

**William Powell Jones**  
Associate Professor of History  
University of Wisconsin

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**Education:**

2000	Ph.D. in History	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1996	M.A. in History	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1992	B.S. in Education and Social Policy	Northwestern University

**Fellowships and Awards:**

Faculty Development Grant, UW Madison, 2009-2010  
American Council of Learned Societies, Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2007-2008  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NEH/Newhouse Fellowship, 2005-2006  
Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies Fellow, UW-Milwaukee, 2005-2006 (declined)  
Corporation for National and Community Service, Engaged Department Grant, 2005  
Graduate School Research Committee Award, UW-Milwaukee, 2003-2004  
Center for Historical Analysis Faculty Fellow, Rutgers University, 2001-2002  
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities, 1999  
Center for International Studies, Sawyer/Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1999 (declined)  
Institute of African American Research Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1999  
Frank Porter Graham Honor Society, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1998  
George E. Mowry Research Award, Department of History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1998, 1997  
Minority Presence Fellowship for Doctoral Study, Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1997  
Smithsonian Graduate Student Fellowship, National Museum of American History, 1997  
Archie Green Occupational Folklife Graduate Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1997  
Oral History Research Stipend, Southern Oral History Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1997, 1996  
Teaching Assistant Technology Award, Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1997  
Minority Merit Scholarship, Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1994-97

**Publications**

**Book:**

The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2005)

- H.L. Mitchell Award, Southern Historical Association, 2006
- Wentworth Illinois History Book Award, 2005

**Articles, Essays and Book Chapters:**

“Nothing Special to Offer the Negro”: Revisiting the “Debsian View’ of the Negro Question,” International Labor and Working Class History 74 (Fall 2008), 212-224

“How Black ‘Folk’ Survived in the Modern South: Industrialization, Popular Culture, and the Transformation of Black Working-Class Leisure in the Jim Crow South,” in Ken Warren and Adolph Reed, Jr., eds., Rethinking Black Intellectual History: The Ideological and

Material Foundations of Black American Thought (Forthcoming: Paradigm Publishers, 2009)

“‘Simple Truths of Democracy’: African Americans and Organized Labor in the Post-World War II South,” in Eric Arnesen, ed., The Black Worker: Race, Labor, and Civil Rights Since Emancipation (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007), 250-270

“*Black Milwaukee*, Proletarianization, and the Making of Black Working-Class History,” Journal of Urban History 33 (May 2007), 544-550.

“The Legacy of Failure: Why the Solid South Has Proved So Hard to Crack,” New Labor Forum (Fall, 2006): 32-39

“Out of Wisconsin: The Theory and Practice of Labor History” & “Five Suggestions for Teaching Working-Class History in a Classless Society,” Voyageur: Northeast Wisconsin’s Historical Review (Winter/Spring 2005)

“Black Workers, Organized Labor, and the Struggle for Civil Rights,” review essay in Left History 8 (Spring 2003): 145-154

“As Good As It Gets: Three Children of Steel Remember the Golden Age,” review essay in International Labor and Working-Class History 61 (Spring 2002): 183-187

“Black Workers and the CIO’s Turn Toward Racial Liberalism: Operation Dixie and the North Carolina Lumber Industry, 1946-1953,” Labor History 41 (August 2000): 279-306

### **Work in Progress:**

“For Jobs and Freedom: The Negro American Labor Council, the March on Washington, and the Transformation of American Liberalism,” article in revision for submission to academic journal

“The New Color of Class: Race and Inequality and the Service Economy.” Book project funded by American Council of Learned Societies Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, Center for Twenty-First Century Studies Fellowship, and Schomburg Center Scholars in Residence Program

### **Book Reviews, Short Essays & Encyclopedia Entries**

“Obama’s New Deal,” *The Nation* (December 1, 2008)

“Free Choice Act Guards Democracy,” Op-Ed, *Wisconsin State Journal* (December 15, 2008)

Review of Robert H. Zieger, *For Jobs and Freedom: Race and Labor in America since 1865*, Journal of Southern History (forthcoming)

Review of David M. Lewis-Coleman, *Race against Liberalism: Black Workers and the UAW in Detroit*, Journal of African American History (forthcoming)

