November 6-8, 2014 ILR Conference Center

The Cornell Conference on

The Histories of American Capitalism

the inaugural conference of the

Cornell History of Capitalism Initiative

(note that the titles of keynotes and plenary addresses are placeholders)

Thursday, 7:30-9:00
Public Keynote Address and Kickoff Event. Reception to follow.

Orlando Patterson, Harvard University, “Freedom and Capitalism”

Friday

Section One: Built and Natural Environments

Plenary, 9:00-10:00: Richard White, Stanford
“Capitalism and Environmental History”

Built and Natural Environment Panels, 10:15-11:45:

Panel 1:1 Real Estate

Chair and Comment: Matthew Lassiter, University of Michigan

Claire Dunning, Harvard University, “Community Development Corporations and Capital Investment in 1980s Urban Development”

Paige Glotzer, Johns Hopkins University, ”We Are the Men Higher Up:” Early Suburban Developers and Their Networks

Sara Stevens, Princeton University, “From Swindlers to Experts: Professionalization in Real Estate Development”

Ben Zdencanovic, Yale University, “The Invisible Congress:“ The American Real Estate and Building Lobby, Transatlantic Housing Policy, and the Making of Free Enterprise Conservatism, 1943-1949
Panel 1:2 Land and Nature

Chair and Comment: Aaron Sachs, Cornell University

Emma Hart, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, “From Field to Plate: Commercial Space and Capitalizing Cultures in the British Atlantic Livestock Trade before 1783”


William D. Bryan, Pennsylvania State University, “‘Permanent’ Growth and Environmental Degradation in a Developing Region”

Jason Newton, Syracuse University, “Common Labor, Common Lands: Farmers, Lumberjacks and the Rise of Industrial Wage Work in the Northern Forest, 1850-1900”

Panel 1:3 Corporations and the Environment

Chair and Comment: TBA

Bartow Elmore, University of Alabama, “Towards a History of Sustainable Business?: What Coca-Cola Company Can Tell us about the Ecological Causes of Corporate Restructuring”

Charles Halvorson, Columbia University, “No Known Way’: The Cornwall Conflict and the Management of Environmental Protection at Con Ed”

Gavin Benke, University of South Florida, "A New Energy and Environmental Order: Enron and the Globalization of Houston and “Green” Business”

Panel 1:4 Managing the City

Chair and Comment: Samuel Zipp, Brown University

Michael Reagan, University of Washington, “Capital City: New York in Fiscal Crisis”

Destin K. Jenkins, Stanford University, “‘The Public Housing Monster’: Race, Municipal Bonds, and the Problem of Capital”

Brent Cebul, University of Virginia, “Our ‘responsibility to the city and the people of Cleveland’: The Rise of Business Producerism and Municipal Default in Cleveland, Ohio”

Betsy A. Beasley, Yale University, "Wildcat: Outsourcing, Expertise, and Oil in Postwar Houston"
Section Two: Race and Ethnicity

Lunchtime Plenary, 12:00-1:30

Peniel Joseph, Tufts University, “Capitalism and Black Power”

Race and Ethnicity Panels, 1:45-3:15

Panel 2:1 Capitalism and Slavery

Chair and Comment: Joshua Rothman, University of Alabama


Edward Baptist, Cornell University, “The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism”

Panel 2:2 Biography: Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and Jesse Jackson

Chair and Comment: Joel Dinerstein, Tulane University

Michael Ezra, Sonoma State University, “Muhammad Ali and the Struggle for African American Economic Power”

Mark Malisa, The College of Saint Rose, “Capitalism is Racism: Seeing this Country through the Eyes and Words of Malcolm X”

Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University, “History of Black Capitalism: Jesse Jackson’s Economic Thought”

Panel 2:3 Native American

Chair and Comment: Brian Hosmer, University of Tulsa


Daniel Mandell, Truman State University, “Meeting the Challenges of Capitalism: New England Indians in the Nineteenth Century”

James Carson, Queen's University, “A Culture of Capitalism: The Market Place Economy of the Native South, 1780-1840”
Panel 2:4 African Americans and Economic Rights

