

**Daniel Lazar Letwin**

Department of History  
Pennsylvania State University  
409 Weaver Building  
University Park, PA 18602  
(814) 863-0417  
Letwin@psu.edu

951 Crabapple Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 861-2595

**Education**

1991                      Ph.D. (History), Yale University  
  
1984                      M.A. and M.Phil. (History), Yale University  
  
1981                      B.A. (History), University of California, Berkeley

**Teaching Experience (full-time)**

Summer 1998-            Associate Professor of History  
                             Pennsylvania State University  
  
Spring 1992-            Assistant Professor of History  
Summer 1998            Pennsylvania State University  
  
Fall 1989-                Visiting Instructor of History  
Spring 1991              Holy Cross College

**Current Scholarly Projects**

"The Race Question in the Age of Normalcy: Warren Harding's 1921 Birmingham Address and the Splash It Made" (Shorter-term book project)

"The Problem of Social Equality in African-American Thought, 1830-1965"  
(Longer-term book project)

Editor, *The American South: A Reader and Guide*, to be published by Edinburgh University Press and an affiliated American university press (to be determined) Submission date: January 2008.

Co-author, "The Welfare State in German and American History"  
(with Gabriele Metzler, University of Tübingen)  
Essay commissioned for inclusion in a book project, sponsored jointly by the German Historical Institute and the Humboldt University Berlin, entitled "Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present." Completion date: May 31, 2006

**Academic Scholarship**

Books

*The Challenge of Interracial Unionism: Alabama Coal Miners, 1878-1921*  
(University of North Carolina Press, 1998)

Articles and Chapters

"The Problem of Social Equality in Black Thought during the Jim Crow Era."  
Forthcoming in *Journal of Social History*, March 2007

"Labor Relations in the Industrializing South." In John B. Boles, ed., *The Blackwell Companion to the American South* (Blackwell, 2002), 424-43.

"Birmingham, Alabama: Una *Workshop Town* Tra I Giacimenti di Ferro."  
In *Storia Urbana*, n. 94, 2001, 71-105.  
[Italian translation of first chapter of *The Challenge of Interracial Unionism: Alabama Coal Miners, 1878-1921* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 9-30.]

"Challenge to What? Challenge for Whom?"  
Author's response in *Labor History* Symposium on Daniel Letwin, *The Challenge of Interracial Unionism: Alabama Coal Miners, 1878-1921* (article-length compilation of critiques by John Higginson, Jacqueline Jones, Alex Lichtenstein, Nancy MacLean, and Alexander Saxton)  
*Labor History*, February 2000, 63-90 (author's response, 80-90)

"The Early Years: Alabama Miners Organize, 1878-1908," chapter in Edwin L. Brown and Colin J. Davis, eds., *It is Union and Liberty: Alabama Coal Miners, 1898-1998* (University of Alabama Press, 1999), 11-37

"Interracial Unionism, Gender, and 'Social Equality' in the Alabama Coalfields, 1878-1908" *Journal of Southern History* (Aug. 1995), 519-54  
Reprinted in Paul Escott and David R. Goldfield, eds., *Major Problems in the History of the American South: Documents and Essays, Vol. II*, 2nd Ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 1999), 113-22

#### Encyclopedia Entries

"The National Negro Labor Council," in Robert O'Meally, Jack Salzman, and Cornel West, eds., *Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History* (New York: Macmillan, 1996)

#### Book Reviews

Kevin Boyle, "Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age," in *New-York Journal of American History* (April 2005)

Beth Tompkins Bates, *Pullman Porters and the Rise of Protest Politics in Black America, 1925-1945*, in *American Historical Review* (April 2002)

Robert H. Zieger, ed., *Southern Labor in Transition, 1940-1955*, in *International Labor and Working-Class History* (Fall 2000)

Joseph A. McCartin, *Labor's Great War: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy and the Origins of Modern American Labor Relations, 1912-1921*, for H-SHGAPE (Summer 1999, at:  
<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=20213934921244>)

