

The Global Spirit Philadelphia: The ILO, Economic Security, Political Freedom and Labor Rights in the 21st Century



A Public Conference and Conversation taking place at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, May 10, 2014

Co-sponsored by the:

Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies,
SUNY Empire State
Center for Global Workers' Rights, Penn State University
Democracy Institute, Penn State University

Conference Organizers:

Jill Jensen, Pennsylvania State University
Walter Licht, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Merrill, SUNY Empire State College
Francis Ryan, Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations

Event Schedule:

9:00 a.m. – 10:15: Opening Session

Greeting: Walter Licht, Annenberg Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

Introduction: Kari Tapiola, Special Adviser to the Director-General, International Labor Organization (ILO)

Plenary address: Ai-jen Poo, Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

10:30 – 12:00: The ILO's 1944 Philadelphia Declaration in Historical Perspective

Chair: Dorothy Sue Cobble, Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations

Jill Jensen, Pennsylvania State University

Charles R. Gallagher, S.J., Boston College

Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara

1:00 p.m. – 2:30: Labor Rights and Workers' Rights in Today's Global Economy

Chair: Michael Merrill, SUNY Empire State College

Earl Brown, Esq., Director, Rule of Law and China Departments, Solidarity Center

Dina Siddiqi, Brac University (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Barbara Young, National Organizer, Domestic Workers United

3:00 p.m. – 4:30: Reimagining the Philadelphia Labor Movement in the 21st Century

Chair: Walter Licht, University of Pennsylvania

Sharon McConnell Sidorick, Independent Scholar

Brishen Rogers, Esq., Temple University Beasley School of Law

Francis Ryan, Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations

Fabricio Rodriguez, Organizer, Philadelphia Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC)

4:45 p.m. – 6:00: Final Plenary Session

Michael Merrill, Dean of the Harry Van Arsdale Jr Center for Labor Studies, SUNY Empire State College.