

# ERIK S. GELLMAN

Department of History  
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## Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of History, UNC Chapel Hill	2018-
Associate Professor, Department of History, Roosevelt University	2012-2018
Associate Director, St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies, Roosevelt University	2012-
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Roosevelt University	2006-2012

## Education

Ph.D., Northwestern University, U.S. History	2006
M.A., Northwestern University, U.S. History	2000
B.A., Bates College, U.S. History, Magna Cum Laude	1997

## Awards and Honors

- Public Scholar Grant for “Troublemakers” book project, National Endowment for the Humanities, September 2016 to May 2017.
- Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of History and Philosophy, Roosevelt University, April 2015.
- Terra Foundation for American Art, “The Visual Arts of the Black Chicago Renaissance,” Professional and Curriculum Program, academic director, July 2015.
- Samuel Ostrowsky Award, outstanding faculty scholarship (for “In the Driver’s Seat”), Roosevelt University, May 2015.
- Faculty Research Leave, Roosevelt University, Winter-Spring, 2014.
- Summer Institute Fellowship, “African-American Freedom Struggles and Civil Rights,” National Endowment for the Humanities, Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, 2013.
- H.L. Mitchell Award, biannual prize for most distinguished book concerning history of the southern working class (for *Gospel of the Working Class*), The Southern Historical Association, November 2012.

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- Samuel Ostrowsky Award, outstanding faculty scholarship (for *Death Blow to Jim Crow*), Roosevelt University, May 2012.
- Academic Director, National Endowment for the Humanities, Landmarks of American History and Culture Grant, “Renaissance in the Black Metropolis,” Summer 2012.
- Road Scholar, Illinois Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, terms 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.
- Engaged Faculty Fellow, Mansfield Institute for Social Justice, 2008-2011.
- Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar Faculty Fellowship, Winter-Spring 2010.
- McCormick-Tribune Transformational-Learning Grant, Fall 2007 and Spring 2011.
- Faculty Research Leave, Roosevelt University, Fall 2008.
- Summer Research Fellowship, Roosevelt University, 2007.
- Harold Perkins Prize, for best doctoral dissertation, Northwestern University, 2006-2007.
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2005-2006.
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Northwestern University, 2004-2005.
- Lacey Baldwin Smith Prize for Teaching Excellence, Department of History, Northwestern University, 2002 and 2004.
- Graduate Fellow, Center for African American History, Northwestern University, 2004-2006.
- Frankel Foundation Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2003-2004.
- Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship, Morehouse/Spelman Colleges, 1997.

### **Books**

*Organizing Agribusiness from Farm to Factory: A New Food and Labor History of America's Most Diverse Union*, with editors Max Krochmal, Jarod Roll, in the research phase.

*New Histories of Black Chicago*, with co-editors Simon Balto and Andrea Jackson, Black Metropolis Research Consortium, and Mellon Foundation, under contract with University of Illinois Press, forthcoming 2020.

*Troublemakers: Chicago Freedom Struggles through the Lens of Art Shay*, under contract with University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2019.

*Death Blow to Jim Crow: The National Negro Congress and the Rise of Militant Civil Rights*, University of North Carolina Press, John Hope Franklin series, 2012 (paperback 2014). Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *The Journal of African American History*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *Patterns of Prejudice*, and several other journals.

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*The Gospel of the Working Class: Labor's Southern Prophets in New Deal America*, coauthor Jarod Roll, University of Illinois Press, 2011 (paperback and hardcover). Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *Labour/Le Travail*, *Choice*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, and several other journals.

### Articles and Exhibitions

Historical text for "Activists and Icons: The Photographs of Steve Schapiro," Illinois Holocaust Museum, Skokie, Illinois, October 7, 2018-June 23, 2019.

"Black Freedom Struggles and Ecumenical Activism in 1960s Chicago" chapter 9 in Chris Cantwell, Heath Carter, and Janine Drake, editors, *Between the Pew and the Picket Line: Christianity and the Working Class in Industrial America* (University of Illinois Press, 2016).

Curator, "Troublemakers: Chicago Freedom Struggles through the Lens of Art Shay," Gage Gallery exhibition, September-December 2015.

"The Spirit and Strategy of the United Front: Randolph and the National Negro Congress, 1936-1940," chapter 6 in Andrew Kersten and Clarence Lang, editors, *Reframing Randolph: Labor, Black Freedom, and the Legacies of A. Philip Randolph* (NYU Press, 2015).