Roger Horowitz, "Negro and White, Unite and Fight!": A Social History of Industrial Unionism in Meatpacking, 1930-90, in *Business History Review* (Fall 1998)

Gary M. Fink, *The Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills Strike of 1914-15: Espionage, Labor Conflict, and New South Industrial Relations*, in *Journal of Southern History* (Feb. 1995)

Ronald Kent et al, eds., *Gender, Race, Class, and Culture in US Labor History*, in *Journal of American History* (Sept. 1994)

Jacqueline Jones, *The Dispossessed: America's Underclasses from the Civil War to the Present* and Michael B. Katz, ed., *The "Underclass" Debate: Views From History*, in *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* (July 1994) (2,500 words)

Ronald H. Zieger, ed., *Organized Labor in the Twentieth-Century South*, in *Journal of Economic History* (Sept. 1993)

Sarah Lyons Watts, *Order Against Chaos: Business Culture and Labor Ideology in America, 1880-1915*, in *Journal of American History* (September 1992)

James R. Grossman, *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration* and Peter Gottlieb, *Making Their Own Way: Southern Blacks' Migration to Pittsburgh, 1916-30*, in *International Labor and Working-Class History* (Fall 1990)

Howard Kimeldorf, *Reds or Rackets: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront*, in *Journal of American History* (March 1990)

Peter Rachleff, *Black Labor in the South: Richmond, Virginia, 1865-1890*, in *Contemporary Sociology* (March 1986)

Charles van Onselen, *New Babylon, New Nineveh: Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914*, in *International Labor and Working-Class History* (Fall 1985)

#### **Teaching Publications**

*Study Guide* (two volumes) for Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty! An American History* (W.W. Norton, 2004)

#### **Popular Publications**

*On Strike for Respect: The Yale Strike of 1984-85* [with Toni Gilpin, Gary Isaac, and Jack McKivigan] (Charles H. Kerr Press, 1987; reprinted by University of Illinois Press, 1995)

#### **Scholarly Presentations and Conference Participation**

November 2006, German Historical Institute (Washington)  
Public talk (with Gabriele Metzler): "The German and American Welfare States in Comparative Perspective"

September 2005, German Historical Institute and the Humboldt University  
Participant: First meeting of the Competing Modernities workshop (see Current Research section above)

September 2004, German Historical Institute and the Humboldt University (Berlin)  
Participant: First meeting of the Competing Modernities workshop (see Current Research section above)

April 2003, Collegium for African American Research conference on "The African Atlantic: The Making of Black Diasporas" (King Alfred's College, Winchester, England)  
"The Problem of 'Social Equality' in African-American Thought, 1830-1965"

January 2003, American Historical Association (Chicago)  
Participant: roundtable on "*The Making of the English Working Class* turns 40"

September 2000, German Historical Institute (Washington)  
Co-Convener (along with Christof Mauch [GHI] and Richard Wetzell [University of Maryland]):  
3-Day Workshop on "The Claim to Social Resources: A Contested Issue in Trans-Atlantic Perspective, 1776 to the Present"

September 2000, North American Studies Program, University of Helsinki  
Eighth Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference  
"The Problem of 'Social Equality' in African-American Thought in the Age of Segregation"

January 2000, Department of History and Carter G. Woodson Center, University of Virginia  
Talk: "The Problem of 'Social Equality' in African-American Thought, 1830-1965"

January 2000, Department of History, James Madison University  
Talk: "Interracial Unionism in the Jim Crow Era: The Challenge for Historians"

December 1999, German Historical Institute Workshop on "Gender History in Transatlantic Perspective: Women, Motherhood and Social Change in Twentieth Century Europe and the United States" (Washington)  
Moderator: Panel on "Employed Mothers: Wage Work and Child Care in the Postwar Era"

