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Initiatives, Debates**

Centro Cultural Paco Urondo, Facultad de
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Titles and abstracts in English

In alphabetical order, based on the last name of the (first) author



Carlos Alvarez

CEHTI – Universidad Nacional de Rosario (Argentina)

"Police Records from the Investigations Division of the Rosario Police. Sources for a Social History of the Working Class at the Beginning of the 20th Century"

This paper aims to introduce a recently available yet relatively unknown and underexplored source. This pertains to the police records meticulously compiled by the Investigations Division of the Rosario Police between the years 1905 and 1940, with a particular focus on those belonging to the "Social Order" section. This section was the most significant during the initial period, entrusted with the task of understanding, overseeing, and suppressing the more combative and organized segments of the laboring population. The paper investigates the potential of this kind of source for the social history of the working class. The source grants

access to a remarkably abundant repository of testimonies, interrogations, genealogical data, and an extensive collection of documents, including newspapers and pamphlets from the labor movement, many of which have not endured in other archives. I claim that this source provides a privileged gateway, expanding the resources available for studying a working class that wasn't always able to leave direct testimonies. Concurrently, it facilitates the comprehension of institutional representations and policies in their class relations with workers, as well as the socio-political and ideological currents that existed among them.

Deivison Amaral - Ana Clara Tavares - Larissa Farias

Laboratório de Estudos de História dos Mundos do Trabalho da UFRJ (Brazil)

"Dissemination of Labor History to the Non-Specialized Public in Brazil and the Experience of the Labor Studies Laboratory of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro"

The current context presents critical challenges to labor relations. 21st-century labor relations, against a backdrop of deindustrialization, neoliberal agendas, and weakening of unions, have posed challenges to the struggle for rights. Furthermore, we find ourselves in an era of deregulated labor relations, where workers are increasingly less protected by labor laws. In this context, understanding labor history is becoming ever more crucial for framing debates, and its dissemination to the non-specialized public becomes an obligation. Thus, since 2019, the Labor Studies Laboratory of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (LEHMT-UFRJ) has been generating original scientific outreach content in the field of labor history. The LEHMT website (www.lehmt.org), through its diverse productions (audiovisual series, didactic sequences, news, book/series/film recommendations, article publications, among

others), aims to craft content in various formats concerning the experiences of workers in Brazil, in accessible language. The LEHMT website primarily focuses on promoting national and international academic productions related to Labor History, while also engaging in the realm of Public History, recognizing the need to extend these discussions beyond the academic sphere. In the pursuit of democratizing access to this field, LEHMT employs social media and other channels for scientific dissemination. The "Labuta" YouTube channel and our podcast "Vale Mais" function as pivotal tools in this endeavor. The Laboratory produces original content, exemplified by the "Workers' Memory Places" series, which has already mapped and analyzed over a hundred sites of memory. Moreover, the Laboratory generates content based on archives from the labor history, such as the "Communist Voices" series, which



capitalized on the centenary of the Brazilian Communist Party to recover oral history testimonies from various archives and disseminate them throughout the year 2022. The digital revolution and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have necessitated novel approaches to scientific dissemination. Social media holds a critical role in Public History and, consequently, in scientific outreach. One of the Laboratory's main focal points is managing social media. Beyond being

a means for historians to reach a broader audience, it enables a broader society to participate in knowledge construction.

The aim of this presentation is to share the experience of scientific outreach in labor history undertaken by LEHMT-UFRJ, present some of the projects with notable results, and thus reflect on the best strategies for spreading historical knowledge, as well as the capacity to engage in public debates.

Tatiane Bartmann - Paulo Rodrigues Guadagnin

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)

"Labor Lawsuits from the Collection of the Labor Justice Memorial as a Source for Historical Research"

This presentation aims to spotlight the collection of the Labor Justice Memorial in the 4th Region, showcasing a research possibility through labor lawsuits from the 1940s that are microfilmed and available to researchers. The Labor Justice Memorial in Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), established in 2003 and based in Porto Alegre, preserves and provides access to documentation originating from the 4th Region Regional Labor Court. The collection encompasses various historical sources related to the world of labor, including labor lawsuits. The use of labor lawsuits as a source for the social history of labor has grown and expanded research opportunities in recent years. Generally, the procedural source pertains to themes involving labor relations in Brazil and their inherent conflicts. Historiography has underscored that Labor Justice played a pivotal role in mediating conflicts between workers and employers, as well as between entrepreneurs and the government. Moreover, it's important to note that Labor Justice was established in the country in 1941 as a type of administrative labor court linked to the Executive Branch. Therefore, it falls within the same historical context as the implementation of the Consolidation of Labor Laws in 1943, during the

period known as the Estado Novo (New State, 1937-1945). Paradoxically, Labor Justice, which intended to settle disputes between employees and employers, generated sources that can now be retrieved and analyzed with the aim of reconstructing the history of the struggle for rights by workers from various economic sectors. Considering the mere pursuit of Labor Justice as an initial act of resistance, the analysis delves into individual actions initiated by female workers with informal connections and work relationships that could be characterized as precarious. The conflicts that unfolded in the Conciliation and Judgement Boards, the first instance of the Labor Justice system, encompassed requests for signing professional contracts and receiving minimum wages. These disputes ignited discussions about the contests for acknowledgment and formalization of employment relationships, as well as the broadening of the definition of work and who qualifies as a worker. Disputes like these can be studied and interpreted in their complexity, given that they have become accessible to the public and researchers through the collection of the Labor Justice Memorial in Rio Grande do Sul.

Victoria Basualdo



CONICET - FLACSO (Argentina)

"Dictatorships, Workers, and Labor Movement in South America during the Cold War: An Analysis of Recent Contributions and Future Perspectives"

On the 40th anniversary of the end of the last dictatorship in Argentina and the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the dictatorships in Uruguay and Chile, this presentation aims to conduct an analysis of the main contributions from various lines of research and recent work regarding the impact of dictatorships on the working class and labor movements in South America during the Cold War. Special attention will be given to the cases of Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and to a lesser extent, Paraguay, Colombia, and Peru. The connections between repressive processes, economic transformations, and the evolution of labor rights will be analyzed, along

with evidence regarding the various forms of military-business collaboration. Simultaneously, I will address some of the primary ways in which these investigations intersected with processes of Memory, Truth, and Justice, focusing on Argentina but also considering cases and aspects from different countries. The presentation will be based on a long history of research on the subject, documented in various scientific publications, as well as in instances of exchange and academic production within the framework of the *Red de Procesos represivos, empresas, trabajadores/as y sindicatos en América Latina*.

Diego Bautista Páez

Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora (Mexico)

"Digital Archives of the Mexican Labor Movement: Origins, Scope, and Potential Expansions"

This paper introduces the primary digital archives available for the historical study of organizations, unions, and guilds during the first two decades of the 20th century in Mexico. It offers a brief overview of the origins of these digital repositories, an assessment of their scope and strengths, as well as biases, gaps, and opportunities to enhance their specific content and the digital archives of the Mexican labor movement as a whole. The Archivo Magón, Librado Ribera y los Hermanos Rojos, along with the recent release of Mexican newspapers included in the Anarchist and Syndicalist Periodicals from Latin America on Archive.org, are crucial resources for studying workers' organizations during the Mexican Revolution. This period presents a paradox for the study of the labor movement, as it boasts a wealth of secondary literature juxtaposed against a smaller collection of primary sources produced by workers and referenced in studies for the 1907-1919 period. The complete works of Ricardo Flores Magón, encompassing

the four epochs of the *Regeneración* newspaper, the short-lived *Revolución*, the "biblioteca sociológica", a biographical dictionary, along with the reconstruction of the places of residence and exile of the Oaxacan revolutionary, and mentions of the Mexican Liberal Party in leftist and workers' press from other regions (Rio de la Plata, Spain, France, Italy), are the most relevant contents that these three digital archives analyzed in the presentation provide. As Lima and Kisil have attested in the case of Brazil, digital archives gained even greater prominence following the Covid-19 pandemic and the surge in comparative, global, and transnational historical perspectives. This presentation stems from the use of digital archives for the doctoral thesis "*¡A la huelga! Lenguajes de clase, impacto político y circulación de ideas entre la huelga general de 1916 en la Ciudad de México y la Semana Trágica de 1919 en Buenos Aires*" (Instituto Mora, 2023). It is part of the AD-



XXI (Digital Archives for the 21st Century)
project.

Alberto Berreta

Sociedad Luz (Argentina)

"The Sociedad Luz and the Biblioteca Obrera 'Juan B. Justo': Initiatives, Networks, and Cultural Preservation"

The history of the 'Sociedad Luz' begins with the initiative of a prominent socialist activist, Mauricio Kliman. In the early months of 1899, Kliman set out to organize a cultural entity focused on educational presentations using luminous projections, which were then gaining popularity in Europe. This enthusiasm for cultural and scientific dissemination was shared by two key figures in the history of the 'Sociedad Luz': Juan B. Justo, the founder of the Socialist Party, and Ángel Mariano Giménez, a hygienist physician. Their efforts turned Kliman's proposal into reality, culminating in the establishment of the society on April 29, 1899, at the premises located at Méjico 2070. Presently, the headquarters stands at Suárez 1301, in the Barracas neighborhood. The society has been designated as culturally significant, with its building recognized as a heritage site. Over several decades, the "Sociedad Luz Universidad Popular" persisted in its mission of cultural diffusion and scientific communication. In 2003, it established a history teaching program and solidified its position as an essential reference for the pioneering socialist tradition in Argentina.

The origins of the "Biblioteca Obrera" (Workers' Library) can be traced back to the founding of the "Centro Socialista de Estudios" in 1896 by Juan B. Justo, along with notable figures such as Roberto J. Payró, Leopoldo Lugones, Carlos Malagarriga, José Ingenieros, Ángel Giménez, and visual artists Ernesto de la Cárcova and Eduardo Schiaffino. This library was managed by a group of socialist activists who viewed culture as a means to uplift the lives of the people. In its 122 years of existence, the "Biblioteca Obrera 'Juan B. Justo'" has become a reference point for Buenos Aires' cultural life and for popular institutions dedicated to

promoting values like freedom, democracy, social justice, and solidarity.

