

Announcing Initial List of Nominees & Soliciting Additional Nominees

The nominations process is open for the WCSA and WCA elections. The open positions for 2018-19 are:

- President-Elect
- Two At-Large Steering Committee Members
- Elections Committee Member
- Working-Class Academics (WCA) Chair-Elect

Below is the initial list of nominees; however, we are looking for additional nominations before and/or at the WCSA Business Meeting on Friday, June 8th at the annual conference. Simply email your nominee to Elections Committee Chair, Jackie Gabriel, at jgabriel@western.edu. If you are nominating somebody besides yourself, please seek their permission and simply copy them on your email nomination to Jackie. In addition, please send along the nominee's email address and provide the nominee's status (graduate student, independent scholar, etc.). No biographical rationale is necessary at this point. However, for those of you who are self-nominating, please send along a brief biography to Jackie. Nominations will close after the membership Business Meeting at the annual conference and ballots will be distributed via email by June 15th. Please take a moment to renew your membership so that you are eligible to vote!

Nominee for President Elect:

Scott Henkel: Dr. Scott Henkel is an assistant professor in the departments of English and African American and Diaspora Studies at the University of Wyoming. He is the author of *Direct Democracy: Collective Power, the Swarm, and the Literatures of the Americas*, recently published in the Caribbean Studies Series by the University Press of Mississippi. He is a former president of the Graduate Employees Union at Michigan State University and is a current member of WCSA's Steering Committee.

Nominees for At-Large Steering Committee Members

Gary Jones: Gary Jones is Associate Professor of History at American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts. His research focuses on labor and working class history during the early twentieth century. His teaching focuses on labor, race, immigration, and radicalism in U.S. history. He has been involved in HOW CLASS WORKS conferences and Working-Class Studies since 2002-03 as a presenter, program committee member, and book award judge.

Marc DiPaolo: Marc DiPaolo is an Assistant Professor of English and Assistant Director of the Honors Program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He

has published three monographs and five edited collections, but the books he has produced most related to WCSA are the edited collections *Working-Class Comic Book Heroes: Class Conflict and Populist Politics in Comic Books* (2018, University Press of Mississippi) and *Devised and Directed by Mike Leigh* (co-edited with Bryan Cardinale-Powell, Bloomsbury, 2013). In addition, he has served on the presidential line of the American Academy of Religion-Southwest and am the immediate past-president this year.

Nominee for Working-Class Academics (WCA) Chair-Elect

Valerie Walkerdine: Valerie Walkerdine is Distinguished Research Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, Wales, UK. She grew up in an industrial working class community in the UK and was the first person in her extended family to enter higher education. By the time she got to her PhD, there were no other working class students and no visible working class academics in her field. She started working on issues of class after her PhD and has worked on it for many years ever since. While in the UK at least, there are many more working class students than when she was a student; in her experience, they still encounter exactly the same issues as she experienced so many decades before and their experience is still not adequately addressed. She believes passionately that working class academics have a key leadership role when it comes to working class studies because as a group they can combat the isolation often experienced but can also become an intellectual, political and social force, capable of transforming debate if all work and talk together. It would be a very great honor to help lead this section and she would do her very best to develop it and extend its reach internationally.