Review of Timothy J. Minchin, *From Rights to Economics: The Ongoing Struggle for Black Equality in the U.S. South*, Labor History (forthcoming)

Review of Daniel J. Opler, *For All White-Collar Workers: The Possibilities of Radicalism in New York City’s Department Store Unions, 1934-1953*, Labor: Working Class History of the Americas (Fall 2008)

Review of Timothy J. Minchin, *Fighting Against the Odds: A History of Southern Labor Since World War II*, Social History (August 2007)

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Review of Mary G. Rolinson, *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 1920-1927* Journal of American History (September 2007)

Review of James N. Gregory, *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migration of Black and White Southerners Transformed America*, Canadian Journal of History (Autumn 2007)

“Race, Class and Urban History” in Joe William Trotter, Jr., Black Milwaukee: The Making of an Industrial Proletariat, 1915-45 Second Edition (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007)

Review of Paul D. Moreno, *Black Americans and Organized Labor: A New History*, Journal of African American History (Winter 2007)

“Working Class Hero: The Forgotten Labor Roots of the Martin Luther King Holiday,” The Nation (January 30, 2006): 23-24

Review of Joseph E. Slater, *Public Workers: Government Employee Unions, the Law, and the State, 1900-1962*, H-Law (July 24, 2006)

“Dissent and Democracy in the 1970s: A Lesson for Change to Win,” *LAWCHA Newsletter* (February 2006)

Review of Horace Huntley and David Montgomery, eds., *Black Workers' Struggle for Equality in Birmingham*, Alabama Review (October 2005)

Review of John Russo and Sherry Lee Linkon, eds., *New Working-Class Studies*, Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas (Fall 2005)

Review of John Salmond, *Southern Struggles: The Southern Labor Movement and the Civil Rights Struggle*, Journal of Southern History (August, 2005)

Review of Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*, Journal of Southern History (May, 2005)

Review of Catherine Fosl, *Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South*, Southern Exposure 31:2 (Summer 2003): 74-78

Review of Brian Kelly, *Race, Class, and Power in the Alabama Coalfields, 1908-1921*, Labor/Le Travail 50 (Fall 2002): 336-338

“France,” in Gerald Horne and Mary Young, ed., W.E.B. Du Bois: An Encyclopedia (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2001): 81-82

Review of Ira Berlin, Marc Favreau and Steven F. Miller, ed., *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation*, Southern Exposure 27: 4 (Winter 1999/2000): 58-59

Review of Daniel Letwin, *The Challenge of Interracial Unionism: Alabama Coal Miners, 1878-1921*, Southern Exposure 26:2&3 (Summer/Fall 1998): 64-65

Review of Timothy Minchin, *What Do We Need a Union For? The TWUA in the South, 1945-1955*, Florida Historical Quarterly 76:4 (Spring 1998): 505-507

### **Invited Lectures and Comments:**

“The Infrastructure of South-Central Los Angeles’: Unions, Public Service and the New Black Middle Class,” invited lecture to the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 23, 2009

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Panelist, Roundtable on Nancy MacLean, *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*, Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, Vancouver, BC, June 6, 2008

“‘For Jobs and Freedom’: The Negro American Labor Council and the March on Washington in 1963,” invited lecture to the Center for Labor Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, February 2, 2008

‘For Jobs and Freedom’: Connecting Economic and Racial Justice in the ‘Classical’ Stage of the Civil Rights Movement, Keynote Address, Midwest Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 7-8, 2006

“The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African-American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South,” Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy, Carnegie Mellon University, February 17, 2006

“The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African-American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South,” Black History Month Celebration, University of Vermont, February 8, 2006

“The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African-American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South,” Black History Month Celebration, Louisiana Tech University, February 2, 2006

“Where are the Southern Lumberjack Songs?: An Exploration of Modernization and Working-Class Folklore.” Invited lecture to the *Fund for Labor Culture and History First Laborlore Conversation*, Oakland, CA, October 2, 2004.

Discussant, “African Americans, Civil Rights, and Race-Making in Milwaukee,” *Symposium on Milwaukee History*, Milwaukee, WI, October 7, 2004

“Race and Class in Urban History: A Retrospective on Joe W. Trotter's Black Milwaukee.” Organizer and chair, panel at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Milwaukee, WI, September 23-28, 2003.

