

Gordon Lafer
Labor Education and Research Center
University of Oregon
1675 Agate St., Eugene, OR 97403

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, with Distinction, Yale University, 1995.

B.A., Economics, with Distinction, Swarthmore College, 1983.

ACADEMIC AND POLICY POSITIONS HELD

Associate Professor, Labor Education and Research Center, University of Oregon, 2003 - present. Conduct research on labor and employment policy. Consult with labor unions on strategic planning, organizational change and campaign strategies. Affiliation with Political Science department.

Assistant Professor, Labor Education and Research Center, University of Oregon, 1997-2003.

Visiting Faculty appointments: University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Union Leadership & Administration graduate program, 2007-present; Universidad Latina de America, Michoacan, Mexico, Migration Studies, Winter 2005; Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, Labor Studies, November 2014; Tel Aviv University, School of Government, December 2015; University of Haifa, December 2016.

Research Associate, Economic Policy Institute, Washington DC. 2011 - present.

Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor, 2009-10. Responsible for policy regarding job creation, labor law, sick leave, free trade.

Economic Policy Analyst, Office of the Mayor, New York City, 1985-88. Evaluated policies and formulated legislative recommendations for employment and education policy.

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

“How does 21st century corporate political mobilization differ from that of the 1970s or 1940s,” presentation to *Histories of Capitalism* conference, Cornell University, September 2016.

"From Economic to Political Inequality: Corporate Political Mobilization after *Citizens United*," presentation to American Sociological Association conference, Seattle, August 2016.

"The *Friedrichs* case and the logic of 'fair share' dues," presentation to conference of United Association of Labor Educators, Washington, DC, April 2016.

"Making sense of the corporate lobbies' attacks on public employee unions," presentation to *Public Sector Unions on the Line* conference, Murphy Institute for Labor Studies, City University of New York, March 2016.

"Teachers' Unions and Educational Quality: the Corporate Legislative Agenda for Education Reform," University of Ottawa, October 2015.

"Stifling Workers' Voice in Politics: State Legislation Banning Union Dues Collection," presentation to American Political Science Association, San Francisco, August 2015.

"Labor Strategies in a Time of Austerity," presentation to Israeli National Labor Federation, Tel Aviv, November 2014.

Presentation to Alaska AFL-CIO on minimum wage legislation, Anchorage, October 2014.

Presentation to Labor and Employment Research Association national conference, on labor standards legislation in the states, Portland, OR, May 2014.

Presentation to Milwaukee Schools and Communities United on proposed school closure legislation, Milwaukee City Hall, April 2014.

"School Privatization and Online Learning," presentation to University of Hawaii public affairs forum, Honolulu, April 2014.

Presentation to International Association of Public Employee Unions, national conference, Washington DC, February 2014.

"American Jobs and 'Free Trade': the Trans-Pacific Partnership," keynote presentation for Congressional Town Hall with U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, Eugene, Oregon, January 2014.

Presentation to *Labor Research Action Network* conference on privatization of public services, Washington, DC, November 2013.

"Right to Work: A National Anti-Union Agenda in State Legislatures," presentation to American Political Science Association convention, Chicago, August 2013.

"State Legislative Attacks on Teachers' Unions and Public Schooling," address to United Association of Labor Education conference, Toronto, April 2013.

- “Making Sense of The 2012 Elections: A Way Forward for Labor?” Address to Murphy Institute for Labor Studies, City University of New York, November 2012.
- “Union Rights and ‘Right to Work’ Laws in U.S. Legislative Debates,” presentation to International Labor Process Conference, Stockholm, March 2012.
- “Public Employee Unions and Private Sector Labor Standards: State Legislative Debates,” address to public policy program, William Paterson University, New Jersey, March 2012.
- “Workers’ Rights in a Globalized Economy,” American Political Science Association annual conference, Seattle, August 2011.
- “Strategic Challenges for a Progressive Jobs Policy,” Center for Urban Research and Policy, Columbia University, New York, May 2011.
- “Democracy in the Workplace: Fixing Labor Law in the 21st Century,” public address, Pomona College, January 2011.
- “Workers’ Rights Under ‘Free Trade’ Treaties,” address to the Social and Economic Academy, Jerusalem, Israel, September 2010.
- “The Local Jobs for America Act: Prospects for Passage,” U.S. Conference of Mayors annual conference, Oklahoma City, June 2010.
- “Employers’ Campaign Against the Employee Free Choice Act,” presentation to conference on *Labor and the Right*, University of California at Santa Barbara, January 2009.
- “Enduring Feudalism: Does the Constitution End at the Door to the Workplace?” Resident Scholar Address, Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics, University of Oregon Law School, April 2008.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Books