"In the Driver's Seat: Chicago's Bus Drivers and Labor Insurgency in the Era of Black Power," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas* 11:3 (Fall 2014).

"Charles White and the Laboring of the African American Artistic Renaissance," in Darlene Clark Hine, editor, *The Black Chicago Renaissance* (University of Illinois Press, 2012).

Co-Curator, "The Working-Class Eye of Milton Rogovin," Gage Gallery exhibition and events series, January-June, 2011.

"'The Stone Wall Behind': Chicago's Coalition for United Community Action and Labor's Overseers, 1968-1973," in Trevor Griffey and David Goldberg, editors, *Black Power at Work: Community Control, Affirmative Action, and the Construction Industry* (Cornell University Press, 2010): 112-133.

"Owen Whitfield and the Gospel of the Working Class in New Deal America, 1936-1946," co-author with Jarod Roll, *Journal of Southern History*, LXXII (May 2006): 303-348.

"'Carthage Must Be Destroyed': Race, City Politics and the Campaign to Integrate Chicago Transportation Employment, 1929-1943," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, 2 (Summer 2005): 81-114.

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## Book Reviews

*American Historical Review, Black Scholar* (forthcoming), *Florida Historical Quarterly, Journal of American History, Journal of American Studies* (forthcoming), *Journal of Illinois History, Journal of Southern History, Labor History, Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas, Reviews in American History, Urban Affairs Review, Women and Social Movements, Working-Class Notes.*

## Manuscript Reviews

**Books:** Columbia University Press, New York University Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Kentucky Press, University of North Carolina Press, University Press of Mississippi. **Articles:** *American Journal of Legal History, History: Journal of the Historical Association, Journal of Illinois History, Journal of Southern History, Journal of Urban History, Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas, Pacific Historical Review.*

## Encyclopedia Entries

*Africana: Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience, Encyclopedia of Chicago History, Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working-Class History, Food Encyclopedia, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History.*

## Teaching

### *Courses Taught at UNC Chapel Hill*

HIST 89: Rebuilding the American South: Work and Identity in Modern History

HIST 128: American History since 1865

HIST 365: The Worker and American Life

HIST 890: Rural America, Urban America

### *Courses Taught at Roosevelt University*

HIST 106-20: The United States to 1865

HIST 107-10: The United States since 1865

SOCJ/HIST 201: Introduction to Social Justice Studies

HIST/AFS 228-01: African-American History, 1619-1877

HIST/AFS 229-01: African-American History, 1877-present

HIST/AFS 233-01: America's Civil Rights Movement

HIST/AFS 280-10: African Americans and Jews in the 20th Century

HIST/WGS 280-20: History of Metro Chicago

HIST 326/426-10: 1960s America

HIST/WGS/SOCJ 327/427-20: Working Men and Women in American History

HIST 333/433-10: Civil War and Reconstruction

HIST 337/447-01: History of US Reform Movements

HIST/AFS 364-99 (Honors): The "White City" and the "Black Metropolis": Power and Race in Chicago, 1886-1987

HIST/AFS 365/465: Black Chicago: History and Culture

HIST 436-10: Graduate Readings Course in African American History

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HIST 450-10: Making Sense of America in the 1970s

NLUS: Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar Faculty Fellowship to team-teach the course: "Islands: Missionaries, Migration, Labor in the Atlantic World and on the Pacific Rim."

### Academic Presentations

Discussion of "Charles White: A Retrospective," Black and Brown Art Summer Institute, Chicago Metro History Fair, Chicago Art Institute, July 20, 2018.

"The Activism of Art: Black Cultural Production and Protest Politics in Chicago," 1935-1960, Heller Foundation seminar series, Newberry Library, April 11, 2018.

"Art Shay's Windy City Justice," Nelson Algren Museum, Gary, Indiana, March 25, 2018.

"Biography as Lens: The Donald Reconsidered," Organizing Agribusiness from Farm to Factory 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Porter Fortune, Jr. History Symposium, Oxford, University of Mississippi, March 1-2, 2018.

"Reflections on the Southern Negro Youth Congress: Columbia 1946," Behold the Land symposium, Center for Civil Rights History and Research, University of South Carolina, October 20, 2016.