Chair and Comment: N.D.B. Connolly, Johns Hopkins University

Joshua Clark Davis, Duke University, "Liberation through Literacy: How Black Power Booksellers Sought to Remake Black Business"

Andrew W. Kahr, Marquette University, “Dispossession via Taxation: Fiscal Policies and Coastal Capitalism in the Sunbelt South”

Shirley E. Thompson, University of Texas at Austin, “The Lives of Black Folk: African-American Life Insurance and the Business of Posterity”

Panel 2:5 Capitalism and Cool

Chair and Comment: Naeem Inayatullah, Ithaca College


Donnell Alexander, Journalist / Independent Scholar, "Capitalism and Hip-Hop Mixtape Culture Cool, 1986-Present"

Joel Dinerstein, Tulane University, “The History of Cool from the Postwar (Not Selling Out) to the Present (Selling In)"

Section Three: Democracy, State, and Nation

Plenary, 3:30-4:30  Julia Ott, New School, “Capitalism and Democracy”

Democracy, State, and Nation Panels, 4:45-6:15

Panel 3:1 Capitalism and the Carceral State: A Roundtable

Donna Murch, Rutgers University
Heather Ann Thompson, University of Michigan
Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, Cornell University
Melanie Newport, Temple University

Panel 3:2 Empire and War

Chair and Comment: Stephen Ortiz, Binghamton University

Helen Pho, University of Texas at Austin, "American GI Consumerism and Inflation in South Vietnam, 1965-1973"

Gabrielle Clark, New York University, “Planned Migration in World War II”

Fritz Bartel, Cornell University, "Détente: The Privatization of the Cold War"
Panel 3:3 Early Military and Capitalist Development

Chair and Comment: Roseanne Curvarino, Queen’s University


Andrew J. B. Fagal, Binghamton University, "America’s First Military-Industrial Complex: State Directed Economic Development in the Early Republic”

A. Hope McGrath, University of Pennsylvania, “‘An Army of Working-Men:’ American Soldiers and the Making of Capital’s Empire”

Panel 3:4 Politics of Moral Capitalism

Chair and Comment: Nick Salvatore, Cornell University

Sarah Elvins, University of Manitoba, “Putting Money to Work in the Community: Great Depression Scrip and the Contradictory Appeal of Local Capitalism”

Elizabeth Harmon, University of Michigan, “From Public Works to the Welfare of Humanity: Federally Chartered Nonprofit Corporations and American Capitalism”

Christian Olaf Christiansen, Aarhus University (Denmark), “The Market Reformers: From Late Nineteenth Century Industrial Betterment to Present Day Corporate Social Responsibility”

Thomas Dorrance, University of Illinois at Chicago, “Excavating the ‘White Spot’: The Moral Economy of the Open Shop in Depression-Era Los Angeles”

Panel 3:5 Too Much Failure to Be Big

Chair and Comment: Louis Hyman, Cornell University

Daniel Platt, Brown University, “From the Urban Crisis to Too Big to Fail: The Politics of Bank Failure in America, 1971-1984”

Dustin Walker, University of California, Santa Barbara “The Crisis Before the ‘Crisis’: The Savings and Loan Industry before the 1980s”


Panel 3:6 Neoliberal Political Cultures

Chair and Comment: Jennifer Klein, Yale University


Dawson Barrett, Del Mar College, “‘Working to Overturn the Power Structure of this Country’: Activism in the Reagan Era

Wine and Beer Reception. Johnson Museum, 6:30-7:30

Dinner, Johnson Museum, 7:30-9:30

Dinner Keynote: Guy Standing, University of London, “A Precariat Charter From Denizens to Citizens”

Saturday

Section Four: Gender and Sexuality

Plenary, 9:30-10:30: Nancy Folbre, University of Massachusetts
“Gender and Capitalism”

Gender and Sexuality Panels, 10:45-12:15

Panel 4:1 Gender and Labor

Chair and Comment: Dorothy Sue Cobble, Rutgers University

Bridget Kenny, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), "Servicing a Racial Regime: Labor, Consumption and the Polity in Department Stores in Baltimore, Maryland and Johannesburg, South Africa, 1940s-1970s"

Allison Elias, University of Virginia, “How To Succeed in a Man's World: Clerical Work and Upward Mobility”

