



# Plenary Sessions

## The 2008 Election as History

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Harry Rubenstein, Smithsonian Institution

### *Race and Politics*

Clayborne Carson, Stanford University

*Blogging from the Center as a Historian  
During a Contested Campaign: Politically  
Anomalous and Academically Tenuous?*

Gil Troy, McGill University

*The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion, and the Presidency*

Fred L. Israel, City College of New York

### *Gender and Politics*

Blanche Wiesen Cook, John Jay College, City University of New York



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price,  
Department of Defense

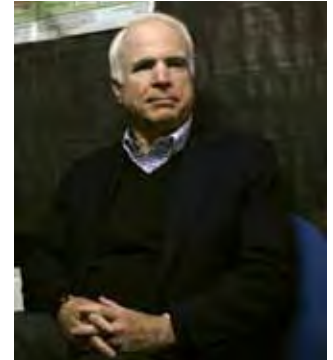


Photo by Cpl. Pete Thibodeau,  
Department of Defense

The election of 2008 is barely over, but historians no longer wait for the last ballot to be counted before beginning their analysis. Issues of race and gender have recast the American political landscape, calling for a greater understanding of the long paths leading to this election. The shifting definitions of liberalism and conservatism, and the candidates' search for a political center are also deeply rooted in the past. Historical perspective not only added a fuller appreciation of developing events but could be disseminated more widely through historians' blogs, offering timely commentary. Throughout the election, historians also worked in tandem with pollsters to weigh the data as it was collected. The historians on this plenary panel will measure the 2008 election from the viewpoint of history, along with assessing the evolving significance of historians in the electoral process.

## From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks

Friday, March 27, 3:45 p.m.

Sponsored by the Labor and Working-Class History Association, the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, and The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies

This session features a live performance of Ian Ruskin's acclaimed one-man multi-media play *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks*, a dramatic re-creation of the life and times of longshoremen's union leader Harry Bridges. Blending rare archival film footage, photographs, sound effects, and labor music, Ruskin takes audiences on a riveting personal and historical journey through the New Deal, World War II, and Cold War eras, with one of the twentieth century's most dynamic figures as their guide.

Bridges was an Australian-born seaman who went to work on the San Francisco waterfront in 1922 and played a leading role in the 1934 West Coast maritime and general strike. He withstood a twenty-year red-baiting and deportation campaign by shippers and the FBI, denounced the internment of Japanese-Americans, defied the law against interracial marriage, and guided his rank and file through the job-swallowing age of mechanization. A radical raconteur both vilified and celebrated in his own time, Bridges provides a sharp, spirited working-class perspective on issues that are as timely as ever given the growing gap between rich and poor, the global war on terror, and increasing governmental surveillance.



Ian Ruskin (Image by Veronica Puleo at verofoto.com)

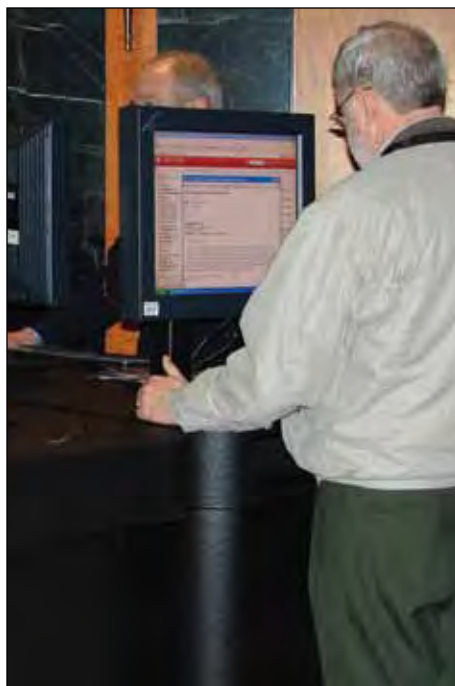


Harry Bridges (Image courtesy ILWU)

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Ruskin is a veteran of English repertory theater—London's West End—and has appeared in scores of films and television programs, including the movie version of *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Dock*, directed by Academy Award-winner Haskell Wexler. This 65-minute performance will be followed by a discussion with Ruskin moderated by Baruch College history professor and former San Francisco labor journalist Vincent DiGirolamo.

A reception, sponsored by the Labor and Working-Class History Association, will follow the session.

# Highlights



These 2008 meeting attendees enjoy the Internet Kiosks sponsored by JSTOR. The Internet Kiosks will be available in Seattle.

tations that use posters, computer presentations, or other materials. Presenters may demonstrate and discuss web sites or other computer applications for public history projects; mount table-sized exhibits of research and interpretation; or share images, audiovisual materials, and handouts from successful public programs.

The 2009 Poster Session will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 28, immediately preceding the OAH Presidential Address. Participants will set up their “posters” before the session and discuss their projects informally with conference attendees. OAH will provide tables and electrical connections. Some audio visual equipment may be available, but participants must provide their own computers.

To submit a poster proposal, please visit <<http://www.oah.org/2009/posters>>. Proposals must be received by February 15, 2009, and should include: contact information including name, affiliation, address, email, and phone number; an abstract of no more than 250 words that includes a title and summary of the project and describes the method of presentation; and a one-page biographical statement for each participant.