Today, both institutions are dedicated to generating strategies and cultural management actions. They seek to facilitate the exchange of specialists and foster interaction with similar organizations at the national and international levels to enhance their capacities and visibility. Specifically, both institutions possess a rich collection of Argentine periodicals from the 19th and 20th centuries that pertain to the beginnings of the labor movement in Argentina, a collection that is challenging to come by. We consider it a priority to strengthen libraries and archives committed to the recovery and preservation of their material and immaterial heritage. This task involves cataloging and archiving documents, magazines, books, photographs, videos, and more, alongside regularly conducting dissemination activities and publishing original works concerning the historical heritage contained within their collections. It's our mission to ensure the right to information and facilitate the dissemination of intellectual thought from that era by placing our catalog in the hands of researchers, educators, and the general public. Both the 'Biblioteca Obrera' and the 'Sociedad Luz' have agreements with various organizations, such as the UNGS, with whom we engage in collaborative work. Our aim is to exchange information about the academic and cultural activities of both institutions and to develop mutually interesting research and training programs. Notably, our collaboration with the CEHTI, an institution primarily focused on researching, disseminating, and contributing to the history of the left, the working class, the labor movement, Marxism, critical thinking, socialist culture, and feminisms at national and



international scales, is especially noteworthy. Our mission is to preserve this heritage that reaffirms our commitment to profound social

change, leading to a better life for humanity in a more just and supportive world.

Miguel Breyton Silva

IIEP – Intercâmbio, Informações, Estudos e Pesquisas (Brazil)

"IIEP: People Know, Live, Tell, Write, and Prove"

The IIEP is an entity of political memory for workers, valuing their resistance to the Brazilian Corporate-Military Dictatorship and advocating for Truth, Justice, and Reparation. We address how workers and popular movements organized during this period, which is a rare initiative in Brazil. We originate from the Metalworkers' Union Opposition of São Paulo, active from the 1960s to the 1990s. The movement's work focused on the largest workers' union in Latin America, the Metalworkers of São Paulo, but due to the variety of professions among its members – and also due to persecution – it spread across various categories. The IIEP acts as a repository of archives of working-class popular memory, engaging with researcher-workers – individuals who participated in the movement and learn to research alongside students and academic scholars. Two books have emerged from this approach: *Investigação Operária: Empresários, Militares e Pelegos contra os Trabalhadores* and *Quando os trabalhadores se tornam classe: a construção da riqueza na cidade de São Paulo*. We also publish books related to our own history, such as *Olavo Hanssen: uma vida em desafio* by Murilo Leal; *Um tempo para não esquecer: Ditadura, Anos de Chumbo* by Antonio Prado de Andrade; and *Ninguém pode se calar: Depoimento na Comissão Nacional da Verdade* by Pinheiro Salles. We encounter challenges in interacting with the State and academic institutions because they often don't immediately allow the archives to be worked on by their own producers or by people who were part of that history. This results in a disruption of memory construction. The IIEP doesn't sell services. We aim to make

everything we have public. Our major challenge, like for all similar initiatives in Brazil, is acquiring and sustaining resources. Currently, we are creating a database of our main archive, the Metalworkers' Union of São Paulo (OSM-SP), containing 130,000 images. We are also making available the collection of In.Formar – 12,000 slides depicting popular movements in the 1980s and 1990s. Since 2007, the IIEP has been collecting testimonies from participants in social movements and activists from São Paulo. Dozens of worker testimonials focus on their experiences confronting the unionism imposed by the dictatorship, struggles in neighborhoods, in Ecclesial Base Communities, in cultural groups, and major emerging movements such as the Cost of Living Movement, and struggles for transportation, housing, and healthcare. Starting this year, we are sharing these testimonies on YouTube. Between 2015 and 2020, the IIEP initiated legal action against Volkswagen for its systemic complicity with the dictatorship. This successful action provided resources for public universities to investigate ten other companies. Additionally, R\$ 3.5 million was allocated for the so-called Clandestine Pit of Perus, a mass grave on the outskirts of São Paulo containing the remains of unidentified individuals who were killed during the dictatorship. We continue to collaborate with teams investigating the relationship between major companies and the Brazilian dictatorship. Currently, 14 companies are under investigation. The IIEP assists these teams in the research process, in contacting and coordinating with the victims, and in efforts to publicize these investigations

Hernán Camarero



Centro de Estudios Históricos de los Trabajadores y las Izquierdas (Argentina)

"The Theoretical and Historiographical Project of the CEHTI and Its Contribution to the History of the Working Class, Labor and Leftist Movements"

The Center for Historical Studies of Workers and Leftist Movements (CEHTI) is a theoretical, historiographical, and cultural project situated within a long-standing field of study in Argentina and the world. Its primary aim is to contribute to the development of a comprehensive, critical, and innovative social, political, cultural, and intellectual history of left-wing movements, working classes, labor movements, feminisms, Marxist theory, and socialist culture. The CEHTI seeks to revive and complicate the notion of the 'labor movement,' going beyond the limitations of a mere institutional narrative. It is dedicated to upholding the vitality of social history and emphasizing the examination of social classes, bridging the gap between structural dimensions and forms of consciousness emerging from struggles and transcending them. In response to a dominant historiographic production often focused on the analysis of political processes and state actions divorced from social context, or, conversely, intellectual and cultural histories that neglect the experience of conflict and frequently overlook the role of social actors in shaping ideas, discourses, and symbolic representations, the CEHTI endeavors to reclaim the best contributions from the field of social history while incorporating recent developments. This is done in close connection with approaches to political, intellectual, cultural, and gender history. The CEHTI challenges 'objectivist' history, rejecting the conception of social subjects understood solely through their agency without the decisive mediation of consciousness and political subjectivity. It assumes a dual commitment: asserting the impossibility of producing a political (and cultural and intellectual) history of left-wing movements 'without social history in it,' and, inversely, highlighting the significance of the mediation of political subjectivities as a key component in the social history of the working class. In essence, it advocates for fruitful dialogue between social history and political history

when investigating the working class, labor movement, and leftist movements. These realms are seen as intertwined and concurrent, representing a unified process involving interconnected subjects.

The space coalescing around the CEHTI traces its origins to tasks, debates, and positions held since the early 1990s. Following several prior initiatives, a pivotal step was the formation of a collective in 2011 that began publishing the journal *Archivos de historia del movimiento obrero y la izquierda* in the subsequent year. This publication has since gained significant academic recognition, reach, and dissemination within the social sciences domain. Additionally, the CEHTI project was complemented by a book series, which has already published 18 books under its own imprint and in co-edition. Concurrently, the CEHTI has organized three large-scale conferences on the history of labor and leftist movements" at different university venues in 2015, 2018, and 2021.

Founded in 2016, the CEHTI was a further step in the consolidation of a journey that involved assembling an extensive collective of researchers spanning different generations, trajectories, and academic disciplines. This collaboration was based on respect for the diversity of approaches, opinions, and theoretical-ideological affiliations. This comprehensive project has grown into a network of multiple endeavors, including a formally established civil association, an academic production space, an editorial group, a physical location promoting numerous gatherings and events on diverse topics, a documentation center (housing a library, press archives, and a continually expanding archive), online platforms disseminating the digitization of primary sources, and a hub for connecting with researchers and entities worldwide (such as the IALHI).

Sustaining an autonomous project of this nature, free from institutional or bureaucratic constraints (be they state, private, or civil society-based), self-financed, and dedicated



to emancipatory causes, poses an immense challenge for a "Global South" country like Argentina, where political instability, economic crises, and resource scarcity prevail. The CEHTI advocates for connections with other research centers worldwide, fostering solidarity and exchange, to collectively address shared

challenges. In this context, the IALHI conference presents an opportunity to further solidify effective ties between centers and spaces within our region, with the goal of forming a network that enhances and enriches our collective experiences.

Caroline Cardoso da Silva

Universidade Federal de Pelotas (Brazil)

"Uses of Oral History in Research on Domestic Labor in Brazil"

This paper addresses the historical perspective of domestic work in Brazil, the central theme of my doctoral research at the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPeL). Since 2016, I have been engaged in research using the Oral History Methodology to construct sources that delve into workers' narratives, recounting their experiences and trajectories. In both my undergraduate thesis and my Master's dissertation, also completed at UFPeL, I explored the research on outsourced female cleaning workers at UFPeL. I examined recent transformations in the world of labor and how they led to the precariousness of jobs predominantly held by women. However, this precarization of work and women's lives traces back to times even more distant. Therefore, for my current doctoral thesis, I am constructing narratives about the life journeys, work experiences, and struggles of domestic workers in present-day Pelotas. Drawing on historical, theoretical, and methodological analyses, primarily rooted in the use of Oral History, my aim is to contemplate the configuration of domestic work in the present, considering its historical trajectory originating from the era of slavery in the Brazilian context. This trajectory has evolved over the years but still carries the residues of a society marked by slavery, racism, sexism, and elitism. Taking into account what has been developed up to the present moment, two Oral History interviews

have been conducted, with a domestic worker and a labor union leader in the field. From these interviews, certain research hypotheses linking domestic work to slavery have emerged and have been corroborated by the narratives shaped by lived experiences of domestic labor. These include the observation that domestic work in the Brazilian context is predominantly carried out by Black women, representing a direct inheritance from the era of slavery. The research has further revealed that Black women are disproportionately affected by low levels of education and economic status, which often leads them to the most precarious and subordinate positions in the labor market. Additionally, due to limited social mobility, many of these women have mothers and grandmothers who were also domestic workers, and perhaps great-grandmothers who were enslaved or newly liberated, establishing a direct link to the era of slavery. Despite these challenges, these women have come together to advocate for their rights, both legally by pursuing laws for improved working conditions and socially by engaging in social and religious movements. They have forged a strong history of collective action. Taking these factors into consideration, this study seeks to be the starting point for analyzing the historical processes that have shaped contemporary Brazilian domestic work.

