

AUGUSTUS C. WOOD, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor
Labor Education Program
School of Labor and Employer Relations
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Champaign, IL 61820

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Ongoing Assistant Professor
Labor Education Program/School of Labor and Employment Relations, University
Of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & History
- 2020-2022 Postdoctoral Research Associate
Labor Education Program/School of Labor and Employment Relations, University
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

EDUCATION

- 2020 **Ph.D.**, in History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Committee: Sundiata Cha-Jua (Advisor/Director of Research), Rana
Hogarth, Kathryn Oberdeck, Terri Barnes, Ruby Mendenhall
Dissertation: “Apartheid and Resistance in the Political Economy of
Gentrification: The Dialectics of Black Working Class Struggles in
Atlanta, 1970-2015”
- 2012 **M.A.**, in History, Clark Atlanta University
- 2007 **B.A.**, in History, Morehouse College

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Specialty: African American History, Modern U.S., U.S. Urban/Labor History, Social Movements

Intellectual Interests: Political Economy & Racial Oppression/Gentrification, Working Class
Labor, and Social Movements in Late 20th & Early 21st African American
Urban History; Historical Materialism/Marxism in African American
History.

PUBLICATIONS (KEY: *In Progress, +Accepted, #In Print)

Books

+ Augustus Wood, *Class Warfare in Black Atlanta: Grassroots Struggles, Resistance, and
Repression under Gentrification*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
2025.

* Augustus Wood and Antoinette Burton. *Untitled edited collection on Black radical*

historiography (Book proposal currently in drafting stage, expected to be complete in 2022.)

Refereed Journal Articles

- #Augustus Wood, “The Ugliest Thing You’ll Ever See: Dollar Stores, Extended Stay Motels, and The Crisis of Black Sub-Working Class Labor in Present Day America,” *Perspectives on Work*, Volume 27, 2023, pp. 2-6.
- # Augustus Wood, “Towards a Theory of Super-Exploitation: The Subproletariat, Harold “Hal” Baron and the Crisis of the Political Economy of Black Labor,” *Labor Studies Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 4, Special Issue on African American Workers and the COVID Crisis, December 2022, pp. 462-488.
- # Augustus Wood, “The Crisis of the Black Worker, the U.S. Labor Movement and Democracy For All,” *Labor Studies Journal*, Volume 44, Issue 4, 2020.

Refereed Reports

- #Alison Dickson, Augustus Wood, “City of Chicago Tipped Worker Report: Chapter One: The State of Tipped Work in Chicago - Findings from Surveys of Restaurant and bar Employees in 2022 and Chapter Two: New Evidence of the Effects of Minimum Wages on Tipped Workers and Minimum Wage Noncompliance,” Report for the City of Chicago,” September 2023, pp. 1-119.

Book Chapters

- + Augustus Wood, “Seeing Red: Philip S. Foner, Black Agency, White Supremacy, and Critical Interventions in the Golden Age of Radical African American History,” in Untitled Collection on the life and scholarship of Philip S. Foner. International Publishers, Inc. 9,000 words.
- + Augustus Wood, “African American Women and Working-Class Movements in the Civil Rights and Black Power Eras,” chapter in John Solomos (ed.), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. 8,500 words.
- + Augustus Wood, “African American resistance in the Antebellum Era,” chapter in John Solomos (ed.), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. 9,000 words.
- # Augustus Wood and Sundiata Cha-Jua, “Black Marxism,” chapters in Karin Stanford, Akinyele Umoja, and Jasmin Young (eds.) *Black Power Encyclopedia: From "Black is Beautiful" to Urban Uprisings"* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Books, 2018). 1,700 Words.

Sundiata Cha-Jua, and Augustus Wood, “Floyd McKissick,” chapters in Karin Stanford, Akinyele Umoja, and Jasmin Young (eds.) *Black Power Encyclopedia: From "Black is Beautiful" to Urban Uprisings* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Books, 2018). 7,000 Words.

Sundiata Cha-Jua, and Augustus Wood, “Urban Rebellion,” chapters in Karin Stanford, Akinyele Umoja, and Jasmin Young (eds.) *Black Power Encyclopedia: From "Black is Beautiful" to Urban Uprisings* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Books, 2018). 4,000 Words.

Review Essays

* Augustus Wood, “Why Dialectics Matter in African American Urban History: Revisiting Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua’s *America’s First Black Town: Brooklyn, Illinois, 1830-1915*.” (preparing for submission to *The Journal of African American History*.)

Book Reviews

#Augustus Wood, review of Keith P. Griffler, *The Freedom Movement’s Lost Legacy: Black Abolitionism Since Emancipation*. *The Journal of Southern History*, 2023.

