Working Democracy: Participant Biographies

NATIONAL EXPERTS

David Cay Johnston – Pulitzer Prize winning Reporter and Author.

David Cay Johnston is an investigative journalist who specializes in economics and tax issues. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for his reporting on federal taxation issues in the New York Times. He has authored a series of bestselling books that build on his detailed understanding of the hidden ways that powerful companies and wealthy individuals rig the economic and political system. His most recent book is Divided: The Perils of Our Growing Inequality, an anthology in which many leading academics and national politicians document the high cost of inequality.

Ruth Milkman – Professor of Sociology, City University of New York

Ruth Milkman is one the leading sociologists of labor in the US. She has written prolifically about organized labor and other social movements, and about campaigns for immigrant rights and gender equality. She was part of a team that produced a widely publicized 2009 study documenting widespread violations of workplace laws in the US. Her numerous books and articles have explored the practical challenges of organizing workers in a variety of settings. Recent books include: LA Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the US Labor Movement and New Labor in New York: Precarious Workers and the Future of the Labor Movement.

Rebecca Smith – Deputy Director, National Employment Law Project

Rebecca Smith serves as Deputy Director for the National Employment Law Project. She joined NELP after working for 20 years as an advocate for migrant workers in Washington State. With NELP, she successfully promoted reforms in state unemployment insurance programs that provide better benefits coverage for benefits to women and families. She earned her J.D. at the University of Washington and has published numerous articles on labor and human rights in scholarly journals.

Kim Voss – Professor of Sociology, University of California – Berkeley


Daniyal Zuberi – Associate Professor of Social Policy, University of Toronto

Daniyal Zuberi’s path breaking academic work explores connections between labor, social policy, and public health. Zuberi’s book Differences that Matter: Social Policy and the Working Poor in the United States and Canada compares immigrant hotel workers in Seattle and Vancouver and shows how Canada’s much broader and more cost effective social policies (including health care, social welfare, and meaningful legal protection for the right to organize) make an enormous difference in the lives of the working poor. His most recent book is Cleaning Up: Why Hospital Outsourcing is Hurting Workers and Endangering Patients.
SEATTLE AREA UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Stephen Bezruchka – Senior Lecturer, Global Health, University of Washington

Stephen Bezruchka works with the Department of Global Health where he teaches and researches in areas regarding inequality and its effects on population health, with a particular interest in why the United States has such terrible health compared to other rich countries. He has spent over 10 years in Nepal working in various health programs and teaching in remote regions.

Larry Cushnie – Adjuncts and Contingents Together

Larry Cushnie is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Washington. He also teaches at Seattle University, and is a leader in an ongoing effort to unionize Seattle University’s adjunct faculty. His dissertation analyzes deliberate destruction of property as a political tactic, from the Tea Party to modern radical environmental organizations.

Carolyn Pinedo-Turnovsky – Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies and Law, Societies, and Justice, University of Washington

Carolyn Pinedo-Turnovsky is an assistant professor of American Ethnic Studies and Law, Societies, and Justice for the University of Washington. Her work focuses on race, immigration, and labor in the United States. She is completing her first book, Daily Labors: Marketing Identity and Bodies on a New York City Street Corner, a study of day laborers that chronicles immigrant understandings of their participation in labor and the economy.

Mark Smith – Professor, Political Science, University of Washington

Mark Smith is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington where he teaches courses on political parties, American political culture, and religion in American politics. He is the author of The Right Talk: How Conservatives Transformed the Great Society into the Economic Society and American Business and Political Power.

LABOR AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Larry Brown – Legislative Director, International Association of Machinists, District 751

Larry Brown is the Legislative Director for the International Association of Machinists, District 751 and played a large part in a recent large fight between Boeing and the machinists.

Dawn Gearhart – Business Representative, Teamsters Local 117

Dawn Gearhart is a business representative for Teamsters Local 117, advocating for taxi drivers in the Seattle area.