Jacinto Cerdá

Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina)



"The Material Safekeeping of the History of the FORA: Trajectory, Limitations, and Challenges of a Workers' Archive"

The historical trajectory of the Argentine Regional Workers' Federation (*Federación Obrera Regional Argentina*, FORA) is anchored in the primary sources preserved in its archive located in the La Boca neighborhood. The premises, which originally belonged to the longshoremen's union, eventually became the last material legacy of FORA to the present day. This presentation traces the trajectory of how this historical collection and its library were built since the mid-20th century. Subsequently, it outlines the general content of the collection and the administrative approach implemented in recent years. Lastly, the presentation includes a reflection on the material and technical capacities related to the preservation and functioning of the archive. The nature of an organization like the FORA, a strong anarchist-rooted trade union entity, defined the operation of the archive under review. The documents produced by the organizations affiliated with the Federation form the original

basis of the archive. These include correspondence, minutes, flyers, newspapers, and reports from various unions such as drivers, longshoremen, plumbers, warehouse workers, shoemakers, and waiters, as well as from the Federal Council and the Local Council of Buenos Aires. The archive also contains materials from unions in Greater Buenos Aires and, to a lesser extent, sources from organizations across the country, within the temporal span between the 1930s and the 1970s. Simultaneously, the archival collection gradually expanded through exchanges with other anarcho-syndicalist organizations worldwide, particularly those affiliated with the International Workers' Association (AIT), as well as through its connections with the broader local and international anarchist movement. As such, the subject under analysis here constitutes a 'militant archive,' considered in terms of its inherent possibilities and limitations.

María Josefina Duarte - Andrea Franco - Antonela Pizarro

Universidad del Litoral - Centro de Gestión documental de la Municipalidad de Santa Fe (Argentina)

"Possibilities and Limits for the Study of the Working Class in the City of Santa Fe in the Early 20th Century Using the Municipal Historical Archive"

Approaching the experiences of exploitation, identity, and conflict within the working class of the early 20th century from a socio-historical perspective presents a set of methodological challenges associated with the fragmentation, dispersion, and limitations of repositories and archives containing documentary sources. In the case of the city of Santa Fe, this situation is further complicated by the near absence of traces from the period produced by workers themselves, making access to their ways of life, organization, and struggle deeply tied to the remnants produced by economic and political elites. Against this backdrop, the process of managing, cataloging, and making available the collection within the Municipal Historical Archive of Santa Fe, which began in mid-2021,

represents a quantitative and qualitative leap in accessing documentary sources for addressing these historical complexities. As a result, a collection of 1915 volumes, each containing approximately 300 documents, produced across 68 administrations of local executive power between the mid-19th and 20th centuries, is reemerging after over 150 years since its creation, providing unprecedented information. These documents not only reflect the actions of political leaders regarding the initial designs of city organization, administration, and urbanization, but also serve as a gateway to uncover the impact of these actions on the living and working conditions of inhabitants, as well as the relationships between them and various state



agencies. Thus, we believe that, through proper application of archival technical processes and methodologies, the documents contained in the Municipal Historical Archive can shed light on various constitutive aspects of the Santa Fe working class of that period. In this paper, we analyze how different types of

documents can provide insight into specific aspects of the working class, such as the spatialization of the productive and occupational structure, forms of resistance to state regulation of the labor market, and the gendered experiences of the Santa Fe working class in the early 20th century.

Alexandre Fortes

Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

"History of Labor in the Digital Age: Updating Methods and Tools"

Brazil holds a prominent position in the international landscape of historical studies focused on labor. Several factors underscore the vibrancy of this field in the country: the annual national seminars held for over twenty years, with growing participation from foreign researchers; the increased publication of Brazilian authors in leading global journals in the field; the twelve years of activity of the journal *Mundos do Trabalho*; and the transformation of the GT-Mundos do Trabalho into the National Association of Labor History. Concurrently, the online availability of historical documents and bibliographic resources is expanding, along with a rising number of members in the professional historian community dedicated to studying labor worlds, driven by the growth of public universities and the postgraduate system. Despite the consolidation of the field, the expansion of sources and historiographical production has posed new challenges for producing historiographic overviews capable of guiding future research. Simultaneously, the depth, volume, and international recognition of the quality of Brazilian labor history research have not yet significantly transformed the dominant meta-narratives about the country's history. The substantial knowledge generated over the past decades regarding the active role of the working class in Brazilian history remains largely overlooked by the media, in synthesis works by historians intended for the general

public, and in relevant debates within other social sciences.

The project "History of Labor in the Digital Age: Updating Methods and Tools," involving research and documentation centers from four universities (UFRRJ, UFRJ, PUC-RIO, and UEPI), aims to leverage digital technology to create the necessary conditions for producing updated and comprehensive historiographic syntheses, facilitate access to archives and analytical support tools for new researchers, and enhance the impact of public labor history initiatives in the country. Supported by three of the main national agencies for research and technological development (CNPq, Faperj, and FINEP), the project seeks to establish a shared computational infrastructure and a training and exchange circuit, thereby enabling the provision of collections of primary sources, bibliographic databases, and digital exhibitions. The objectives encompass document preservation, expansion of resources available to researchers, and the enhancement of the dissemination of historical knowledge. Led by the Center for Documentation and Image at UFRRJ (CEDIM) and linked to the implementation of the Graduate Program in Digital Humanities at UFRRJ, the initiative utilizes technological resources offered by open-source software such as the DSpace and OmekaS platforms, as well as the Zotero bibliographic reference manager.

Edit Gallo

Biblioteca y Archivo de la Unión Cívica Radical (Argentina)



“The Commitment of the Radical Party to Militant Trade Unions”

The *Unión Cívica Radical* is a century-old political party, the oldest in the Argentine Republic with 131 years of existence since its founding in 1891. The Library and Historical Archive of the UCR was established thirty-two years ago to preserve the party's bibliographic collections and the country's historical heritage. Coup d'états, proscriptions, institutional instability, dictatorships... these factors destroyed part of the country's historical heritage and that of the Radical Party. It was scattered and, in many cases, untraceable. Therefore, it becomes a challenge to analyze labor policy during the presidency of Arturo Illia (1963-1966), his relationship with the CGT (General Confederation of Labor) through documents and party publications. Later, when a coup d'état overthrew the constitutional government, the resistance to the dictatorship was expressed through the commitment of some Radical Party leaders to militant trade unions. During the government of Dr. Arturo Illia, prioritizing the systematization of labor and social security legislation was crucial through the enactment of a Labor and Social Security Code that would ensure active workers' participation. The intention was to 'develop trade union policies that would enable the unity of Argentine unionism and protect it from state interference and political manipulation.' Despite the transparency of initiatives related to the workforce, in early 1964, the CGT adopted a plan of action orchestrated by union leaders, thus opposing the government through strikes and factory occupations. Just

three months after taking office, the CGT organized the first general strike with a massive demonstration. The mountain of big interests once again brings the regime to the Casa Rosada (Presidential Palace). On June 28, 1966, the Radical Party government was overthrown. As a first measure, the self-proclaimed 'Argentine Revolution' dissolved political parties, closed Congress, militarily intervened in provinces, abolished university autonomy, and imposed censorship across all domains. This marked the beginning of the persecution of workers, students, and political activists. The resistance to the dictatorship by some leaders and Radical Party youth was reflected in party documents. Following the guidelines of Crisólogo Larralde, they stated, 'We believe that the Radical Party must serve the working class.' They also supported the goals of the *CGT de los Argentinos*. In May 1969, students and industrial workers ignited the spark of active resistance, which culminated in the *Cordobazo* uprising. One of the leaders was Agustín Tosco, a leader of the Luz y Fuerza de Córdoba Union, who fought for an independent labor movement. It is interesting to note the correspondence between Agustín Tosco and former President Arturo Illia and the political commitment to the most militant unions maintained by Radicals Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen and Mario Abel Amaya, lawyers defending political prisoners and human rights. In summary, this presentation will span a decade (1963-1973), based on the analysis of memoirs, letters, testimonies, and periodical publications available in our library.

Leandro Giacobone

Biblioteca y Archivo Histórico de la Unión Cívica Radical (Argentina)

“Reclaiming the Invisible”

The *Unión Cívica Radical* is a nationally extended political party with over 130 years of history. Since the 1912 electoral reform known as the Sáenz Peña Law, which introduced secret, universal male suffrage, the 20th

century saw six radical presidencies, inaugurating a period of mass democracy. From that point on, it would be difficult to disregard workers in winning an election and maintaining power. The Radical Party



appealed, gained votes, and became a channel of political participation for broad sectors of the Argentine working class. However, this connection remains invisible and underestimated. I intend to hypothesize about the reasons for this invisibility and to outline the journey taken by organized Radical workers until the late achievement of their formalization in the Organization of Radical Workers, and their recognition upon becoming organically incorporated into the party's governing bodies. Furthermore, I aim to inform about the actions we are undertaking at the UCR Library and Historical Archive (a member of IALHI) to regroup, disseminate, and make public access to archival documents. The invisibility of the aforementioned connection projects and reinforces itself in the absence of archives. A situation with political consequences, as the lack of a narrative obstructs the construction of an identity by radical workers. In this sense, we

emphasize the eminently political nature of archives and the archival process. I concur with Celia Reis Camargo when she states that the historical documents most lost throughout the 20th century were those that recorded the actions of organizations and political parties linked to the workers' struggle and the social movement. Specialized literature speaks of the fragility, dispersion, and fragmentation of these archives. In the case of Argentina, they were subjected to deliberate destruction and negligence by authorities. In a context of institutional instability, coup d'états, and the application of repressive policies, theft by individuals, kidnappings by state agencies, arbitrary confiscation, incineration, burial, etc., were common. The lack of archival policies by trade unions, as well as their internal disputes, mergers, and ruptures, also did not contribute to the preservation of these archives.

Lorena Gill

Universidade Federal de Pelotas (Brazil)

"The Núcleo de Documentação Histórica and Public History"

The Núcleo de Documentação Histórica of the Federal University of Pelotas (NDH/UFPel), a member of IALHI, is a documentation center that has existed since the year 1990, created by Professor Beatriz Loner, who passed away in 2018. Initially, the collection was related to a pilot project about the history of the university itself. However, over time, this place of memory specialized in the world of labor. The first set of documents received in 2001 consisted of over six hundred thousand qualification forms from the Regional Labor Office, filled out at the time of issuing work permits. These forms covered a large portion of cities in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. The second set of documents was related to 93,845 labor cases from the city of Pelotas, dating from 1936 to 1998. These cases came under NDH's guardianship starting in 2006. Lastly, documents from the former Wool Factory, founded between 1948 and 1949 in the city, which produced wool for domestic consumption and export, were received within

the same scope. Although these documents have been organized for quite some time, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the importance of having easily accessible document series online became evident. Many students faced difficulties in completing their work as research institutions remained closed for a significant period. Four measures were taken from that moment onwards: the availability of 280 labor cases from Pelotas, dating from 1937 to 1958, on the NDH website. These were already digitized on the Memorial of the 4th Region Court's page in Porto Alegre. New document sets were created, encompassing the digitization of all found cases. These cases were related to the following food factories: Cotada, Casa Verde, and Fábrica Mello. Various content was created for dissemination on social networks, including archives related to workers, as well as articles, book chapters, and books produced by professors associated with NDH. An example includes the promotion of the "Dicionário de História de Pelotas" (Pelotas



History Dictionary), which has already been downloaded more than 113,000 times in its e-book version. Lastly, all interviews conducted by the Oral History Laboratory were made public on a specific website to increase their visibility among researchers in the field of humanities and social sciences. An archive of oral narratives stands out, comprising seventy interviews with workers whose professions are in transformation or on the brink of extinction,

such as cobblers, watchmakers, artisanal fishermen, weavers, dockworkers, tram drivers, tailors, healers, among others. While public history can be considered from various perspectives, this communication is linked to NDH's attempt to engage with different groups, whether they are affiliated with the university or the wider community, seeking access to our collection and/or the knowledge produced.

Paulo Cesar Gonçalves

Universidade Estadual Paulista (Brazil)

"The 'Racialization' of Contract Labor in Light of Anibal Quijano's Theses"

The term 'Global South' is used in post-colonial and transnational studies to refer to the Third World and developing countries, but it also encompasses impoverished regions within wealthy countries in the Northern Hemisphere. The Global South extends the concept of developing countries, referring to territories with an interconnected history of colonialism, neocolonialism, and socio-economic structures marked by significant inequalities in standards of living, life expectations, or resource access. Anibal Quijano's studies present an approach to the Global South that escapes the perspectives of European and American researchers. The concept of the 'coloniality of power' and its derivations like the 'coloniality of labor control' allow us to identify the ongoing racial distribution of labor. This distribution associated whiteness with wages and higher positions in colonial administrations, linking each form of labor control with the construction of a specific race, thus enabling specific groups to exert control over others. This racist distribution of new social identities was combined with the racist distribution of labor and forms of exploitation within colonial capitalism. Quijano unveiled the mechanisms of dominance across different levels of labor, noting that capital, as a social formation for controlling wage labor, was the pivot around which other forms of labor control, resources, and products articulated. This colonial articulation was based on assigning unpaid labor forms to colonial races in the Americas and later to other colonized races worldwide.

Labor migration policies contributed to preserving the link between tropical colonial labor and non-white labor up to the present day, ensuring that workers needed to 'facilitate' the transition from slave labor to free labor were recruited from other European colonies, India, Java, or states with weak labor regulations like China. These migrations were marked by equally racialized migration policies.

While Quijano's theses relate to Latin America, they are particularly relevant for understanding the peripheries that were never formally colonized but subjected through similar structures of economy, politics, and ideological power relations. For Quijano, race is the most effective instrument of domination, which, when associated with exploitation, presents itself as a universal classifier. Modern slavery in the Americas created a category of labor based on the notion of race that permeated social hierarchies in former slave societies to this day. The concept of the 'coloniality of labor control,' conceived to study continuities between structures of dominance, can help analyze the link between forms of labor and specific racial groups after the abolition of slavery. In this perspective, it would be interesting to include forms of territorially and racially demarcated forced labor, such as contract labor, the subject of this communication. The proposal is to analyze the implications of the idea of 'race' and the contexts of forced labor migration movements



that occurred in the 19th century, as consequences of capitalist demand.

Clarice Gontarski Speranza - Liana Severo Ribeiro

Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Sul - Museu Estadual do Carvão do RS (Brazil)

"The Challenge of Establishing the Historical Archive of the Coal Museum and the Memory of Coal Mining in Brazil"

In the mid-1990s, news of the imminent incineration of ten tons of historical documents related to coal mining in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost part of Brazil, prompted the mobilization of part of the community in the city of Butiá, one of the hubs of this exploration in the 20th century. For 10 years, these documents were saved from destruction by being housed in an old mill owned by Gertrudes Hoff, a teacher from the municipality, and later became the focus of a series of projects and initiatives, both community-based and academic and state-led, which ultimately resulted in their collection, cleaning, organization, and the creation of the historical archive of the Coal Museum of Rio Grande do Sul.

The current historical archive consists of 10 sets of documents related to coal exploration in the state between the years 1889 and 1996, including a diverse range of documents, from administrative correspondence of mining companies, documentation from trade unions, photographs, mine plans, legal proceedings, employment contracts, and work records. This material is now available to the general public and researchers, and has been housed in a historic building that is part of the Coal Museum, located in the municipality of Arroio dos Ratos. The museum's buildings have been designated as historical and artistic heritage by the Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage of Rio Grande do Sul and include administrative

buildings and the ruins of Brazil's first thermoelectric power plant, as well as the entrance to the first coal mining shaft.

Coal mining in Brazil began in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, starting from the late 19th century, with this region virtually monopolizing national production until the mid-20th century. The mining industry attracted thousands of workers, both from Brazil and abroad, and led to the establishment of workers' villages with houses, schools, churches, health clinics, and other facilities. It also facilitated the creation of a significant network of socialization and organization among workers, including the foundation of football and leisure clubs, and the establishment of one of the oldest Black clubs in the state. The first miners' strike took place in 1885, and there were records of unions as early as the 20th century. In 1946, a miners' strike halted production for weeks, leading to military intervention in the mines. This paper aims to introduce and discuss the efforts made towards the establishment of the historical archive since the 1990s, involving various individuals from different social backgrounds, as well as the expectations and to some extent, the community's relationships in relation to the creation of a memory of coal exploration. It also aims to analyze the overall scope of available documentation, focusing on some of the key selected collections, as well as the challenges faced, primarily in terms of dissemination and ongoing projects.

Miguel Gorostieta

Centro de Estudios del Movimiento Obrero y Socialista (Mexico)

"Archive and Community: The Collaboration of CEMOS in the Last Battle for the Memory of Ixhuatepec, Mexico"

On November 19, 1984, the working-class neighborhoods in the northern part of Mexico City witnessed a gas explosion at the regional plant of Petróleos Mexicanos, the most important state-controlled company. Those who witnessed the event spoke of a dawn of fire in the San Juan Ixhuatepec neighborhood, an indigenous village that transformed from its rural character due to rapid industrialization and urbanization between the 1960s and 1970s. The explosion devastated the working-class district of San Juanico, leaving an indeterminate number of dead, thousands injured, and dozens of people displaced due to the destruction of their homes and the loss of their meager belongings. Despite overwhelming evidence, the government denied its responsibility and shifted the blame to nearby private companies and the residents of Ixhuatepec for living where they lived. When the inhabitants returned to their homes, they could feel the atmosphere of the tragedy, searching for their family and friends without finding them. Only through mobilization did they manage to break the military blockade and witness the remnants of hell on earth themselves. The government's refusal to accept responsibility and provide answers to the tragedy outraged the community. The mixture of pain and anger catalyzed social organization and mobilized residents to force the government to acknowledge its responsibility, compensate the victims, and remove the gas facilities from their territory. This countered the official version of events that downplayed the magnitude of the tragedy. Nowadays, the community of San Juan Ixhuatepec in the State of Mexico is undergoing a process of remembrance and forgetting. Concurrently, private gas companies not only persist but increase in number and capacity. The vulnerability of the community is evident and complicated by urban transformations that

limit evacuation routes. Moreover, the official version still lingers. Faced with this situation, the *Grupo 19 de Noviembre* has undertaken the task of preserving the community's collective memory. This spans from its pre-Hispanic origins to post-explosion feminist organization. However, an important piece was missing. The *Centro de Estudios del Movimiento Obrero* (CEMOS) took the initiative to investigate the process of social organization and mobilization after the explosion, particularly the social context and the work of left-wing organizations in the neighborhoods that propelled the Ixhuatepec Popular Union. The institution's collection was reviewed, community documents were organized and systematized, interviews were conducted with participants and witnesses, and digital repositories and Mexico's primary repository, the AGN, were explored, where archives of the secret police documenting the entire social movement after the disaster have been declassified. The work was done in close collaboration with the community. As part of the research, and as an outcome of it, a photographic exhibition was organized, along with two panel discussions about social mobilization in Ixhuatepec and a book that selects the main primary sources with the aim of contributing to the recovery of community history for current social organization. CEMOS's efforts also extended to advocacy, protests, and proposals to mitigate risk in the community. Thus, the collective work achieved a declaration from the Legislative Assembly in the State of Mexico, designating November 19th of each year as the Day of Industrial Risk. It's not enough, but it's a step forward in the fight for truth, community history, and the justice of the people. Throughout this community process, CEMOS has acted as the historical archive of workers. This experience is what this paper aims to share..

Marien van der Heijden

International Institute of Social History (The Netherlands)

"From Nettelau to network. Collection development strategies at the International Institute of Social History"

Since its foundation in 1935, the IISH has tried to contribute to the sustainable preservation and accessibility of materials from diverse social and political groups and organizations,

often left-wing. In its early years this was done by collecting physical material and bringing it to Amsterdam, where it could be consulted. The Nettelau collection is an example of how



this could result in a vast assembly of rare, sometimes unique materials, including Latin American sources. From the 1970s onwards, this was complemented by copying (microfilming) of collections stored elsewhere, later by digitizing. Recent rethinking of our collection development strategies has led to

the awareness that an institute like the IISH is part of a global network, not the center where 'everything' should go to and must pay much more attention to the accessibility of the collections to users in the regions they have come from.

Patricio Herrera

Universidad de Valparaíso (Chile)

"Investigar a los trabajadores de América Latina en archivos transnacionales: el caso de la CTAL (1938-1953)"

En primer lugar, se presentará la Confederación de Trabajadores de América Latina (CTAL), sus principales hitos y alcances como organización sindical. Posteriormente, se indicará cómo fueron las primeras investigaciones entre 1942-1985 y porque hubo tantas opacidades y omisiones. El trasfondo principal será presentar algunos ejemplos de fuentes de archivos de la Internacional Comunista (RGASPI/INAH México), la Oficina Internacional del Trabajo (Ginebra, Suiza) el Fondo Histórico Lombardo Toledano (México), el Archivo Nacional de Chile, Siglo XX. En todos estos repositorios existen diversas fuentes primarias y editadas (cartas, telegramas, informes, estudios, actas, bitácoras, prensa, hemerografía) que dan cuenta de una historia sindical y política robusta de la CTAL. Por último, proporcionaré resultados de mi investigación de archivos sobre la CTAL, relevando aspectos tales como sus redes transnacionales, alcances y logros como organización y relectura de procesos históricos del sindicalismo continental y sus periodificaciones

Manuel Herrera Crespo

KU Leuven (Belgium)

"Nobody remembers the runner up: a methodological insight into the eclipsed 1994 elections of the ICFTU secretary general"

During an interview in 2022 Guy Ryder stated that the controversial 1994 elections for the secretary general of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) – with Luis Anderson on one side and, the eventually victorious, Bill Jordan on the other, proved for some Latin American members that the North will always dominate the South in the ICFTU. Furthermore, the former secretary general of the organization described how the contestation of North-South relations during the run-up to these elections brought the ICFTU on the verge of a political crisis and shaped to contours of the challenge to global capitalism the following decade. Nonetheless, the recent literature on the ICFTU has failed to incorporate this important episode into the

post-Cold War history of the organization. This may be the result of exclusively Cold War centred approaches to the ICFTU, teleological recollections that lead to the establishment of the ITUC, but most importantly the dominance of Western perspectives and sources. For example, in the renowned work by Marcel van der Linden (Ed.) *The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*, published in 2000 when Bill Jordan was still completing his second term, the elections are completely overlooked. Moreover, during interviews high ranking ICFTU members prefer to refer to the events as an averted coup of the ICFTU's left axis. Many of them believed that someone imbued with their shared mindset, such as Bill Jordan, was needed at the helm of the ICFTU at the time. As



a result, Anderson's appeal for increased democratic structures and practices with regard to the Global South seem to have disappeared or downsized in the history books. Therefore this presentation will assess how to rewrite this episode into the history of the ICFTU and which sources can uncover the Latin American voice within the ICFTU. The presentation will tackle the methodological practicalities of a wide range of sources, such as archival material, interviews, publications and academic output. Moreover it will critically

assess the perceived gap between the testimonies from different ICFTU members. Why did some frame the 1994 elections as a boiling point that set the tone for the next decade, while other members dismissed the events as an averted left wing coup? Reconstructing the 1994 elections through a wide variety of sources, coming from a geographically stretched area, reveals the urgency to dismantle the often western-centred narratives still apparent in the history of international trade unionism.

Nicolás Iñigo Carrera y María Celia Cotarelo

Programa de Investigación sobre el Movimiento de la Sociedad Argentina (Argentina)

"A Database on Acts of Rebellion in Contemporary Argentina"

Following the popular uprising that took place in the city of Santiago del Estero in December 1993, and given the presumption – later proven in various investigations conducted since then – that this event marked a milestone in the process of struggles in present-day Argentina, the Social Conflict area of the *Programa de Investigación sobre el Movimiento de la Sociedad Argentina* (PIMSA) decided to create a tool for recording various acts of rebellion in

Argentina. Thus, since then, we have built a database that now contains over 50,000 records based on information provided by four national Buenos Aires newspapers. In this presentation, we will address both the strengths and limitations of our record, as it serves as a tool not only for quantitatively observing rebellion but also for identifying trends and qualitative changes in the current process of struggles.

Nicolás Iñigo Carrera y María Celia Cotarelo

Programa de Investigación sobre el Movimiento de la Sociedad Argentina

"PIMSA: An Independent Research Center"

The *Programa de Investigación sobre el Movimiento de la Sociedad Argentina* (Research Program on the Argentine Society Movement, PIMSA) is an autonomous research center located in the city of Buenos Aires. It is composed of historians, sociologists, and anthropologists who aim to collectively build knowledge using mainly the tools provided by

theorists of scientific socialism. Our research is carried out in two areas - the economic structure of society and social conflict - addressing various events and processes that have taken place and continue to unfold since the beginning of capitalist relations in Argentina.

Eileen Karmy

Universidad de Playa Ancha (Chile)



"It Was Always There, but We Didn't Hear It: Writing the History of Musical Work from the South. The Musical Practices of Labor Unions in Greater Valparaíso during the Turn of the Century"

The cultural practices of workers have been gaining significance; however, their presence in historiography remains marginal. In this presentation, based on my research on the history of labor and musical practice in Valparaíso at the beginning of the 20th century, I address the challenges of studying the history of workers from South America through a musicological approach.

In general, when discussing workers, those involved in music are often not considered due to their association with the world of art, an image that doesn't always align with that of the precarious industrial laborer. Within the field of artistic work studies, there has been consensus on the necessity to view artists as workers. In fact, artists have historically formed guilds to negotiate labor laws and access social rights. However, these studies have mainly emerged from the Global North, focusing on artistic work and studies of popular music, and their incorporation into Latin America is recent. On the other hand, the musical lives of male and female workers, although studied to a greater extent in the Global North, remain a secondary aspect in labor historiography. In English-speaking countries where the IWW had a strong presence, such as the United States or Australia, there has been some development in historical research about the cultural practices of anarchist workers. However, this is still

absent from Latin American historiography, with valuable exceptions. The nature of musical sources poses a problem for studying labor and musical practice, which is inherently ephemeral. These sources are widely dispersed, including documents of various types, formats, and materialities. In my research, I've gathered information from traditional sources like newspapers, advertisements for labor events with live music, photographs of these events showing musical instruments, interviews, and transcriptions of labor movement leaders' speeches mentioning music as an element of workers' education. I've also accessed minutes from both musicians' and workers' societies, where the organization of events with music as a central component is planned. However, access to the actual music – the sound – is even more complex. Occasionally, a musical score can be found, or with luck, a recording that illustrates how the music of these workers sounded. I will discuss the challenges of studying both the work of musicians and the music of workers. I will analyze the characteristics of accessing these types of sources from South America, and delve into the necessity of enhancing the construction of digital repositories that contribute to the research of labor and music.

Walter Koppmann

Lateinamerika Institut – Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

"Modern Diaspora in the Global South: Archives, Memories, and Sources. Challenges and Limits for Reconstructing the History of Jewish Migrant Workers in Buenos Aires"

This paper addresses a set of challenges that arise when conducting a history of Jewish migrant workers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from the late 19th century to the end of the 1920s, as well as a series of potential solutions to carry out this research. Firstly, one aspect concerns defining the scope of the subject under study based on the information provided

by primary and secondary sources. In other words, who were identified and self-identified as Jews? At the end of World War I, the displacement and reconfiguration of the borders of the old European empires led to a fundamental reconsideration of the ethno-national identities of the thousands of Jews who migrated from Central and Eastern Europe



to the Americas. Secondly, specific difficulties arise from the available sources. On one hand, official statistics from the era didn't always accurately reflect the appearance and characteristics of the migrant Jewish population in the city. On the other hand, information provided by political, social, and community organizations is fragmented and scattered across archives in different countries, or even lost altogether. This particularly affects materials and newspapers from Yiddish-speaking unions and political parties, whose archives were destroyed due to repression and/or lack of preservation, among other reasons. A third dimension pertains to 'idishkait' as a transnational universe of meanings, and especially to Yiddish as the privileged language through which community social life developed. However, how can this population be researched without possessing a strong knowledge of Yiddish? Here, oral history becomes relevant, particularly through

memories, as well as the literature dedicated to translating letters, testimonies, and newspaper articles from Yiddish to other languages, which are key inputs. Similarly, exchange networks with linguistic specialists and academic researchers become essential. At this point, how can collaborations with translation specialists be effectively managed? What are the most productive methods? Lastly, how can a political and social history be conducted that goes beyond the field of migration studies while integrating them? Additionally, to what extent can the phenomenon of the settlement of migrant Jewish people in 'New World' cities be analyzed from the perspective of non-Jewish publications, such as left-wing newspapers and the mass media? I believe that the answers to these questions strengthen social and historical studies on the tensions between ethnic identities, left-wing political cultures, and urban experiences in the 20th century.

Gabriela Liszt

CEIP Leon Trotsky (Argentina)

"The CEIP Leon Trotsky"

The CEIP Leon Trotsky was founded in May 1998 with the primary goal of studying, researching, and disseminating the work of the Russian revolutionary and the movement he founded, the Fourth International. The center is driven by the *Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas* (PTS) of Argentina along with the international current it is part of, the Trotskyist Fraction-Fourth International. The center has a branch in Mexico and collaborators in numerous countries in Latin America, the United States, and Europe. Over these years, we have spread Trotsky's work by compiling thematic collections of lesser-known or unpublished works in Spanish, alongside writings from other Trotskyist leaders. In our early days, we received support from Esteban Volkov (Trotsky's grandson), as well as from important historians like Pierre Broué (director of the Institut Léon Trotsky) and Al Richardson (director of *Revolutionary History*). We also received support from Jean-Jacques Marie, director of CERMTRI. We established these

relationships through collaborators' trips, sending materials, and later through online communication. This allowed us to build a website, which we have continually updated in format, content, and accessibility methods over the years. We have also collaborated with intellectuals and historians from Argentina and various countries in Latin America, as well as with those who write to us daily from different points in Latin America, expressing their interest in Trotsky's work and the center's efforts.