Joey Fink, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The "Marx" of Capitalism: Working-Class Women’s Critiques of Economic Injustice in the 1970s Corporate Campaign Against J.P. Stevens Textiles

July 20, 2014

Panel 4:2 Early American Women, Property, and Markets

Chair and Comment: Mary Beth Norton, Cornell University

Alisa Wade Harrison, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, “Women’s Property and Protection in Early National New York’s Market Economy”

Lindsay Keiter, The College of William and Mary, “Marriage and Markets: Wedding Gifts, Dowry Patterns and Economic Complexity in Early America”

Rachel Tamar Van, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, “Family Capital: Managing Risk and Reputation in Early American Merchant Networks”

Panel 4:3 Women and Consumerism

Chair and Comment: Lawrence Glickman, Cornell University


Beth D. Robinson, Texas A&M University, “Buy Conscious with the League of Women Shoppers: Consumer Organizing during the Great Depression”

Emily A. Remus, University of Chicago, “Her Hat Will Not Down”: Sumptuary Laws and Consumer Rights in 1890s Chicago

Panel 4:4: American Department Stores

Chair and Comment: Sarah Elvins, University of Manitoba

Traci Lynnea Parker, University of Chicago, “American Department Stores, Consumer Capitalism, and the Growth of the a Modern Black Middle Class, 1929-1950”

Vicki Howard, Hartwick College, “An Essential Industry: American Department Stores and the State in World War Two”

Stephanie M. Amerian, University of California, Los Angeles, “A Store is a Citizen: Consumer Culture and Civic Culture at lord & Taylor Department Store”

Lunch, 12:30-1:30

Section Five: Intellectual and Cultural

Plenary, 1:45-3:15: Jackson Lears, Rutgers, “Capitalism and American Cultural History"
Intellectual and Cultural Panels, 3:30-5:00

Panel 5:1 Schooling for Business

Chair and Comment: Glenn Altschuler, Cornell University

Amy C. Offner, University of Pennsylvania, “The War on Poverty and Business’s War on Public Education

Ansley T. Erickson, Teachers College, Columbia University, “Paradoxes of Growth and Schooling in Nashville, Tennessee, 1963-1973

Bryant Etheridge, Harvard University, “Substandard Wages or Substandard Workers?: Human Capital Development and Racial Inequality in 1960s Houston”

Panel 5:2 Management Culture

Chair and Comment: Julia Ott, New School

Ryan Acton, University of California, Berkeley, “We have the Best or We Are Dead”: Harvard Business School, Meritocratic Culture, and the Origins of the Great Divergence, 1945-1980”

AJ Murphy, Colombia University, “Creativity and Coercion: the Idiom of Culture in Management Theory”


Panel 5:3 Religion

Chair and Comment: Kevin Kruse, Princeton University

Heath W. Carter, Valparaiso University, “Christianity, Capitalism, and the Power of Working-Class Belief”

Christopher D. Cantwell, University of Missouri-Kansas City, “God’s Foremen: The Evangelical Imperatives of Industrial Management”


Katherine Mohrman, University of Minnesota, “A Materialist Spirituality: The Translocation of Political Economy and Sexuality in Mormonism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”
July 20, 2014

Panel 5:4 Capitalism and the Bureaucracy of Information

Chair and Comment: Josh Lauer, University of New Hampshire

Tamara Plakins Thornton, University at Buffalo, SUNY, “Blank Forms and Interchangeable Parts: Mathematical Values and the Creation of Impersonal Bureaucracies in the Early American Republic”

Craig Robertson, Northeastern University, “Information at Your Fingertips: Teaching Filing in 1910s and 1920s America”


Panel 5:5 Time and Capitalism

Chair and Comment: Daniel Katz, Metropolitan College of New York

Emily Pawley, Dickinson College, “A Change in Season: Capitalism and Shifts in the Experiences of Agricultural Time, 1825-1860”

Alexis McCrossen, Southern Methodist University, “Clocks, Modern Time Discipline, and Capital Formation”

Carolyn N. Biltoft, Georgia State University, “The Short Run and La Longue Durée: Economics, History and the Politics of Time”

Leisure of the Theory Class: Catered Reception and Party, 6:30-9:30