Augustus Wood, review of Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership*. *Economia*, 2023.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 LER100: Introduction to Labor Studies
 HUM111: United States History (Odyssey Project)
 United States Labor History
 Collective Bargaining and Strike Preparation
 Political Economy and Labor
 Public Speaking and Media Strategy
 Collective Bargaining Issues

2023 LER100: Introduction to Labor Studies
 LER130: Introduction to Labor and Working Class History
 HUM111: United States History (Odyssey Project)
 United States Labor History
 Collective Bargaining and Strike Preparation
 Political Economy and Labor
 Public Speaking and Media Strategy
 Collective Bargaining Issues

2022 United States Labor History (Extension Course)
 Political Economy and Labor (Extension Course)

Collective Bargaining and Strike Preparation (Extension Course)
LER100: Introduction to Labor Studies
Odyssey Project: HUM: Introduction to the Humanities, U.S. History

- 2021-2022 Global Labor Studies 120: Contemporary Labor Problems
- 2020-2022 History of Race and Labor
Collective Bargaining
Communications
Community Stewardship
Political Economy of Race and Labor
Internal Organizing
- 2018-2019 HIS373: Origins of the Civil War (Instructor of Record)
- 2015-2016 United States History to 1865 (Teaching Assistant)
Constructing Race in America (Teaching Assistant)
- 2008-2013 Instructor, Benjamin E. Mays High School, Atlanta, GA
United States History, AP World History, Economics, U.S. Government/Civics,
World Geography

AWARDS, GRANTS, & OUTSTANDING ACHIVEMENTS

- 2023 Teachers Ranked as “Excellent” Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2022 Teachers Ranked as “Excellent” Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2021 Teachers Ranked as “Excellent” Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2021 Humanities Research Institute Research Cluster Grant, Humanities Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020 Dean’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant, The School of Labor and Employer Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship Grant, The Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2019 Teachers Ranked as “Excellent” Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2018 Widenor Teaching Award, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 2018 Graduate College Academic Excellence Award, The Graduate College, University Of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2017 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship, University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign
- 2017 ABD Fellowship Grant, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2016 Distinction awarded on African American History Preliminary Exam
- 2016 Distinction awarded on United States Urban History Preliminary Exam
- 2016 Distinction awarded on Comparative Race and Labor in the United States and South Africa Preliminary Exam
- 2015 Pre-Dissertation Grant Award, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015 Outstanding Social Justice Annual Award, The McKinley Foundation, University Of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 The Graduate College Fellowship Grant, The Graduate College, University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Benjamin E. Mays High School, Atlanta Public Schools
- 2012 Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Benjamin E. Mays High School, Atlanta Public Schools
- 2011 Teacher of the Year Runner Up, Benjamin E. Mays High School, Atlanta Public Schools

INVITED LECTURES/TALKS/ROUNDTABLES

- 2024 “The Intersection of Race and Labor in the History of the United States and American Social Movements,” Guest Lecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois, March 8, 2024
- 2024 “On the New Resurgence of Labor: Race, Class, and the Dialectics of Revolution Today,” Zoom Guest Lecture, February 17, 2024
- 2024 “History as a Weapon for Today: How Working-Class Militancy Gets the Goods,” Opening Plenary, Illinois Postal Workers Union Education Conference,” Holiday Inn, Champaign, Illinois, January 18, 2024.

- 2023 “Police Unions and Alienation of the Working Class,” *Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center*, December 16, 2023
- 2023 “African American Slaves and the Civil War,” Warrior Scholar Project, United States Nationwide Zoom, December 13, 2023
- 2023 “Civil Rights, Black Power, and James Baldwin’s *I Am Not Your Negro*,” Channing Murray Foundation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 29, 2023
- 2023 “How Our Scholarship Translates to Community Today,” WeCU Humanities Action Panel, Humanities Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 2, 2023
- 2023 “Social Movement Communications,” Department of Communications, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 7, 2023
- 2023 “Gentrification as Structural Violence: Chicago as a Case Study,” Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois, March 6, 2023
- 2023 “Blindspotting and Racial Oppression in America Today,” McKinley Foundation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 16, 2023
- 2023 “400 Years of Struggle and Structure: The History of the U.S. Postal Worker,” Illinois Postal Workers Union Education Conference, Champaign, Illinois, January 19, 2023
- 2022 “History of Labor Struggles at the University of Illinois,” The Black Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois, April 19, 2022
- 2022 “Black Struggles in the United States,” Indivisible Illinois, March 30, 2022
- 2022 “The Logic of Social Movements Today in Grassroots Struggles,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 3, 2022
- 2022 “Civil Rights Struggles in History and Today: Social Movement Development in Context with James Baldwin,” Champaign, Illinois, February 19, 2022
- 2021 “Social Movement Theory and Social Change in the United States,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 6, 2021
- 2021 “Let’s Talk: Police Accountability and Community Control: Reimagining Policing,” Ubuntu Project Champaign-Urbana, September 25, 2021
- 2021 “A Movement or a Moment: An Assessment of Black Lives Matter,” Webinar