Mark McDermott – Labor Educator

Mark McDermott served for 25 years in a series of senior policy and executive positions in state, local, and federal government. He now conducts educational workshops for a variety of labor and social justice organizations across the US on the causes of rising inequality and strategies for empowering
workers. Before entering government service, he worked numerous factory jobs to get through college and spent 12 years as a union activist and community organizer.

**Dean McGrath – President, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 23, Tacoma**

Current President of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Local 23 of Tacoma, Washington, Dean McGrath has long worked in the labor movement. In the late 1990s, he sat on the Executive Board and served as Vice President of the Tacoma Education Association, and sat on the Executive Board of ILWU Local 23 from 2004-2008. Previous to being elected President of Local 23, he served as the Local's Labor Relations Officer from 2011-2013.

**Teresa Mosqueda – Government Affairs Director, Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO**

Teresa Mosqueda serves as the Government Affairs Director for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and chairs the Healthy Washington Coalition, the state’s largest health care advocacy group.

**Stephen Price – 15 Now/Socialist Alternative**

Stephen Price is lifelong activist and organizer. He is currently active Socialist Alternative and the 15Now movement in Seattle, fighting for a $15 minimum wage.

**David Rolf – President, SEIU 775**

David Rolf is President of SEIU Healthcare 775NW, the fastest growing union in the Northwest representing 43,000 home care and nursing home workers in Washington state and Montana. In 1999, Rolf’s organizing resulted in the successful unionization of 75,000 home care workers in Los Angeles. In 2001, Rolf led a statewide voter initiative to give home care workers the right to form a union in Washington, creating what would eventually become one of the strongest unions in Washington State.

**Jonathan Rosenblum – Working Washington**

Jonathan Rosenblum is a labor organizer and activist. He currently works with Working Washington, a coalition of individuals, neighborhood associations, immigrant groups, civil rights organizations, people of faith, and labor who fight for good jobs and a fair economy. He played a key role in recent organizing campaigns for airport workers and for the $15 minimum wage initiative that passed in SeaTac last fall.

**Hilary Stern – Executive Director, Casa Latina**

Hilary Stern is the Executive Director of Casa Latina, the leading voice in Seattle for Latino immigrant day laborers. Casa Latina combine direct service with community organizing, meeting their constituent’s immediate basic needs for job skills and employment while working for long-term solutions to level the playing field for immigrant families.

**Rich Stolz – Executive Director, OneAmerica**
Rich Stolz directs One America, the largest immigrant advocacy organization in Washington State. He has worked for fifteen years at the Center for Community Change in Washington, D.C., and as Campaign Manager for the Reform Immigration FOR American Campaign.

**Maria Francisca Torres – ROC United**

Maria Francisca Torres is a labor organizer who currently works for ROC (Restaurant Opportunities Centers) United, working to improve wages and working conditions for restaurant workers in Seattle. ROC-United is a national organization representing 13,000 restaurant workers and working with 100 high-road employers and thousands of engaged consumers.

**Matias Valenzuela – King County Government**

Matias Valenzuela is the Manager of King County Equity & Social Justice, a countywide effort to address the root causes of inequities working with all county agencies and the community. He is also the Manager of Community Engagement & Partnerships in the Director’s Office of Public Health - Seattle & King County, collaborating with local organizations and residents to advance the public’s health. He is an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington’s School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

**Katherine Venables – Student Organizer, UW United Students Against Sweatshops**

Katherine Venables was raised in a strong union family who taught her the strength in a group of people mobilizing to drive social change. As a student organizer in United Students Against Sweatshops, she helps to organize campaigns to build student power and take control over the University’s multi-million dollar contracts with huge corporations that exploit garment workers in developing countries. Their current campaign is focusing around the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, a legally binding document that would protect garment workers all across Bangladesh and revolutionize the garment industry. USAS has won past campaigns against corporate giants including Nike, Adidas, and Russell Athletics, proving the power of student power and a sustainable social movement.