The One Percent Solution: How Corporations Are Remaking America One State at a Time, Cornell University Press, 2017.

The Job Training Charade, Cornell University Press, 2002.

Peer-Refereed Articles and book chapters

- "Education Technology, Charter Schools, and the New School Segregation," in Iris Rotberg and Josh Glazer, editors, *Parallel Education Systems: Charter Schools and Diversity*, Teachers' College/Columbia University Press, 2017.
- "Labor Strategy in the Age of Trump," *New Labor Forum*, Spring 2017.
- "Class warfare in the USA: Anti-unionism and the legislative agenda of the 1%," *Radical Philosophy*, March/April 2012.
- "Unionization: A Private Sector Solution to the Economic Crisis," *Dissent*, 2009.
- "What's More Democratic Than a Secret Ballot? The Case for Majority Sign-Up," *Working USA*, 2008.
- "A Corporate Campaign for the Corporate University," in Krause, Nolan, Palm and Ross, editors, *The University Against Itself: The NYU Strike and the Future of the Academic Workplace*, Temple University Press, 2008.
- "From Baghdad to the Bayou: Neoliberalism and the Shrinking of Democracy," *New Labor Forum*, Winter 2008.
- "The Critical Failure of Workplace Ethics," in John W. Budd, ed., *The Ethics of Human Resources and Industrial Relations*, Cornell University Press, 2005.
- "Hospital Speedups and the Fiction of a Nursing Shortage," *Labor Studies Journal*, 30(1): 27-46, Spring 2005. Named *Best Article Published in 2005-07* by Labor Studies Journal.
- "The Last Bicycle Tire Plant: Mexican Factory Workers' Dream Dies on Altar of Free Trade," *Dissent*, Summer 2005.
- "Neoliberalism by Other Means: The 'War on Terror' At Home and Abroad," *New Political Science*, 26(3): 323-346, September 2004.
- "What is Skill? Training for Discipline in the Low Wage Labor Market," in Chris Warhurst, Ewart Keep and Irena Grugulis, eds., *The Skills That Matter*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2004.
- "Graduate Student Unions: Organizing in a Changed Academic Economy," *Labor Studies Journal*, 28(2): 1-19, Summer 2003.
- "Land and Labor in the Post-industrial University Town: Remaking Social Geography," *Political Geography* 22 (2003): 89-117.

Policy Reports

- "Right to Work" Is the Wrong Answer for New Mexico's Economy, Economic Policy Institute, February 2015.

“Right to Work” Is the Wrong Answer for Wisconsin’s Economy, Economic Policy Institute, January 2015.

Do Poor Kids Deserve Lower Quality Education Than Rich Kids? Evaluating School Privatization Proposals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Economic Policy Institute, April 2014.

The Legislative Attack on American Wages and Labor Standards, 2011-12, Economic Policy Institute, Briefing Paper #364, October 31, 2013.

The ‘Paycheck Protection’ Racket: Tilting the political playing field toward corporate power and away from working Americans, Economic Policy Institute, April 2013.

All Costs Considered III: Further Analysis on the Contracting Out of School Support Services in Oregon, with Bob Bussel and Jaxon Love, University of Oregon, February 2013.

Indiana experience offers little hope for Michigan ‘right to work’ law, with Marty Wolfson and Nancy Guyott, Economic Policy Institute, December 2012.

Right to Work: A Failed Policy. A New Hampshire Update. Economic Policy Institute, February, 2012.

Working Hard to Make Indiana Look Bad: The Tortured, Uphill Case for ‘Right to Work,’ Economic Policy Institute, January 2012.

Rehberg’s proposed riders to Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act would undercut American workers, Economic Policy Institute, November 2011.

‘Right to work’: The wrong answer for Michigan’s economy, Economic Policy Institute, September 2011.

Proposed NLRB rule changes would make workplace elections more democratic, Economic Policy Institute, July 2011.

‘Right to Work’ wrong for New Hampshire. Economic Policy Institute, April 2011.

Does “Right to Work” Create Jobs? Answers from Oklahoma, with Sylvia Allegretto, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC, March 2011.

What’s Wrong with “Right to Work”? Chamber’s Numbers Don’t Add Up, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC, March 2011.

Neither Free Nor Fair: The Subversion of Democracy Under National Labor Relations Board Elections, published by American Rights at Work, Washington, DC, 2007.

All Costs Reconsidered: New Analysis on the Contracting Out of School Support Services in Oregon. Published by the Oregon School Employees Association, 2007.

The LPN: A Practical Way to Alleviate the Nursing Shortage, United Nurses of America, AFSCME, May 2007. Co-authored with Helen Moss.

Free and Fair: How Labor Law Fails U.S. Democratic Election Standards, published by American Rights at Work, Washington, DC, June 2005.

All Costs Considered: A Report on the Contracting Out of School Support Services. Published by the Oregon School Employees Association, June, 2004.

Select Public Affairs Analysis and Commentary

"The American left must build bridges to Trump supporters," *Haaretz*, December 2016.

"The return of 'kindergarten math' in battle over 'right-to-work,'" *New Mexico Political Report*, January 26, 2016.

"What Happens When Your Teacher is a Video Game?" *The Nation*, October 13, 2014.

"Rocketship program is a model for inequality in education opportunity," *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, May 10, 2014.

"Partnership or Putsch? The Trans-Pacific Partnership," *Project Syndicate*, January 2014.

"The Truth about Oregon's Right-to-Work Initiative," *Oregonian*, July 2013.

"Discipline and Punish: The New Unemployment Insurance Reform," *Labor Notes*, May 2013.

"Cutting Wages and Benefits Only Harms the Economy," *U.S. News & World Report*, December 12, 2012.

"Very unwise for employers to tell employees how to vote," *The Hill*, October 25, 2012.

"Labor's Bad Recall?" *The Nation*, June 2012.

"What 'Right to Work' Means for Indiana's Workers: A Pay Cut," *The Nation*, January 11, 2012.

"Why Occupy Wall Street Has Left Washington Behind," *The Nation*, November 14, 2011.

"Will Obama Fix Rigged Union Elections?" *The Nation*, October 10, 2011.

"Choose voters over donors on free trade," *The Hill*, June 7, 2011.

"Jim DeMint's Race to the Bottom," *Politico*, May 26, 2011.

CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

U.S. Senate. Testimony on democratic standards and labor law reform, before the U.S. Senate, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, April 2008.

U.S. House of Representatives. Testimony on democratic election standards and labor law reform, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington DC, February 2007.

State Legislatures. Expert testimony on labor and employment policy provided to legislatures of Oregon, Hawaii, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Michigan and Wisconsin, 2007-2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Political Science Association. Founder and co-chair, APSA Labor Project.

Labor Research Action Network. Member, national executive council, 2011-2016. As co-chair of Initiatives Task Force, helped craft LRAN's first major undertaking – a large-scale training for academics and union staff on privatization of public services and assets, October 2013.

In The Public Interest. Member, National Advisory Committee. Provide strategic guidance for premier national advocacy group addressing privatization of public assets and services.

Social & Economic Academy. (Tel Aviv, Israel). Chair, advisory council. Provide support to creation of Israel's first labor leader training institute. 2014-present.

Civil Liberties Defense Center (Eugene, OR), Advisory board member.

United Association of Labor Educators, member.