

Advancing Well-Being and Power Among Low-Wage Workers: U.S. and Global Opportunities



Thursday November 2 – Saturday, November 4, 2023
In-Person and Online | Gordon Hall, UMass Amherst

Thursday, November 2

Session 1: Plenary Session, 5:00 pm

Successes and Challenges in Organizing Low-Wage Workers: The Coalition of Immokalee Workers Model in Agriculture

Lupe Gonzalo, Coalition of Immokalee Workers
(Translated from Spanish by Marley Monacello, Coalition of Immokalee Workers)

Discussant: Patrick Mason, PERI

Friday, November 3

Session 2: 9:30 – 11:30 am

Approaches to Organizing, Policy-Setting and Action-Focused Research

Greg Asbed, Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Thea Lee, U.S. Labor Department
Maggie Gray, Adelphi University
Jen Sherer, Economic Policy Institute

Session 3: 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Defending and Expanding Workers Rights in Organizing and on the Job

Laura Safer Espinoza, Fair Foods Standards Council
James Brudney, Fordham University
Claudia Quintero, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Project
Lily Huang, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice

Session 4: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

International Perspectives on Organizing Workers Seema Kulkarni, MAKAAAM (Forum For Women Farmers' Rights, India)

Lynda Pickbourn, Mt. Holyoke College and PERI
Jess Sparks, Tufts University
Liana Foxvog, Workers' Rights Consortium & UMass Amherst

Saturday, November 4

Session 5: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Perspectives on Fighting Inequality

Fernando Lozano, Claremont College
Kyle Moore, Economic Policy Institute
Janice Fine, Rutgers University

Session 6: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Advances and Challenges in Organizing Campaigns

Claudia Rosales, Pioneer Valley Workers Center
Anna Canning, Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Network
Kate Paarlberg-Kvam, Vermont Milk with Dignity Standards Council
Keith Bullard, Union of Southern Service Workers

Session 7: 1:15 – 2:30 pm

General informal wrap-up discussion over lunch



Sponsored by PERI and the Department of Economics at UMass Amherst.
Registration: <http://bit.ly/PERIWorkerPowerConf>