- Panel, Ubuntu Project Champaign-Urbana, May 23, 2021
- 2021 “Black Liberation, Social Movements, and Their Importance,” Webinar Panel, Ubuntu Project Champaign-Urbana, May 16, 2021
- 2021 “African American History and the Blues,” Webinar on the Contemporary Conversations at the Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 1, 2021.
- 2021 “Communities Under Attack: The Gig is Up,” Webinar, January 19, 2020.
- 2021 “The Importance of Storytelling to Historians, Labor Unions, and Community Building: A Panel Discussion,” Urbana-Champaign Independent Media center, January 13, 2021.
- 2020 “Spurlock Museum Contemporary Conversations: The Political Landscape of Illinois,” November 5, 2020.
- 2020 “Friday Forum Series: The State of Democracy in America,” University of Illinois YMCA, October 23, 2020
- 2020 “Healing the Nation: Healthcare Workers on the Frontline,” *Facebook Live* Webinar, October 11, 2020.
- 2020 “Neither Rain, Sleet, Snow, or Partisan Politics: Delivering Democracy to America’s Doorstep,” *Facebook Live* Webinar, September 13, 2020
- 2020 “Pay What You Owe: Reparations for Stolen Black Wealth,” *Facebook Live* Webinar, August 16, 2020.
- 2020 “African Americans and Equal Opportunity and Access in the Workplace and Housing,” Black Lives Movement Retreat, Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, August 11, 2020.
- 2020 “Praised but Not Paid: COVID-19 and Black Workers,” *Facebook Live* Webinar May 31, 2020.
- 2019 “The History of Nat Turner and *The Birth of a Nation*: Analyzing Nate Parker’s 2016 film,” *Urbana Public Library*, February 2019
- 2018 “African Americans and the 13th: A Panel Discussion of the documentary and the History of Racialized Incarceration,” *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library*, Urbana, IL August 2018
- 2018 “African Americans and Electoral Politics: Critiques and Interventions,” *Independent Media Center*, Champaign, IL June 2018

- 2018 “Social Movement Theory and Organizing for Social Change Today,”
Independent Media Center, Champaign, IL May 2018
- 2018 “African Americans at Universities: Problems and Interventions,”
Illinois Congressional Black Caucus, Springfield, IL May 2018
- 2018 “Graduate Student Unions and Access to Higher Education,” *The News Gazette
Newsroom*, March 2018

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Plenaries/Panels/Roundtables Organized

- Augustus Wood, Stephanie Fortado, William Jones, “Race and Policing in the United States,”
Organization for American Historians Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April
11, 2024
- Augustus Wood, ““History as a Weapon for Today: How Working-Class Militancy Gets the
Goods,” Opening Plenary, Illinois Postal Workers Union Education Conference,”
Holiday Inn, Champaign, Illinois, January 18, 2024.
- Augustus Wood, Sundiata Cha-Jua, Lou Turner, “Episodes of Radical Blackness Across Time,
Space, and Struggles,” The Association of the Study of African American Life & History
Annual Conference, September 19-24, 2023.
- Augustus Wood, Karen Stubaus, Risa Lieberwitz, Julie Miceli, Ricky Baldwin, “Collective
Bargaining, Discrimination, Affirmative Action, and Title IX.” Higher Education Collective
Bargaining Training and Workshop, National Center for the Study of Collective
Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions, September 14-15, 2023.
- Augustus Wood, “Get the Pharaoh Off the Community’s Back!’: Intra-racial Class Struggle, Social
Movements, and Repression Under Gentrification in Neo-Colonial Atlanta, 1966-2015,”
Paper Session, Class, Race, and Place in the U.S. South: American Politics Through the
Lens of Michael Goldfield’s Work,” International Conference, February 1-3, 2023.
- Augustus Wood, “Worker Resistance or Resistance to Work: Is This the Labor Renewal We’ve
Heard So Much About For So Long?,” Panel, Labor and Employment Relations
Association Conference, June 4, 2022.
- Augustus Wood, “More Expendable than Essential: African American Workers Under the
COVID Crisis.” Plenary, United Association for Labor Education, Virtual Conference,
May 24, 2021.
- Augustus Wood, “More Expendable than Essential: African American Workers Under the
COVID Crisis,” Individual Paper Session, United Association for Labor Education,
Virtual Conference, May 26, 2021.

Augustus Wood, “Anthropology as WORK: Interacademic Labor Solidarities,” American Anthropological Association: Raising Our Voices Conference, November 6, 2020.

Augustus Wood, “Politically Oriented, Liberation Minded: Black Student Power and Social Movement Organizing at the University of Illinois.” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Indianapolis, October 2018.

