



PRESS RELEASE

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2016 Working Class Studies Association Awards for work produced in 2015

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Each year, the Working Class Studies Association (WCSA) issues a number of awards to recognize the best new work in the field of working-class studies. This year, they will be awarded in June 2016 at the How Class Works conference, hosted by Center for Study of Working Class Life at SUNY Stony Brook.

The review process is organized by the past-president of the WCSA, and submissions are judged by a panel of three readers for each of the categories of awards.

The results are in for the annual WCSA Awards for significant contributions to working-class studies in the year 2015; the winners are listed below, along with judges' comments.

Together these books and articles demonstrate the scope and vitality of cultural and scholarly production in working-class studies, and serve as an inspiration to future work in the field.

CLR James Award for Published Book for Academic or General Audiences (there are two recipients this year)

White, Ann Folio. *Plowed Under: Food Policy Protests and Performance in New Deal America*. Indiana University Press, 2015.

Judges' comments:

“The book has a remarkably inventive and interdisciplinary methodology, and it takes a diverse but coherent look at the multifaceted questions of labor, food

production, and the relations of class, race, and gender during the Great Depression, questions that have lasting implications for today's world."

"This book is incredibly ambitious in terms of its interdisciplinary vision. Though White grounds her study by examining the effects of a specific piece of "New Deal" legislation—the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act—on the political and cultural landscape of the depression-era U.S., she does this by combining interventions from performance studies, public policy, and labor history, all through a broad analytical lens that allows us to see how differently situated 'socioeconomic identity groups' responded to the AAA's framing of the relationship between the duties of citizenship and the 'right' to food."

Weise, Julie M. *Corazón de Dixie: Mexicans in the U.S. South Since 1910*. University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Judges' comments:

"At first glance, a reader might be deceived into thinking that *Corazón de Dixie* is not necessarily a working-class studies text. It is in fact a deeply intersectional history, concerned with 'the regional and national politics of race, class, and citizenship' as related to the Mexican-American immigrant experience; the politics of work, and work's relationship to how one develops a sense of U.S. belonging on both her own terms and the terms of powerful others, resonates from every page of this book."

"This is an exceptionally well-researched study of an important and overlooked subject that challenges static perceptions about Mexican immigration and the Southern racial system. Weise's study is innovative in its conceptual and historical framework, its methodology and its conclusions."

Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing

Yarrow, Mike and Ruth Yarrow. Photographs by Douglas Yarrow. *Voices from the Appalachian Coalfields*. Bottom Dog Press, 2015.

Judges' comments:

"I think [this book] could be influence a lot of writers, artists, and scholars in the future in terms of how they approach and respond to working-class culture. I feel like all this work was almost lost, so simply the fact of its publication is important. It captures both regional culture and working-class culture in all its emotional complexity through the competing voices."