"Chicago Mayors and the Challenges of Postwar Urban Governance" roundtable and "Dominic Pacyga's *Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stockyard and the World it Made*," book discussion, Urban History Association annual conference, Chicago, October 13-16, 2016.

"Northern Organizing and Cultural Resistance," Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, October 6, 2016.

"Alternatives to the Plantation: Independent Black Politics in 1960s Chicago," Organization of American Historians conference, Providence, Rhode Island, April 10, 2016.

Roundtable on Christianity in the Working Class in Industrial America, North American Labor History conference, Detroit, Michigan, October 24, 2015.

Invited Presentation, "Rethinking Black Freedom Studies from the Jim Crow North to the Jim Crow West," NEH Summer Seminar for University Professors, Harlem, New York, June 2015.

"Unwieldy Acronym, Ambitious Vision: UCAPAWA's Farm to Factory Organizing in 1930s-1940s America," Labor and Working Class History conference, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, May 30, 2015.

Roundtable on "Farm to Factory: Organizing Agribusiness Workers Across Color and Geographical Lines in 1930s-1940s America," Association for the Study of African-American Life and History conference, Memphis, September 26, 2014.

"Labor Rights are Civil Rights: Chicagoans' Struggles for Economic Justice in the Late 1960s," invited speaker, annual Labor Day Lecture, Monmouth College, September 1, 2014.

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“Repertoires of Black Cultural Nationalism before Black Power,” Commentator, Organization of American Historians conference, Atlanta, Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Book roundtable on *The Gospel of the Working Class*, North American Labor History conference, Detroit, October 26, 2013.

“Racism and Reaction,” commentator and chair, Labor and Working-Class History Association conference, New York City, June 6, 2013.

“Introducing the Black Chicago Renaissance,” invited talk for teacher professional development day, Westmont and adjacent school districts, Oak Brook, Illinois, February 15, 2013.

“Labor Prophets in New Deal Arkansas and America,” invited talk by Department of History and African American Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, October 22, 2012.

“The Skirts Held Down the Fort: Black Female Leadership and the National Negro Congress,” State of the Field: Black Women’s Activism During the Depression and War Era, Association for the Study of African-American Life and History conference, Pittsburgh, September 28, 2012.

“In the Driver’s Seat: Civil Rights, Black Power and Transit in Chicago, 1933-1970,” Organization of American Historians conference, Milwaukee, April 22, 2012.

“Faith in Black Power: Chicago’s Urban Training Center for Christian Mission, 1966-1970,” American Historical Association conference, Chicago, January 5-8, 2012.

“Old Wine in New Bottles: The Battle over Historical Memory of the South Tenant Farmers’ Union,” Southern Labor Studies and LAWCHA conference, Atlanta, April 8, 2011.

“Struggles of the Unemployed: Past and Present,” invited talk by Chicago Alliance against Racial and Political Repression, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Chicago, April 2, 2011.

“Forgotten Chicago” panel, A Century of May Days: International Conference on Labor and Social Struggles, DePaul University, April 30, 2010.

“Hard Hitting Songs for Hard-Hit People: Songs and Narrative from the Great Depression and Beyond,” commentator, OAH and LAWCHA conference, Washington, April 9, 2010.

“The Panthers and Beyond: The Wider Historical Vision of Black Power in Chicago,” Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago Public Library, February 6, 2010 (and presented several times for Chicago Public library branches, including Green Hills, February 20, 2013).

“‘Armed Arbiters and Scrupulous Pioneers’: The Chicago NAACP’s Quest for Status, Welfare, and Dignity, 1933-1957,” invited paper, The NAACP: A Centenary Appraisal Conference, University of Sussex, UK, September 24-5, 2009.

“In the Driver’s Seat: Black Power Unionism and Chicago’s Bus Drivers,” Newberry Seminar in Labor History, Chicago, March 13, 2009.

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“Slavery, Freedom and Legacy,” Margaret Garner community conversation panelist, Du Sable Museum of African American History and Drake Center, October 18, 2008.

“New Unions and the Struggle for Democracy,” and “Black Politics” session 3 and 6 of “Destination Freedom: Black Chicago, 1934-1954,” NEH Faculty Humanities Program with the Chicago Metro History Education Center and the Carter G. Woodson Public Library, October 4, 2008 and May 13, 2009.