## **NEW! American History Documentary Library**

For the first time, the OAH Annual Meeting will include a Documentary Film Library. Meeting participants may view any of these documentary films on American history upon request in the exhibit hall. Films include:

- *After the Silence: Civil Rights and the Japanese American Experience*
- *Banished*
- *The Battle of Local 5668*

## **Internet Kiosks**

Sponsored by JSTOR

OAH is pleased to announce that we have partnered with JSTOR to provide our onsite internet kiosks. JSTOR is a not-for-profit organization with a dual mission—to create and maintain a trusted archive of important scholarly journals, and to provide access to these journals as widely as possible. JSTOR offers researchers the ability to retrieve high-resolution, scanned images of journal issues and pages as they were originally designed, printed, and illustrated. The journals archived in JSTOR span many disciplines. JSTOR is a History Cooperative partner.



## **Screening History**

The Screening History room features films selected for their quality and usefulness in teaching. The 2009 OAH Erik Barnouw Award winner and honorable mention films will be screened Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28.

## **State of the Field Sessions**

These sessions are designed to present to a diverse audience the historiography of a subfield and its evolution during the past ten to twenty years. Experts in the subject answer the question, “How did the field get to where it is today?” rather than focus on cutting-edge developments one might find in regular OAH sessions. State of the Field sessions are designed for scholars and teachers not already deeply immersed in a particular field, those who might not have kept up with the literature, and those who may want to incorporate the historiography of the field into their teaching.

## **2009 OAH Poster Session**

OAH will host a poster session for participants interested in presenting current public history projects, research, or teaching strategies. Poster sessions are an informal opportunity for presentations that use posters, computer presentations, or other materials. Presenters may demonstrate and discuss web sites or other computer applications for public history projects; mount table-sized exhibits of research and interpretation; or share images, audiovisual materials, and handouts from successful public programs.

## **OAH Business Meeting**

The OAH Business Meeting will be held Saturday, March 28, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., immediately preceding the OAH Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address. All OAH members are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the governance of the organization.

- *The Borinqueneers*
- *Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story*
- *Call It Democracy*
- *Call Me Troy*
- *Chavez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story*
- *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*
- *Gimme Green*
- *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*
- *Home of the Brave*
- *The Long Walk to Freedom*
- *Milk in the Land: Ballad of an American Drink*
- *Ocoee: Legacy of the Election Day Massacre*
- *The Order of Myth*
- *Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968*
- *Sir! No, sir!*
- *Tulia, Texas*
- *Traces of the Trade: A Story of the Deep North*
- *Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun*



# Receptions

**Thursday, March 26, 5:00 p.m.**

## Opening Night

Cosponsored by ABC-CLIO and University of Illinois Press

Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres compliments of reception sponsors and the OAH. Reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and meet members of the OAH leadership. The opening reception, which will be held in the Sheraton Seattle, precedes the Thursday night plenary at Town Hall Seattle.



### Public History Reception

**Friday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.**

The OAH Committee on Public History invites public historians and guests for a reception Friday afternoon. The reception provides a chance for attendees with similar professional interests and responsibilities to meet in an informal atmosphere. Cosponsored by the American Association for State and Local History, American University Department of History, Public History Program; American West Center, University of Utah; Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University; Center for Public History and Archaeology, Colorado State University; Center of the American West, University of Colorado, Boulder; Department of History, Colorado State University; John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage; Na-

tional Council on Public History; University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of History; University of South Carolina Department of History and its Public History Program; *Western Historical Quarterly*.

### SHAFR Reception

**Friday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.**

Cash bar reception for members of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and all attendees interested in the study of American foreign relations.

### Labor and Working-Class History Association Reception

**Friday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.**

The Labor and Working-Class History Association, together with the OAH, will host a reception immediately following the Ian Ruskin

one-man play *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks*.

### SHGAPE Reception

**Friday, March 27, 6:00 p.m.**

Reception for all members of the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era and all attendees interested in the study of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

### Distinguished Members Reception

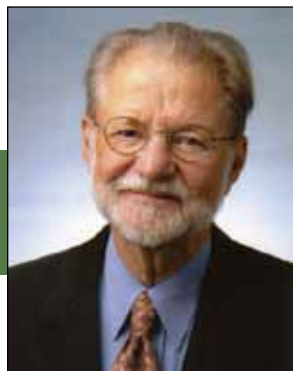
**Friday, March 27, 6:00 p.m.**

Attendees who have been members of the OAH for twenty-five years or more, or who are Patron or Life members, are invited to a reception in their honor Friday, March 27.

**Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m.**

## Presidential Reception

*Honoring OAH President Pete Daniel*



Cosponsored by the National Museum of American History (NMAH), the NMAH Office of Curatorial Affairs, NMAH Division of Work and Industry, and the University of North Carolina Press

The final conference reception will honor outgoing OAH President Pete Daniel. Enjoy dinner at one of the great restaurants in downtown Seattle, and then return to the Sheraton Seattle Hotel for dessert and drinks. Take this opportunity to say your goodbye to colleagues until the 2010 OAH Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.