“Organized Labor and the Politics of Identity,” Invited lecture to the Graduate Student *Radical History Workshop*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, March 27-29, 2003.

Panelist on Adolph Reed Jr., *Class Notes: Posing as Politics and Other Thoughts on the American Political Scene*, New School University, February 5, 2002.

“Race Spaces: Rethinking Black Working-Class Manhood.” Invited lecture, *Fisher Center for the Study of Women and Men* at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, September 10, 2001.

“Race and Class in the 21st Century.” Invited lecture, *Rutgers American Studies Association*, December 2000.

Discussant, “Poverty, the State, and the Black Working-Class.” Panel at *Blacks in the Diaspora Student Academic Conference*, the Institute of African American Research, UNC-Chapel Hill at Chapel Hill, NC, March 20-21, 1999.

### **Conference and Seminar Papers:**

“Servants of the Welfare State: Race and Public Service in the Post-Industrial United States,” *The Newberry Conference on Labor History across the Americas*, Chicago, IL, September 20, 2008

“Servants of the Welfare State: Black Public Employees in the Postwar United States,” *Who Claims the City?: Thinking Race, Class and Urban Place*, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, May 2, 2008

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- “‘Nothing Special to Offer the Negro’: The Posthumous Origins of the “‘Debsian view’ of the Negro question,” *Organization of American Historians*, Minneapolis, MN, March 28, 2007
- “Servants of Empire: Public Employee Unionism in the Panama Canal Zone, 1937-1955,” Presented to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, September 8, 2007
- “From Birmingham to Memphis: Southern Sanitation Workers and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s,” *Race and Ethnicity Training Seminar*, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 13, 2006
- “‘For Jobs and Freedom’: Black Trade Unionists link Racial and Economic Justice in the 1960s,” *Newberry Library Labor History Seminar*, Chicago, October 13, 2006
- Participant in roundtable on recent works in African American Labor History, *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Atlanta, September 29, 2006
- ‘For Jobs and Freedom’: Connecting Economic and Racial Justice in the ‘Classical’ Stage of the Civil Rights Movement, paper presented at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, March 29, 2006
- “The Other Black Power: Black Trade Unionists Confront the Urban Crisis,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, December 6, 2005
- “*Black Milwaukee* and the Making of African American Working-Class History,” *Urban History Conference*, Milwaukee, WI, October 8, 2004
- “Civil Rights and the Labor Movement: Taking a Long View.” *Organization of American Historians*, Boston, MA, March 27, 2004
- “Blues Culture and Black Community in the Modern South: A Historiographical Comment.” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 23-28, 2003
- “Race, Proletarianization, and Industrial Unionism in the Southern Lumber Industry, 1929-1938.” *The Newberry Library Labor History Seminar*, Chicago, IL, October 11, 2003.
- “Finding Strength in Diversity: A Lesson from the Old ‘New Union Movement.’” *Southwest Labor Studies Association Meeting*, Berkeley, CA, May 8-10, 2003
- Participant in roundtable on Robert Bruno, *Steelworker Alley: How Class Works in Youngstown*, *Center for Working-Class Studies Biennial Conference*, Youngstown, OH, May 2001
- “How ‘Black Folk’ Survived in the Modern South, or the Exoticization of African American Working-Class History,” *Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis*, “*Industrial Environments*” Seminar, New Brunswick, NJ, November 13, 2001
- “Between the Garden of Eden and the Promised Land: Black Industrial Workers in the Rural South.” *North American Labor History Conference*, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, October 19, 2001
- “Black Men Between Farm and Factory: Lumber Employment, Gender Relations, and Class Formation in the U.S. South, 1929-1950.” *American Historical Association*, Chicago, IL, January 6-9, 2000
- “Graduate Student Unions and the Historical Profession,” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, January 1999