It is worth noting that over the years, we have translated works from English, French, German, and Russian to make Trotsky's work and the writings of other members of his movement accessible to Spanish-speaking audiences. For this task, we have access to various publications from that era, some available on other sites and archives like marxists.org or grupgerminal.org, with whom we have a fraternal exchange relationship. We have published our research in around 30



books, the magazine *Cuadernos*, and numerous freely accessible electronic bulletins. We digitized the Writings of Leon Trotsky (1929-1940) in 2000, and since 2012, in collaboration with the Casa de León Trotsky Museum and with the support of Esteban Volkov, we have co-edited the Selected Works of Leon Trotsky series, which reached its 15th volume in 2022. Volumes like the autobiography *My Life* have had a significant impact, being presented and reviewed by renowned intellectuals, and presented alongside the CEIP in Mexico, at the Casa Museo, in different countries in Latin America,

and in Spain. We have a Marxist library with over 6,000 titles, which has grown recently through donations that we are adding to our online catalog, which is open to the public and freely accessible. For the past two years, we have begun digitizing our historical archive and newspaper collection, including newspapers, brochures, and magazines from Trotskyist parties and other left-wing traditions from various parts of the world, dating from the 1920s to the present. This collection comprises around 100 publications from different countries. For this, we employ our own photographic digitization system.

Rodrigo Lucía

Archivo de la Fundación Pablo Iglesias (Spain)

"The Archive of Fernanda Romeu Alfaro at the Fundación Pablo Iglesias. Oral Memory of the Anti-Franco Struggle"

The use of oral sources is considered necessary to complement aspects of social life that are not recorded in written documents or expressed in official memory. Working on the preservation and access to oral testimonies collected in different contexts poses serious challenges for archivists and historians. The proliferation of oral testimony collection in diverse settings presents significant conservation and accessibility issues. Oral testimonies must be classified based on their various production contexts, as well as the themes they address and the specific techniques used in their production. Therefore, it is important to establish relevant criteria for selecting testimonies to be integrated into archives. Archivists face several challenges when working with oral sources. The diversity of contexts for producing and storing oral testimonies, their unequal historical character and value, the technological variety of their formats (open reels, cassettes, digital media, videos, etc.), the transition from audio to video, and the irregularity of the instruments cataloging and indexing them are all factors that archivists responsible for their

preservation, conservation, and current and future access must take into account. Moreover, the role of oral sources in archives goes beyond merely filling gaps left by other documentary sources. The Archive of the Fundación Pablo Iglesias already holds some sound archives focused on experiences of exile and life within Spain during the Franco dictatorship. In the case at hand, in 2008, historian Fernanda Romeu Alfaro donated 125 magnetic tapes to the Pablo Iglesias Foundation containing materials collected during her research on women in the Spanish Civil War, repression, and the anti-Franco struggle. These materials led to the publication of her works *El silencio roto: mujeres contra el franquismo* (1994) and *Más allá de la utopía: Agrupación Guerrillera de Levante* (2002). These two works aim to give voice to women during the Franco regime, highlighting their participation in clandestine struggle and the repression they endured, as well as shedding light on the experiences of members of the Guerrilla Group of Levante and Aragón and their anti-Franco struggle in the eastern region of Spain during the 1940s and early 1950s.

Alexia Massholder



CEFMA (Argentina)

"Introduction to the Héctor P. Agosti Document Archive at CEFMA"

In Argentina, studies on the history of the left have gained increasing interest in recent years. In terms of archives, significant efforts have been made to establish preservation and consultation. However, those belonging to political parties have not enjoyed the same fortune, primarily due to lack of resources. The very history and dynamics of left-wing parties have hindered access to funding or subsidies that would enable both the preservation and the availability of materials for consultation. Hence, the collection, classification, and conservation of sources largely depend on the 'activist' efforts of its members or those interested. An example of this is the creation of the Héctor P. Agosti Document Archive at the CEFMA (*Centro de Estudios y Formación Marxista Héctor P. Agosti*). Agosti (1911-1984) was one of the most prominent intellectuals of the Argentine Communist Party who, through

his thought and action, established himself as a spokesperson for significant sectors of the Argentine and Latin American cultural field. The archive essentially contains part of his personal library (which includes, for example, the originals of the first Italian edition of Antonio Gramsci's work, whose translation into Spanish he promoted in Argentina), original copies of his books, correspondence with numerous intellectuals, personal notes, and documents from political spaces in which he participated. The objective of the presentation is to introduce the archival richness of the collection, share the main challenges encountered in its preservation and accessibility, and exchange proposals to make these materials available not only to the academic community but also to social and political organizations, as well as the general public.

Taiane Mendes Taborda

Universidade Federal de Pelotas (Brazil)

"Oral History as a Possibility to Explore Women's Work Experiences in Southern Brazil"

This paper aims to discuss women's work experiences at a significant textile factory in the city of Pelotas, Brazil, between the years 1943 and 1974, based on their narratives. This research is part of a broader study for a doctoral degree at the Federal University of Pelotas. The study focuses on forms of resistance by female workers in precarious work contexts, such as factory labor. Drawing on theoretical foundations that emphasize the importance of history from below and the approach to the histories of ordinary women, this study centers its questions on the concepts of experience and agency following E. P. Thompson and their implications within the gendered division of labor based on Silvia Federici's insights. Within this framework, the analyses presented here draw from the testimonies of four former employees of the *Companhia Fiação e Tecidos Pelotense*, two of

whom were married and two were single when they joined the company. Additionally, this presentation aims to delve into the discussions about the Oral History method by explaining how these interviews were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. By exploring the memories of these workers, it was possible to examine the influence of marital status on their experiences and to observe how they navigated the daily struggle for survival, touching on issues such as motherhood, health, compensation, education, and experiences we now typify as harassment. The narratives suggest that the context of work precarity led to greater collaboration among women in a support network and their utilization of tools like legislation and the courts to secure their rights. The accounts highlight the intersections of gender and class as determinants of these women's exploitation in



the workplace, emphasizing the need for an intersectional analysis.

Cynthia Orozco

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Unidad Iztapalapa (Mexico)

"Oral History and Configurationalism: Theory and Method in the Analysis of Tornel Workers"

The upheaval caused by neoliberalism in Mexico, in addition to its adverse effects on working conditions and unionism, also had an impact on labor movement studies at some universities and research centers, such as the *Centro de Investigaciones Históricas del Movimiento Obrero* or the *Centro de Estudios Históricos del Movimiento Obrero*. To the extent that these topics were no longer central to analysis; obviously, this did not imply that there was no longer labor movement, worker struggles, or strikes, but rather that they were no longer prominent themes in the 1990s. Thus, one of the academic spaces that revived the studies of labor history during that pivotal moment and relative decline in labor movement studies was the Posgrado en Estudios Laborales at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa. Dr. Enrique de la Garza Toledo and colleagues not only theorized on new labor-related subjects (technology, subcontracting, skill development, productive restructuring, etc.) from the perspective of labor sociology, but also on how to approach labor movement history differently from the 1970s and 1980s. The latter was characterized by being a political history, national in scope,

chronological, promoted by the State, and viewed through the lens of union leaders.

This juncture allowed for a shift toward a more grassroots social history. The influence of social history was decisive in labor movement studies in 21st century Mexico. The perspective of E.P. Thompson has generated interest in studying the history of the working class and laborers in our country. Consequently, through the lens of configurationalism, from labor sociology and the perspective of social history, I engaged in a dialogue for analyzing and interpreting the history of Tornel workers. Applying configurationalism to analyze the past was highly compelling, as it allowed for a deeper analysis. Likewise, oral history was also a method that contributed to a better understanding of the social history of Tornel workers. The objective of this paper is to share the experience of applying the theoretical-methodological perspective of configurationalism to analyze the history of workers at a tire factory in Mexico, Tornel. Furthermore, oral history was essential for collecting testimonies, enabling a history in which the workers themselves took center stage. This case also prompts reflection on the treatment of oral sources.

Ulises Ortega Aguilar

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Unidad Iztapalapa (Mexico)

"Flashes of Workers' Memory: Labor Day in Mexico, Over a Century in Images (1913-2023)"

For over a century, Mexican workers and other social actors have answered the call to commemorate the martyrs of Chicago every May 1st. Among the various aspects of this mobilization, we can highlight the hegemony of the Mexican state throughout the 20th century,

as it organized the Labor Day Parade for decades as a demonstration of power and communion between official unions and the President of the Republic. Simultaneously, independent mobilizations took place, raising labor demands and addressing multiple social



conflicts. The news of these commemorations goes beyond being conveyed through news articles and chronicles, as a photographic and audiovisual record began in 1913, I consider that one of the tools for studying this phenomenon is the graphic and audiovisual materials that are still preserved, such as films, photographs, posters, flyers, drawings, etc. These are deposited in different documentary collections in Mexico, including the National Archives, National Film Archive (Cineteca Nacional), the *Centro de Estudios del Movimiento Obrero y Socialista*, the *Universidad Obrera de México*, and the now-defunct *Centro*

de Estudios Históricos sobre el Movimiento Obrero, among others. There are also foreign repositories like the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. Through a systematic exploration, I aim to provide a panoramic view of the access to these sources related to the study of the Mexican labor movement, and to discuss the challenges surrounding their consultation, analysis, preservation, and dissemination. Additionally, the paper offers a brief diagnosis of the current state of historical studies on labor and workers in Mexico, and their connection with other continental approaches..

Víctor Hugo Pacheco

Centro de Estudios del Movimiento Obrero y Socialista (Mexico)

"CEMOS: 40 Years Preserving the Memory of the Left in Mexico"

The *Centro de Estudios del Movimiento Obrero y Socialista*, member of IALHI, celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. CEMOS' creation was driven by the interest in preserving the memory of the workers' movement and Mexican communism. It was not an easy task, but the efforts of many left-wing militants amidst the crisis of the labor movement, the disappearance of the Mexican Communist Party, and the emergence of a new political force embodied in the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, served as elements that shaped the creation of one of the most important archives

of the Mexican left. This paper outlines the archives and collections of the CEMOS, as well as how it currently positions itself as a space for dialogue and convergence within the Mexican left. It also highlights its current work with political and community organizations in the country. Presently, CEMOS aims to establish itself as a dynamic space for dialogue with political and social actors, who are focused on deepening the political democracy of the country. We will also address the challenges that independent archives face in light of the current demands of archival practices.