“Filipino and Mexican Migratory Workers,” moderator and commentator, PNLHA and LAWCHA conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, June 7, 2008.

“Rebuilding a Chicago Civil Rights Movement: the Coalition for United Community Action and the Confrontation with the Construction Industry,” Illinois Sociological and Political Science Association Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, October 27, 2007.

“Religion Applied to the Rural and Urban Labor Divide: Black Migrant Workers and Interracial Unionism, 1940-1948,” Southern Labor Studies/LAWCHA conference, Duke University, May 19, 2007.

Commentator, Newberry Seminar in Labor History, Chicago, February 15, 2008, January 19, 2007, and February 21, 2003.

“‘Burn Baby Burn to Build Baby Build’: The Coalition for United Community Action, Construction Jobs, and Street Gangs, 1968-1970,” conference paper for the Southwest Labor Studies Association Conference, UC Santa Barbara, May 2005.

“Is it Labor or Working-Class History?,” research presentation at Midwest Labor and Working-Class History Colloquium, University of Illinois at Chicago, April 17–18, 2004.

“A Radical Past for a Progressive Future: Black Culture and the National Negro Congress,” American Historical Association Conference Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2004.

### **Select University Service**

Senator, College of Arts & Sciences, representing Department of History, 2010-2014, 2015

Associate Director, St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies, 2012-2018.

Admission Committee Member, Department of History, MA Program, 2008-2018.

Advisory Board Member, Pipeline Project, Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation, 2010-2013, and 2015-2016.

Conference Organizer, “Race, Labor and the City: Crises Old and New,” Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) and Labor Fund for History and Culture (Labor Notes) conference, Roosevelt University, Chicago, May 28-31, 2009.

Engaged Faculty Fellow, Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation, 2007-2010.

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### Community Engagement and Public History

Invited Speaker, "Chicago as a Model for Public History: Initiatives and Collaborations," American Library Association conference, Chicago, June 24, 2017.

Contributing Editor, *Labor: Studies of the Working Class in the Americas* (published by Duke University press), 2015-2018 term and 2018-2021 term.

Vice-Chair, Black Metropolis Research Consortium, 2015-2018.

Invited Speaker, "Children at Work: the History of Child Labor in the U.S.," to accompany Lewis Hine photography exhibit, Elmhurst Historical Museum, February 12, 2015.

Invited Discussant, Screening of "Slavery by Another Name," part of NEH "Created Equal" film series, Oak Park Public Library, March 2, 2014.

Invited Presentation, "The Forgotten Civil Rights Movement of the 1930s," Elmhurst Historical Museum, September 12, 2013.

Co-Convener, Newberry History Labor Seminar, 2010-2018.

Co-Chair, Local Planning Committee for 2009 conference at Roosevelt University, Labor and Working-Class Studies Association, 2007.

Steering Board Member, Chicago Consortium for Working-Class Studies, 2007-2015.

Steering Committee Member, Chicago Workers' Rights Board, Jobs with Justice, 2007-2014.

Invited Presentation, "African Americans Encounter Africans: Race and American Black Identity, 1865-1965," Newberry Teachers' Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, February 9, 2011.

Faculty Presenter, "Labor, Culture, and Resistance," Connecting with American History Project, Newberry Library and Chicago Public Schools, June 19, 2007.

Faculty Presenter, Black Chicago History Symposium, symposium for high school teachers, Humanities Center, DePaul University, February 2007.

Faculty Member, Teaching American History Institute, Evanston Township High School and Northwestern University, Department of Education Grant Project, Summer Institute 2005-2006.

Project Assistant, "The Labor Trail: Chicago's History of Working-Class Life and Struggle," The Illinois Humanities Council and the Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies, project headed by Dr. Leon Fink, University of Illinois at Chicago ([www.labortrail.org](http://www.labortrail.org)), 2002-2008.



## **ERIK S. GELLMAN**

Coordinator, Center for African American History, African American History Dissertation Workshop, Northwestern University, 2004-2006.

Research Consultant, "Paper Trail: 100 Years of the Chicago Defender," documentary film, 2005.

Research Assistant, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Civil Rights Litigation, New York, 2004.

Research Assistant for expert witness Dr. Charles Branham, City of Chicago, Civil Rights Litigation, 2002.

Research Assistant, Encyclopedia of Chicago History, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2000-2003.