July 1999, International Society for the History of Rhetoric (Amsterdam):  
"Black Politics and 'Social Equality' in the Age of Segregation"

May 1999, Library Company of Philadelphia:  
Talk on "Black Ideology and 'Social Equality' in Nineteenth-Century America" (culminating one-month research fellowship at LCP)

April 1999, Department of History, University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
Talk: "Interracial Unionism in the Jim Crow Era: The Challenge for Historians"  
(Sponsored by the department's Phi Alpha Theta society)

March 1999, Research Seminar Series, Hagley Museum and Library (Wilmington):  
Commentator: Paper by Joe Trotter, "African American Workers and the Synthesis Question"

January 1999, Commonwealth Fund Conference on "Two Souths: Towards an Agenda for Comparative Study of the American South and the Italian Mezzogiorno" (University College-London):  
Chair: Session on "Rural Workers and Agrarian Transformation"

January 1999, American Historical Association (Washington D.C.):  
"Black Politics and 'Social Equality' in the Age of Segregation"

November 1998, University of North Carolina Conference on "Germany and African Americans: A Comparative Perspective" (Chapel Hill; sponsored jointly by UNC's Black Studies Department and the German Historical Institute)  
Commentator: Paper by Heide Fehrenbach, "German Reconstruction and the 'Problem' of African-American Occupation Children"

October 1998, North American Labor History Conference (Wayne State University, Detroit):  
Commentator: Panel on "Work, Ethnicity, and Resistance"

September 1997, Southern Labor Studies Association (Williamstown, Va.):  
1) Participant: Roundtable Panel on "Reimagining Labor History: Putting Race and Gender at the Center of Class Analysis"  
2) Chair: Panel on "Organizing Across the Color Line: Racial Identity and the Experience of Interracial Unionism"

July 1997, St. Anthony's College, University of Oxford:  
Conference on Labour and Difference in the USA., Africa, and Britain:  
"American Labor and the 'Social Equality' Question in the Jim Crow Era"

June 1997, Anglo-American History Seminar, University of Cologne:  
"African-American Politics and 'Social Equality' in the Interwar Years"

January 1997, American Historical Association (New York City):  
Commentator: Panel on "The Construction of Racial and Ethnic Identity: Mineworkers and Diversity in Africa, the United States, and Asia"

November 1996, Southern History Association Conference (Little Rock):  
"African-American Politics and the Debate over 'Social Equality' in the Age of Jim Crow: Response to President Harding's Birmingham Address of 1921"

August 1995, American Historical Association-Pacific Coast Branch Conference (Maui):  
Chair and Commentator: Panel on "Organized Labor: The Environment, Ethnicity, and Popular Culture"

February 1995, Commonwealth Fund Conference (University College-London):  
Invited participant: Conference on "U.S. Working-Class Formation in an International Context"

April 1993, Organization of American Historians Conference (Anaheim):  
"The Rise and Fall of Interracial Unionism in the Alabama Coal Fields, 1898-1908"

October 1992, North American Labor History Conference (Wayne State University, Detroit):  
Commentator: Panel on "Remaking the American Working Class: Work, African Americans, and Class Formation in the Post-Bellum Rural South"

November 1991, Social Science History Conference (New Orleans):  
"Race, Class, Gender, and 'Social Equality' in the Alabama Coal Fields, 1878-1908"

March 1990, Organization of American Historians Conference (Washington):  
"Biracial Unionism in the Alabama Coal Fields during the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries"

November 1989, Social Science History Association Conference (Washington):  
"Black Miners and the Black Middle Class in the Birmingham District during the Era of World War I: Reflections on the 'Race-Class' Dichotomy"

October 1988, Lowell Conference on Industrial History (Lowell):  
"Race, Labor, and Transiency in the Alabama Coal Fields during the Era of World War I"