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- “Segregated, Integrated, and On Their Own: Black Mill Workers’ Responses to Unionization in Three Southern Lumber Mill Towns.” *North American Labor History Conference*, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, October 21-23, 1999
- “‘The Problem of Sub-Normal Labor’: Race and Industrial Labor in the South during the Great Depression,” *Organization of American Historians*, Indianapolis, IN, April 1998.
- “Operation Dixie and the ‘Colored Problem’: The 1948 Lumber Workers’ Strike in Elizabethtown, North Carolina,” *Southern Labor Studies Conference*, Williamsburg, VA, September 1997
- “Women’s Leadership and Grassroots Activism: Reflections from the Field.” Panel at the *Southern Conference on Women’s History*, Charleston, SC., June 1997
- “Performing Women’s Leadership: The Process and Politics of Oral History,” *Oral History Association*, Philadelphia, PA, September 1996
- “Historical Memory, Grass Roots Leadership, and the NAACP in North Carolina, 1944-1960,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Charleston, SC., September 1996
- “‘The Spirit of Bandung’: Pan Africanism and the Black Elite,” *Graduate History Conference*, UNC-Chapel Hill at Charlotte, NC. May 1996

**Academic Appointments, Courses and Advising:**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Associate Professor, 2005-  
The United States Since 1945  
The Long Civil Rights Movement  
The United States Since 1865  
American Labor History (graduate)  
Introduction to History for U.S. Historians (graduate)

Advising:

Dissertation Committees: Charles Hughes (primary), Dorthea Browder, Crystal Moten, , Jesse Gant, Matthew Levin  
Preliminary Exam Committees: Brenna Greer, Jennifer Holland, Jennifer Kaufmann-Buhler (Human Ecology), Ariel Isenberg  
Outside reader on Ph.D. committees at Rutgers University, Northwestern University

*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*, Assistant Professor, 2002-2005

Multicultural America  
African American History I, Slavery and Freedom  
African American History II, Since 1865  
Graduate Advising: Directed 2 MA Theses, 2 MA Exams, 3 Independent Studies  
Undergraduate Advising: Directed 1 Senior Thesis, 1 Summer Research Fellowship, 1 Independent Study

*Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey*, Assistant Professor, 2000-2002

Development of the United States II, Since 1865  
African American History II, Since 1865  
History of the South, Since 1865  
History of Civil Rights

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Blacks in Urban America  
Seminar in African American Working-Class History

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, Instructor, 1999  
History of the World Since 1945

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, Teaching Assistant, 1994-1999  
United States History, I & II  
Western Civilization  
History of the World Since 1945  
Researcher, Southern Oral History Program, 1995-1998

*New Orleans Public School District*  
Teacher, Carter G. Woodson Middle School, 1992-1994

### **Professional Service:**

Promotion reviews

2008: Lawrence University

2007: Yale University

Peer reviews of books and articles

2008: *Cornell University Press, Journal of Contemporary History, Illinois Journal of History*

2007: *Labor, Bedford/St. Martins Press*

2006: *Journal of American History, American Quarterly, Labor*

*Organization of American Historians*

Committee on Committees, 2008

*Labor: Studies in Working Class History in the Americas*

Editorial Committee, 2006-

Board of Contributing Editors, 2004-2007

*Labor and Working Class History Association*

Board of Directors, 2002-2006

Program Committee, 2003-2006

*International Labor and Working-Class History*

Board of Consulting Editors, 2003-

*Southern Historical Association*

Planning Committee for 2002 Annual Meeting

*Southern Exposure: A Journal of Politics and Culture*,

Book Review Editor, 1997-2001

### **University Service**

*UW Madison College of Letters and Science*

Faculty Appeals Committee, 2008-

Faculty Senate, 2008-2011

Havens Center, Board of Directors

*UW Madison Department of History*

Faculty Council, 2008-2010

Harvey Goldberg Center, Board of Directors

Search and Screen Committee, Military History, 2008-9

Search and Screen Committee, International History, 2008

Graduate Admissions Committee, 2006-2007  
Chair, Strategic Hiring Committee, 2006-2007  
*UWM Department of History,*  
Graduate Affairs Committee, 2004-2005  
Faculty Affairs Committee, 2003-2004  
Faculty Recruitment Committee, 2003  
Faculty Affairs Committee, 2002-2003  
Merit Committee, 2003  
Faculty Recruitment Committee, 2002  
*UWM Cultures and Communities Program*  
Mini-grant Award Committee, 2003  
*UWM Graduate School*  
Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship