Twentieth Century European History

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “The Importance of Story Telling to Historians, Labor Unions and Community Building,” panel, The Urbana Independent Media Center, (2021)
- “Finding Labor in the Archives: The History of Champaign County's Labor Movement,” guest talk, Urbana Free Library, (2021)
- “Women and Labor in the 1930s,” guest talk with Emily Twarog, Krannert Art Museum, (2020)
- “Humanities Without Walls” panel, co-hosted by the Graduate College and Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (2018)
- Panelist “#TimesUp” panel, hosted by The Women’s Resources Center (2018)
- “The Lessons of Mary Harris Jones and Lucy Parsons Applied Today,” Keynote Speech, 32nd Annual Mother Jones Dinner Saturday, Springfield, IL (2017)

SERVICE

- Mother Jones Museum and Heritage Project, Board of Directors (2018-)
- Highway Construction Careers Training Program, Parkland College, Advisory Board (2018-)
- Illinois Labor History Society, Board of Trustees (2016-)
- United Association for Labor Education, Board Midwest Region Representative (2018-2022)
- David Montgomery Book Award Selection Committee, Organization of American Historians (2017)

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Co-Director of “Critical Interventions in Labor Education” research cluster, at the University of Illinois Humanities Research Institute (2021-2022).
- Selected by the National Organization of American Historians and the National Parks Service to co-write a manuscript-length historical review for the Lowell National Monument and create a StoryMap digital app in support of the project (to be published in 2023).
- Helped launch the Champaign-Urbana Initiative for Labor Diversity (CUILD), a University-community partnership to bring more workers of color and women into the local building trades (2017). Led a series of community meetings that brought together 80 community stakeholders, with the goal of diversifying the local building trades.
- Worked with a labor radio program to write a daily 2-minute labor history podcast, called “Labor History in 2:00,” which has been hosted on multiple social media sites, played on more than 30 radio stations and downloaded over one million times.
- Completed the Ohio Humanities Council’s Oral History Training Institute (2010).