**Service in Profession**

- 2004- Member of Editorial Committee, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*
- 2004- Official Liaison between Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) and its designated journal, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*
- 2004- Editor of regular two-page "LAWCHA Watch" segment for *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*
- 2004-07 Member and Chair, Nominating Committee for Society for History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE)  
(Chair as of April 2005)
- 2004-07 Member (elected), SHGAPE Council
- 2003- Co-editor, *LAWCHA Newsletter*  
Official newsletter of the Labor and Working-Class History Association. Appears twice a year. (Co-edited with Rick Halpern, Department of History, University of Toronto.)
- 2001- Member and Chair, Publications Committee, Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) (Chair during 2001-04)
- 2000-02 Member, Article Prize Committee of SHGAPE

**Service at Penn State**

- 2003-06 Schreyer Honors College Diversity Committee
- 2003-04 Graduate Evaluation Committee [History Department]
- 2001-02 Graduate Placement Committee [History Department]
- 2000-01 Undergraduate Studies Committee [History Department]

**Other Academic Activity**

- June 2002 Civil War Era Center Teachers' Institute (Penn State)  
Led workshops on abolitionism and emancipation
- Sept. 1994- Coordinator  
May 1999 Labor History Workshop, Penn State University
- 1994- Manuscript Reader for D.C. Heath, Prentice Hall, Norton Books, McGraw-Hill, Princeton University Press, Bedford/St. Martin's, Longman Publishers, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, *American Quarterly*, *Journal of Urban History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Pennsylvania History*, *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, *Labor*
- 1993 Historical Advisor  
WPSX television documentary series, State College
- June 1988- Assistant Editor

May 1989 *International Labor and Working-Class History*

June 1985- Historical Consultant (full-time)  
May 1986 Committee on the Status of Black Americans  
National Research Council

#### **Awards**

- 2004 Nomination for 2004 Jocelyn M. Bennett Diversity Award (Penn State)  
For role as instructor of Hist. 297A, "Struggle for Freedom: A Journey  
Through the Black Civil Rights Movement." Offered by the Smeal College  
of Business's student-run committee, Striving Towards Awareness and  
Respect for Tomorrow.
- 1999 *Choice Outstanding Academic Book Selection for The Challenge of  
Interracial Unionism*
- 1998 Society for History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era's Article  
Prize for best article dealing with any aspect of U.S. history between  
1865 and 1917, published in 1995 or 1996

#### **Fellowships, and Grants**

- 2000 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
Fellowship in American Civilization  
\$5,000 for two months' research at the Columbia University  
Rare Book and Manuscript Collection ("social equality"  
project)
- 1999 German-American Center for Visiting Scholars  
(Washington, D.C.)  
Six months at GACVS as visiting scholar  
Office with research facilities at GACVS  
Black Political Thought and "Social Equality" in the  
Age of Jim Crow
- 1999 American Philosophical Society  
Research Grant  
\$5,000 for research travel during Spring 1999
- Library Company of Philadelphia  
Research Fellowship in American History and Culture  
\$1,400 for one month of research at the LCP during  
Spring 1999 ("social equality" project)
- 1998 Research and Graduate Studies Office Grant  
Pennsylvania State University  
\$5,500 for research assistance and travel to archives  
during Summer and Fall 1998 ("social equality"  
project)
- Society for History of the Gilded Age and Progressive  
Era  
Biennial Article Prize  
For best article dealing with any aspect of U.S.  
history between 1865 and 1917, published in journals  
dated 1995 or 1996 (see *Journal of Southern History*  
article above)

1996 Faculty Research Fellowship  
Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies  
Pennsylvania State University  
\$1,700 for travel for research ("social equality"  
project)

1995 Penn State Department of History:  
Kent Forster Memorial Junior Faculty Development  
Award (recognizing classroom performance)

1993 Research and Graduate Studies Office Grant  
Pennsylvania State University

1992-93 Research Initiation Grant  
Pennsylvania State University

1987 &  
1989 John Enders Grant  
Yale University

1988 Albert J. Beveridge Grant  
American Historical Association