WORK, CLASS, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IN THE GLOBAL AGE OF AUGUST BEBEL (1840–1913)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, MAY 25–27, 2023
Program

THURSDAY, 25 MAY

9:30 Welcome from James Retallack, Toronto, and Simone Lässig, Washington D.C.
   (Campbell Conference Facility, South House, Munk School of Global Affairs, 1 Devonshire Place)

10:00–11:30 Session 1 Work, Class, and Race

Moderator: Swen Steinberg, German Historical Institute, Washington D.C.

Work, Class, Race, and Violence in German Southwest Africa before 1914
Steven Press, Stanford University, Stanford

Different Worlds of Work? Actors, Interests, and the Concepts of Work, Care and Violence Along
the Global Commodity-chain of Diamonds from Colonial Namibia, 1908–1913
Mona Rudolph, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Comment: Matthew P. Fitzpatrick, Flinders University, Adelaide

11:30–1:30 p.m. Break

1:30–3:00 Session 2 Labour Movements and European Emergencies

Moderator: Janine Murphy, College of the North Atlantic, St. John’s

Emergency Politics and the Rise of the Labor Movement in France, Germany, and Italy (1848–1898)
Amerigo Caruso, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

German Social Democrats in July 1914: The Anti-war Protests Reconsidered
Andrew Bonnell, University of Queensland, Brisbane

Comment: David Blackbourn, Vanderbilt University, Nashville

3:00–3:30 p.m. Break

3:30–5:00 Session 3 Blood, Sweat, and Food

Moderator: Jens-Uwe Guettel, Pennsylvania State University, State College

Liberated from Work or Deprived of a Livelihood? Food and the Future of the Peasantry in Social
Democratic Thought
Carolyn Taratko, Universität Erfurt

Becoming the Third Pillar of Socialism: The Relationship of German Social Democracy to
Consumer Cooperatives at the Turn of the 20th Century
Philipp Urban, Institut für soziale Bewegungen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Comment: Celia Applegate, Vanderbilt University, Nashville
5:00–6:15 p.m.  Break  (Musical reflections on work, class, and social democracy, The Rose Orchestra Wind Quintet, Debates Room, 2nd floor, Hart House, with cash bar)

6:15–7:45  Keynote Address  (Debates Room, 2nd floor, Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle)

Moderator: Simone Lässig, German Historical Institute, Washington D.C.

“A Workers’ Emperor and a Workers’ President? Germany’s August Bebel and Brazil’s Luís Inácio Lula da Silva in Comparative Perspective”

Speaker: John D. French, Professor of History and African and African-American Studies, Duke University, Durham

This event is made possible by the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts, 2022–23, on its annual theme of labour.

FRIDAY, 26 MAY

10:00–11:30  Session 4  Resistance in the Workplace, Resistance to the State  (Munk School)

Moderator: Philipp Urban, Institut für soziale Bewegungen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Establishing Order in the Workplace: Legal Negotiations of Industrial Relations in Nineteenth-century Germany
Johanna Wolf, Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie, Frankfurt a.M.

Work and Work Ethics of a Craftsman, Businessman, and Socialist Politician: August Bebel’s Relationship to Work and Labour
Jürgen Schmidt, Museum Karl-Marx-Haus, Trier

Comment: Stefan Berger, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

11:30–1:00 p.m.  Break

1:00–2:30  Session 5  Labour, Class, State Security, and Violence

Moderator: Amerigo Caruso, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

Joining the Histories of Labour and Security: Class Formation, Negative Integration, and State Security in Britain and Germany
Christine Krüger, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

‘Now the only thing left for us to do is to take the path of violence’: Resistance and Rebellion in the German Empire from 1900 to 1914 and Beyond
Jens-Uwe Guettel, Pennsylvania State University, State College

Comment: Anja Kruke, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn
SATURDAY, 27 MAY

9:00– Session 6  Class, Religion, and Modernization  (Munk School)
10:30
Moderator:  Carolyn Taratko, Universität Erfurt

Precarious Integration: The Making and Unmaking of Working-Class Gymnasts in the Transatlantic German Gymnastics Movement, 1860–1900
Janine Murphy, College of the North Atlantic, St. John’s

August Bebel, Islam, and the Pre-History of Socialist Modernity
Matthew P. Fitzpatrick, Flinders University, Adelaide

Comment: Andrew Bonnell, University of Queensland, Brisbane

10:30–11:00 a.m.  Break

11:00– Roundtable
12:30
Moderator: Stefan Berger, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

David Blackbourn (Vanderbilt University), Jürgen Kocka (Freie Universität Berlin), James Retallack (University of Toronto), and the audience

12:30– Closing Remarks
1:00

* * *

CONVENORS

• James Retallack, Senior Associate, DAAD/University of Toronto Joint Initiative in German and European Studies, Centre for Russian, European, and Eurasian Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Toronto

• Simone Lässig, Director, and Swen Steinberg, Affiliated Scholar, German Historical Institute, Washington D.C.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

• Anja Kruke, Director, Archive of Social Democracy, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Bonn

• Stefan Berger, Director, Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University Bochum

REGISTRATION  (all events on the program are free of charge and open to the public)

• All sessions: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/labour-conference-toronto-tickets-527237169567

• Keynote address: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/germanys-august-bebel-and-brazils-luis-inacio-lula-da-silva-in-comparison-tickets-526797785357
The Convenors wish to acknowledge generous support from the following:

- Alison K. Smith, Chair, Department of History, University of Toronto
- Alison Keith, Director, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto
- Program for the Arts, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto
- Office of the Vice-President, International, University of Toronto
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Department of History, University of Toronto, staff
- Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto, staff
- Hart House, University of Toronto, staff
- German Historical Institute, Washington D.C., staff
- Steven McClellan

This event is funded in part by the DAAD with funds from the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

Photo credit: La grève des mineurs du Pas-de-Calais, in: Le Petit Journal. Supplément illustré, April 1, 1906, Wikimedia Commons / Jan Veth: August Bebel, woodcut, Amsterdam 1896, Wikimedia Commons