Augustus Wood, “History and Culture of Black Atlanta,” *The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History*, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2017.

Papers Presented

Augustus Wood, “The Political Economy of Policing Under Gentrification: Atlanta as a Case Study,” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 10-13, 2024.

Augustus Wood, “SOUL POWER! WORKER POWER! BLACK POWER!”: Intra-racial Class Struggle in the 1972 Mead Wildcat Strike.” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference*, September 19-24, 2023.

Augustus Wood, “Towards a Theory of Super-Exploitation: Harold “Hal” Baron and the Political Economy of Black Labor,” *United Association of Labor Educators*, Virtual Conference, May 2021.

Augustus Wood, “Black Space as Commodity: The Political Economy of Race, Class, and Space in Atlanta, 1970-2010,” *Association for the Study of African-American Life and History*, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2018.

Augustus Wood, “The Logic of Black Labor Social Movements: Black Power and Labor in Atlanta, 1970-1973,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2017.

Augustus Wood, “The Stakes of Community in Black Urban History: Revisiting Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua’s *America’s First Black Town: Brooklyn, Illinois, 1830-1915*,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2017.

Augustus Wood, “Debt as Neoliberal Policy: How Student Debt and Credit Card Debt Fuel Late Capital,” *Symposium on the Debt Economy*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2017.

Augustus Wood, “Our Communities vs. Your City: Redirecting African American Urban History Towards a Critical Dialectical Approach through Black Community Studies,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Richmond, Virginia, October 2016.

Augustus Wood, “If There’s a Hell Below, We’re All Going to Go!: The Black Worker and Black Power in the Atlanta Freedom Struggle,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Atlanta, Georgia September 2015.

Augustus Wood, “The Architects of Fear: Black Self-Determination and Redemption Politics in Galveston, Texas, 1850-1900,” *National Council of Black Studies*, Miami, Florida, March 2014.

Augustus Wood, “Seeds of Deprogramming: The Critical Condition of Black Local Political Historiography,” *National Council of Black Studies*, Miami, Florida, March 2014.

Augustus Wood, “Children of Panic: Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali, and the Symbols of Disorder In Global Sports,” *Association for the Study of African American Life & History*, Jacksonville, Florida, October 2013.

Augustus Wood, “Ninety Years Without Slumbering: Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali, and the Question of Black Masculinity,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Jacksonville, Florida, October 2013.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-Present Principal Investigator for project on Black rural Mississippi Delta workers In the Post-Civil Rights Era to the 21st century.

2020-Present Principal Investigator for project on Atlanta’s Black working class struggle Against Gentrification and New Urban Poverty (See first Book).

2016-2020 Research Assistant for Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, focusing on Black Power, Floyd McKissick, and urbanity in Soul City, North Carolina

2016-2018 Research Assistant for Antoinette Burton, focusing on Global Empire and And Colonialism

2004-2009 Research Assistant for Alton Hornsby Jr., focusing on Atlanta history and African American biographical methodology

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSION

2024-Ongoing Senator, University of Illinois Faculty Senate

2024-Ongoing Member, Editorial Board, Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) Labor Online

2023-Ongoing Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of African American History*

2023-Ongoing Member, Executive Council, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

2023-Ongoing Member, Editorial Board, *Labor Studies Journal*

- 2022 Guest Editor, Special Issue of *Labor Studies Journal*, “More Expendable than Essential: Black Workers’ Rights and Racial Class Struggles Under the COVID Crisis,” Volume 47, No. 4, December 2022.
- 2020-Ongoing Host, “Off the Shelf: Revolutionary Readings in Times of Crisis,” Podcast, Humanities Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020-Ongoing Host, “The Labor Forum,” Podcast/Live Webinar Series, Labor Labor Education Program, School of Labor and Employer Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2016-2017 Diversity Committee Member, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-2016 Graduate Committee Member, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-Ongoing Academic Program Committee Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- 2014-2016 Diversity Committee Member, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2023 Executive Board Member, Education Justice Project, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
- 2023-Ongoing President, Board of Directors, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Urbana, Illinois
- 2022 Member, Executive Board, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Urbana, Illinois
- 2021-2022 Member, Board of Governors, University YMCA, University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign
- 2021-Ongoing Host, Off the Shelf: Revolutionary Readings in Times of Crisis Podcast, Humanities Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-Ongoing Host, Radio Free Labor, WEFT Champaign Community Radio In Champaign, Illinois
- 2014-2020 Blues in the School: Teaching African American Blues History to Elementary School Children, Prairie Cross Blues Society

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

Journal of African American History (OAH)

Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)

United Association for Labor Education (UALE)

Urban Historians Association (UHA)

Labor Employment Relations Association (LERA)

Organization of American Historians (OAH)