René Pigier

La Contemporaine (France)

"Collections and Archives of La Contemporaine on Latin America"

La Contemporaine initiated a documentary policy focused on Latin America in the 1950s, a period marked by the the Cold War and the Cuban Revolution. This interest expanded in the 1970s with the Pinochet coup and the solidarity networks that emerged in support of political refugees. The human rights defense organizations that mobilized in the 70s have been crucial in providing assistance to enrich our collections, particularly concerning exile

press and private archives. As a result, the dictatorships of the 1960s and the subsequent democratic transitions are central themes in the collections focused on Latin America. Three main axes stand out in these collections: 1) trade unionism, political life, 2) state terrorism, dictatorships, human rights violations, 3) various documentation allowing for a study of the political and social life of several Latin American countries. As for the



formats, they are also varied. Books, collections of newspapers, but also paper archives, digital archives, as well as an extensive collection of oral testimonies from Chilean refugees. It is also interesting to share our experience with

the "Opening the Archive" project driven by Brown University, a project aimed at digitizing documents from Brazil in the 1960s-1980s held in various foreign archives to make them accessible from Brazil.

Tania Rodriguez

Universidad de la República (Uruguay)

"The Struggle of a People through the History of a Union: The ANCAP Federation (FANCAP) in Uruguay during the Democratic Transition and Neoliberal Advance (1985-2003)"

This paper delves into the history of the trade union of the Uruguayan state-owned company ANCAP (National Administration of Fuels, Alcohols, and Portland) between 1985 and 2003, encompassing the process of democratic transition and neoliberal advancement in the country. The ANCAP Federation (FANCAP) has a long history of struggle and organization dating back to 1944, but here the focus is placed on the struggles and challenges that the union faced at the end of the last Uruguayan civil-military dictatorship (1973-1985), in a critical economic and social scenario, marked by increased conflict and resistance to neoliberal measures. The participation of the Uruguayan labor movement in the democratic transition was of vital importance, and its role could not be ignored. FANCAP emerged as a reference in these processes. On the other hand, the governments of Luis Alberto Lacalle (1990-1995), the presidencies of the Colorado Party of Julio M. Sanguinetti (1995-2000), and Jorge Batlle (2000-2005), deepened the features of a neoliberal economic policy where the controversy between statism and anti-statism

was consistently present, within a context where the economic and social crisis was increasingly evident, culminating in 2002. In that same year, Law 17.448 was approved, allowing ANCAP's association with private entities, essentially leading to the 'privatization of ANCAP.' FANCAP and the ANCAP Defense Committee launched a fundamental struggle for the union and the popular movement. Gathering signatures and subsequently reaching a Referendum against the law, were crucial, and this involved the contribution of activists from all over the country. Based on historiography and the analysis of oral and written sources (especially trade union press), this paper addresses the struggles and challenges of the union during the democratic period (conflict, reinstatement of dismissed workers, and the struggle for human rights); the situation of women workers; prominent conflicts of FANCAP during times of harsh neoliberalism, and the new challenges they faced, such as modernization and the attainment of the Collective Agreement, among others.

Gabriel Rot

El Topo Blindado (Argentina)

"El Topo Blindado. A Successful Experience of Socialization in the Archival Field"

Research on armed struggle and political-military organizations in recent Argentine history has been initially based on numerous oral testimonies and a limited volume of

documentary sources. During a significant period, this progression was marked by the scarcity of these sources, a situation that was later overcome by an unprecedented



circulation of documents, leading to a scenario that had been unimaginable twenty years before. Technological development played a prominent role in this latter process, which harmoniously converged with the political determination of diverse collectives dedicated to searching for, discovering, compiling, and ultimately sharing documentary sources. This process was further legitimized by the outcomes of such practices. Among these

efforts, 'El Topo Blindado,' established as a research center, documentation hub, and publisher, has been constructing and developing one of the most substantial digital archives for over a decade, both in terms of volume and thematic expansion. Throughout this journey, it has amassed experiences that encompass challenges and achievements to be shared.

Sylvia Saïtta

Archivo Histórico de Revistas Argentinas (Argentina)

"The *Archivo Histórico de Revistas Argentinas* in the Southern Constellation"

With a title that echoes some of Patricia Willson's hypotheses in her book on the *Sur* magazine and the democratization of literature circulation through translation practices, this paper aims to reflect on the challenge posed by the construction and maintenance of digitized magazine archives within a peripheral institutional framework and under economic instability. Using the case study of *Ahira: Historical Archive of Argentine Magazines*, the

hypothesis argues that 20th-century magazines and periodicals are an essential archive for historical, literary, and cultural understanding of Argentina in the last century. It contends that *Ahira* is part of the 'archive moment' that historian Lila Caimari has characterized as the 'crossroads of global trends that each discipline reflects in its own way, and local dynamics that shape particular turning points'

Gabriela Scodeller

CONICET – CEHTI (Argentina)

"In the Footsteps of Latin American Social-Christian Unionism: The CLASC/CLAT in the Archives"

Firstly, this paper characterizes the Latin American Workers' Central (*Central Latinoamericana de Trabajadores*), spanning from its inception until the late 1970s. Despite its importance during this mentioned period, it remains relatively lesser known. Subsequently, an exploration of its historical archive (currently housed in the Center for Living Thought of the Working Class in Bogota) and other repositories containing internal documentation or multiple publications will be undertaken (such as the Documentation and Research

Center on Religion, Culture, and Society in Leuven, and the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam). Lastly, drawing from the research trajectory itself, the focus will shift to specific materials that illustrate distinctive characteristics of the CLASC/CLAT while also providing keys for contemplating unionism in the region. Additionally, other documents will serve as a basis for reflection on the approach to transnational perspectives on labor organizations, addressing the issues of scale and access to local sources.

Michele Silva Joaquim

Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (Brazil)



"Documents of Workers Held by Companies: Difficulties of Access"

There are several challenges in constructing the history of workers, among them finding information about urban factory proletarians post-abolition of slavery in São Paulo. Studying hiring records is a possibility to confirm their existence. These documents have fields such as Name, Date of Hiring, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Parent of, Marital Status, Nature of Position or Service, Monthly Salary, Daily Wage, Earnings or Bonuses, Percentages, Residence, Employee's Signature, Observations, and on the reverse side, Vacation. After data is systematized into a table, various possibilities emerge, including locating the residences of these individuals. We can analyze migration, family, education, age of entry into the labor market, gender composition in the industry, wage disparities between black and non-black workers. These 15 fields of information provide clues for constructing a new history of black workers. The main issue concerns access to these sources. While they exist, their dissemination is not a priority for the companies and institutions that safeguard these rare documents. As an example, there is the documentary series of Hiring Records of *Companhia Antarctica Paulista* (CAP). The entire archival collection produced by CAP between 1891 and 1999 was deemed to be of public and social interest through the decree of April 7, 2006. This material is held by the Zerrenner Foundation, an institution established in 1936 to provide assistance to employees of *Companhia Antarctica Paulista*. Currently, it offers medical

and educational assistance to over 75,000 employees of Ambev and its own staff. Even though part of the documentation it holds is of public interest, the collection is not open to the public, bringing into question the reach of the 1991 archival law when it comes to private archives of public interest. The Zerrenner Foundation safeguards the entire historical collection of *Companhia Antarctica Paulista* and of *Companhia Cervejaria Brahma*, which was similarly recognized in 2006. Among these documents are the hiring records, a rich collection crucial for the history of workers. However, access is hindered. My research was conducted while I was an employee of the institution, as external research is not permitted on-site. What are the institution's limits, given that the collection is private but of public interest? What obligations does the institution have towards society, which requires these documents to fill gaps in the historiography of São Paulo's post-abolition workers? Without documents, there is no history. We would be doomed to repeat what has already been said, and only one side, that of the victors, would be told. We need a more coherent law that enforces access to private documents of public and social interest. New studies need to be conducted, and we cannot be hindered by corporate whims that should not exist. These documents belong to the Brazilian people and need to be accessed comprehensively. How to achieve this is what I propose for debate among all researchers, historians, and archivists

Ricardo Soto Uribe

Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda (Argentina)

"Policies of Registration, Resistance, and Memory in the Post-Dictatorship: The Case of the Audiovisual Archive of *Asociación Madres de Plaza de Mayo*"

This paper contributes to a line of research aiming to shed light on the political nature of the audiovisual archive of the *Asociación Madres de Plaza de Mayo* in both its constitutive dimension and the experiences of its creators.

Additionally, it aims to share the transformations and reinterpretations of this record throughout the long history of this political organization. This proposal arises within the framework of an ongoing research



project that I am leading, funded by the National University of Avellaneda (UNDAV). This project, in turn, continues the work carried out for almost five years through the course-workshop on Cataloging of Audiovisual Archives. This endeavor involved not only training students but also editing, classifying, and describing part of the digitized audiovisual archive according to international standards. This effort was undertaken as part of a collaboration between the University and the *Madres* in 2018. The majority of these archival materials remain unpublished, hence the scarcity of research on them. This underscores the primary need to undertake a study that complements and extends beyond the descriptive and quantitative approach of cataloging. This knowledge gap about the object of study is contextualized within other relative and overarching gaps. Concerning its typology, the novel nature of studies on audiovisual archives is noteworthy, particularly within the realm of their political significance. Furthermore, there is limited awareness about the *Madres* in the neoliberal context of the post-dictatorship era, including the various political actions that marked that period. This encompasses the motivations of its agents and the semi-organic and non-professional nature of this archival endeavor—ranging from unconventional activism (often individual) to the organization's political, legal, testimonial, or symbolic needs. Consequently, this topic spans various dimensions, serving as evidence in the face of potential 'everyday' repression or

intimidation, as well as forming political memory and asserting subalternity against the regime of mass visibility and the 'writing' of history. This research perceives the 'archive' as a 'documentary set,' restricting its scope to its audiovisual typology. From this vantage point, I delve into the inherent issues related to its political character of enunciation, positing that they are defined by their 'frames of interpretation' and 'sensible distribution.' Thus, I contend that we are dealing with a 'political' archive, not only due to its reference to the *Madres* but also because, in its very act of creation, it serves as an expression of political resistance during Argentina's post-dictatorship period. To evaluate the validity of this hypothesis, the methodology combines qualitative strategies with two distinct approaches. Through an ethnographic perspective, I gather primary information, specifically the interpretive biographical testimony of the living social actors responsible for or witnesses to this heritage. Beyond the immediate research aims, I emphasize the urgent need to remember the 'workers of memory' who constructed this legacy and share their experiences, along with the history of the archive itself. I hope to expand the possibilities of thought, critically contextualize our own work, share it, and perhaps contribute through our endeavors. In this sense, the invitation offers a necessary distance that complements my genuine interest in participating and strengthening such spaces.

