

Volume 3 Issue 1: Editorial

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The Journal of Working-Class Studies is now in its third year and proud to continue to feature an impressive range of content. As editors we are struck by the momentum that the journal specifically, and the area broadly, continues to gather. This is in no small part due to the energy of the members of the Working-Class Studies Association, and we thank those members and the organisation's allies for their continued activities of reading, sharing, reviewing and generally supporting the journal as it develops.

Volume Three, Issue One is the result of a 'general call for submissions' rather than a specialist call. The result is a collection that is diverse in scope and perspectives, but not without common themes. We have grouped this issue's collection according to focus, but this is just a 'serving suggestion' for the reader. The order itself is not particularly critical, but there is a flow. As always, it is possible to either read the issue as a collection, perhaps most conveniently accessed as the one PDF file, or in sections.

The issue begins with a collection of articles exploring the relationship between working-class life and literature. In "'Ping Ping Ping / I break things": Productive Disruption in the Working-Class Poetry of Jan Beatty, Sandra Cisneros, and Wanda Coleman', Carrie Connors explores the relationship between creative practices and lived working-class experience. With a focus on poetry, particularly that by American women, Connors gives poetry as an art form specific context and advocates for the consideration of both the content *and* form that the writers have chosen. The article will appeal to readers already familiar with the poets, as well as those coming to their work for the first time. Next, Simon Lee explores Colin MacInnes' London trilogy in 'Brutal Youth: Colin MacInnes and the Architecture of the Welfare State'. Like Connors, Lee's article is accessible to those who may not already be familiar with the author, but also provides rich detail to extend readers who want to know more. The depth Lee presents, particularly in exploring the physical architecture of the setting for the books, is something we are proud to be able to foster in this journal. The article rewards readers from many disciplines interested in exploring MacInnes' world.

In 'I Was a Retail Salesperson: An Examination of Two Memoirs About Working in Retail', Brittany R. Clark examines the relationship between written and lived experiences of retail workers. Using Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting by in America* (originally published in 2001) and Caitlin Kelly's *Malled: My Unintentional Career in Retail* (2011) as comparison points, Clark questions why working-class experience is featured in these works and presents an important counterpoint to existing narratives. Importantly, questions of exclusion and inclusion are raised, and provide the reader with a useful case study to consider in isolation, or to continue to apply in other similar settings. Following then is 'Reframing Solidarity: Company Magazine as Family Album' by Courtney Maloney – a study of how working-class relationships can be traced and reconsidered by exploring trade literature. Focusing specifically on the magazine 'Men and Steel', Maloney shows how

the publication became a place to foster, promote and cement solidarity. It is a fascinating approach to these texts. Following is 'Reframing Solidarity: Company Magazine as Family Album' by Courtney Maloney – a study of how working-class relationships can be traced and reconsidered by exploring trade literature. Focusing specifically on the company magazine *Men and Steel*, Maloney shows how the publication became a place to foster, promote and cement solidarity. It is a fascinating approach to such texts.

In the middle of this issue Heidi E. Wagner presents 'Breaking Through the Concrete Ceiling: Tradeswomen in the United States Tell Their Stories of Struggle and Success'. As a minority in an already underappreciated group of working-class people, Wagner's championship of the tradeswomen featured is a valuable contribution to working-class scholarship, ensuring that a diversity of experience (and often, struggle) is placed on the official record and given due respect. Next is 'Occupying the Picket Line: Labor and Occupy in South Central Indiana' by Joseph Varga – also an important documenting of presence and force of otherwise isolated workers. Of particular importance is the 'Lessons Learned' section of this piece, where Varga presents a thoughtful evaluation of the motivations, struggles, wins and losses of the striking labor union and the Occupy Bloomington group in South Central Indiana in Fall, 2011. Revisiting the events with hindsight and careful consideration, the article serves as a strong case study to inform future action as well as illuminate the past.

We move next to a new area of consideration for *The Journal of Working-Class Studies*. Alejandro Marambio-Tapia's 'The Moral Economy of Department Stores' Working-Class and their Class Identity' presents a study of two cities in Chile; Santiago, the capital, and Copiapó, a mining town in the North. Marambio-Tapia's study is based on interviews with workers in both cities and invites international, specifically English speaking readers, to consider the nuanced experiences of workers in this region and their motivations for using department store credit schemes. The article provides an important comparison point to native Anglophone narratives and Marambio-Tapia's work is generous in providing an easy access point.

The continued impact of Donald Trump's Presidency for American people is also covered in this issue. In 'Working Class Culture as Political Participation: Reading Trump as Revolt Against a Middle-Class Public Sphere', Liberty Kohn explores Trump's ascension as a reaction to class exclusion rather than a display of it. Kohn's consideration provides context for perceptions of alienation for white working-class Americans in the years leading up to the Trump election, as well as a providing a reminder of the systematic and institutional strategies used to convince voters from the pro and anti-Trump campaigns. The analysis is thorough and timely, especially as the US approaches the mid-term election cycle later this year.

An interview-based article is also included in this issue. In 'A Little Crow in the Tree': Growing Inequality and White Working-Class Politics in the U.S.', Lawrence M. Eppard interviews widely cited scholars Arlie Hochschild (author of *The Second Shift*, among others) and Richard Wilkinson (author of *The Spirit Level*, among others). The resulting discussion provides insight into these scholars' work as well as a nuanced commentary of contemporary working-class experience, or the 'working-class squeeze' – with each interviewee drawing on a variety of expertise to further the discussion. The

tone is accessible and inspiring – drawing the reader into the energy of the conversation while also appealing for further engagement beyond dialogue and towards action.

In this issue we are also proud to feature several book reviews. These include Christine J. Walley's review of Sherry Linkon's *The Half-Life of Deindustrialization: Working-Class Writing about Economic Restructuring*; John Lennon and Magnus Nilsson's review of Nicolas Coles' and Paul Lauter's edited collection *A History of American Working-Class Literature*; Lou Martin's review of James R Barrett's *History from the Bottom Up & the Inside Out: Ethnicity, Race, and Identity in Working-Class History*; a combined review of Richard E. Ocejo's *Masters of Craft: Old Jobs in the New Urban Economy* and Steve Viscelli's *The Big Rig: Trucking and the Decline of the American Dream* by Colby King and Jacob Bibeault; Janet Zandy's review of Marc Fasanella's *Images of Optimism* and Joseph Varga's review of Elizabeth Faue's *Rethinking the American Labor Movement*.

We hope readers find the articles informative, engaging and inspiring and we welcome any correspondence relating to the Journal (editorial@workingclassstudiesjournal.com) as the field of working-class studies continues to expand globally.