Gabriela de Souza - Andreia Francisco dos Reis
Sindicato Nacional dos Aeronautas (Brazil)

"*Centro de Memória do Sindicato Nacional dos Aeronautas: An Archive of 80 Years of Struggle*"

This paper introduces the collection preserved by the *Centro de Memória do Sindicato Nacional dos Aeronautas*. The organization of this documentation began in 2018, with the assessment of the archive and the establishment of the SNA Memory Project. Since then, Document Management has been processing the documents in accordance with

national and international archival standards, while also drawing inspiration from other memory institutions and making necessary adaptations for the SNA's specific case. The recovery of the union's history encompassed institutional history work, aimed at structuring the information found in the archive so that the current and future generations of aeronautas



could have the opportunity to engage with the history of their own profession. Many significant workers who have played crucial roles in the SNA's trajectory have contributed to this effort, especially through the oral history program. To ensure free and public access for all interested parties, a website (digital repository) will be launched soon.

But who are the *aeronautas*? Every professional working within aircraft is considered an *aeronauta*, including pilots and flight attendants. The *Sindicato Nacional dos Aeronautas* was established in 1942 and now covers the entire national territory, standing as the sole representative entity of the profession in the country. Internationally, it collaborates with the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (CLAC), takes part in delegations of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), is a member of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), and is associated with

the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Eighty years of struggle involve other professions, such as aviation ground workers, national interests like ending blood trading in Brazil, post-military dictatorship amnesty, and essential demands for flight safety. The SNA was an active participant in the General Workers' Command (CGT), which later faced repression during the Brazilian military dictatorship. During the process of democratization, it played a role in the initial National Conferences of the Working Class (CONCLAT), which laid the foundation for the Unified Workers' Central (CUT). The SNA's archive offers valuable insights into the Brazilian labor movement in the 20th century. Sharing the technical aspects of these activities is the main goal of our Memory Center, along with learning from other institutions' experiences, establishing new connections, and continually contributing to the broader history of all workers.

Jazmina Suárez - Lucía Siola - Sabrina Alvarez
Universidad de la República (Uruguay)

"A Cartography of Archives of Unions and Unionists in Uruguay: Issues and Challenges for Historical Knowledge Production"

The state of public and private archives in Uruguay regarding identification, preservation, and accessibility for researchers and the general public is not favorable (with some exceptions). Against this background, union archives and those related to unionists pose significant challenges for those of us concerned with the history of the labor movement and its organizations. In this paper, we intend to provide an overview and share reflections based on our experience working with some of these union archives and materials related to unionists in Uruguay. Firstly, we map the identified union archives and materials related to unionists up to the present moment. The aim is to update information related to a type of documentary repository that, unlike others (such as state archives, for example), is not overseen by specialized personnel (except for the Association of Bank Employees of Uruguay). In

some cases, these repositories are not even properly organized. This results in collections being managed without criteria that ensure their proper preservation and accessibility, thus requiring those who wish to consult them to periodically assess their status. Additionally, we would like to share reflections based on our experience both as 'users' of these archives and as collaborators in the establishment of some of these repositories. We observe with concern that labor organizations face significant difficulties in preserving their documentary collections. These challenges stem from issues of funding, shifting priorities due to changing present circumstances, lack of awareness of the collections' existence, and disputes among different political-union currents. Furthermore, when considering the historiography of recent events, we raise awareness about the impact of changes in the production and recording of propaganda and



the very actions of unions through increasingly prevalent digital means. This gives rise to a range of specific issues when working with such archives and the documents preserved therein. One of the challenges lies in access, requiring an initial connection with the custodians of the documentary repositories to enable the possibility of consultation. This is compounded by the issue of their location (which seems to be concentrated in Montevideo). These repositories are scattered across various parts of the country, some yet to be discovered. Moreover, there exists an array

of underground and scattered collections preserved by activists driven by an emotional connection to their documentation, especially if the construction of their collection was experienced as a resistance mechanism against repressive processes. We believe it's crucial to collectively acknowledge and reflect upon this complex and challenging landscape due to its implications for developing a type of historiographical production that is particularly influenced by the demands and expectations of the producers and custodians of the sources it employs.

Florencia Thul - Jazmina Suárez

Universidad de la República (Uruguay)

"New Perspectives of Analysis for the Study of Female Labor in Uruguay during the Turn of the Century (1870-1918)"

Since the 1980s, spurred by the expansion of women's history as a new historiographical field alongside gender studies, critiques of the U-curve model explaining women's participation in the labor market have emerged. One of the initiatives was to discuss the downward phase of the curve, which refers to the decline in female wage labor participation during the period of capitalist modernization. The use of new documentary sources and critiques of census data enabled the formulation of new explanations that incorporated other scales of analysis and new periods, primarily focused on the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As this field of study developed, the notion that women had only been employed in 'traditional occupations' during the transition to capitalism was challenged. However, the dynamism seen in this international and regional realm of study has not been mirrored in the Uruguayan academic space. There are no works that have employed the U-curve model, nor has the topic been explored through the lens of social history of labor with a gender perspective. Some early undertakings have shown concern, albeit not specifically, for women's work in the 1900s. Nevertheless, Uruguayan historiography has not revisited these sources to question their validity in identifying and

counting women workers. This paper aims to contribute to the construction of a historiographical field focusing on labor and gender in Uruguay during the transition from the 19th to the 20th century. The focus is on analyzing the integration of women into the wage labor market in Montevideo between 1870 and 1918, a period coinciding with the process of capitalist modernization within the framework of the first wave of globalization. This period is identified by the historiography as the initial stage of the U-curve's downward phase. Through the systematic use of the 1889 Montevideo census and the 1908 national census, the intention is to establish the rate of female economic activity by economic sectors and to explore the socio-demographic characteristics of women workers. The analysis is enriched through comparisons on a national level, as well as with other cities in the region, which will position the Uruguayan case within the historiographical discussions on the U-curve's downward phase. Furthermore, the inquiry delves into the conception of female labor underlying these statistics, prompting a rigorous critique of the censuses as socially constructed data sources. Finally, a range of alternative sources is proposed, allowing for the exploration of the same issue from a new



perspective, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Mirta Villalba

Centro Cultural de la Cooperación (Argentina)

"Biblioteca Utopía: Challenges for Tracing the Memory of the Centro Cultural de la Cooperación"

In 1998/99, as part of the revitalization process of the *Instituto Movilizador de Fondos Cooperativos* (IMFC), its president Floreal Gorini, launched the *Centro Cultural de la Cooperación* (CCC). The library was conceived as an integral part of the departments of Social Sciences and Arts, with a transversal approach, aimed at meeting their research needs. This led to the establishment of the Information Unit of the CCC, which Floreal Gorini later named 'Biblioteca Utopía.' Currently, the library specializes in Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, with an emphasis on cooperativism and workers' and popular movements. In recent years, significant materials from women's and diversity movements have been incorporated, fulfilling an essential role in providing access to culture and knowledge within its expertise, guided by the principle of solidarity. The library houses over 50,000 physical volumes, all of which are cataloged online. The catalogs also include nearly 90,000 multimedia elements comprising covers and indexes. During the pandemic, access to over 700 digital books was provided, enriching the book catalog. The catalog includes over 1,000 journal titles, with links to digital journals, along with almost 12,000 analytical records of articles from those magazines. These catalogs have accumulated over 100,000 online views/consultations to date. In terms of users, they can be categorized into three types. Firstly, internal users, comprising our researchers and members of the cooperative movement. Secondly, external visitors, including researchers from national and foreign universities, as well as from CONICET, who seek bibliographic resources not available in other institutions. Lastly, visitors to the Cultural Center who attend talks,

conferences, artistic performances, etc., discovering our library as a space for study, reading, or internet use.

The post-pandemic era has introduced new paradigms. One of them is the growing importance of digital literature. Digital humanities represent a fertile field for us. In 2016, we participated in the Congress "Digital Humanities: Local Constructions in Global Contexts," to encourage reflection and action in this domain. In a similar vein, we have progressed in creating a digital repository for the CCC to share the cultural and scientific output it generates. Technology should not obstruct but rather serve memory. This leads us to the challenge of urgently digitizing various types of analog media for preservation through backups, and making them accessible for consultation and retrieval by future generations. In this regard, we have advanced in digitizing and making available the IMFC Archive: <https://archive.org/details/imfc-vhs-utopia>. Lastly, we mention two challenges facing various information units in Argentina and Latin America. We have taken steps and engaged in exchanges with other libraries, as these challenges can only be tackled collectively. One challenge is the creation of thesauri and vocabularies that accurately reflect the Latin American reality and the advances made in social sciences within our region. Many of the thesauri currently used by our libraries originate from Europe and have significant gaps in reflecting our region. Finally, the training and professional development of our experts and workers are crucial to adequately address the new challenges we face in safeguarding and disseminating information, and conserving memory with an eye toward the future.



Nerina Visacovsky - Gabriela Horestein

CeDoB Pinie Katz (Argentina)

"The Project of the *Centro de Documentación y Biblioteca (CeDoB) Pinie Katz* (Buenos Aires)"

The Jewish-progressive movement was formed in response to the transnational slogans of the Popular Front and its call for unity to combat fascism, antisemitism, and in defense of Yiddish culture. The creation of the Yidisher Kultur Farband Federation (YKUF, Paris, 1937), and its replica in Buenos Aires in 1941 (ICUF), embodied this atmosphere. The ICUF brought together secular Jewish institutions with a Marxist orientation and provided them with a political-ideological framework for representation. Traditionally, in Latin America, the connection between Judaism and communism has been marginalized in the historiography of the

Jewish community, partly due to the lack of archives containing documents that testify to their experiences. Since August 2018, the Documentation and Library Center (CeDoB) Pinie Katz aims to reconstruct the history of the ICUF and become its political-militant reflection. To achieve this, it undertakes tasks of rescue, organization, preservation, and dissemination; research, translation, and production of documentary sources, based on the materials found in affiliated institutions. The Archive has no subsidies or sponsors; nevertheless, it already has a website, an incipient virtual periodicals collection, and the ICUF Editorial, reestablished in 2021.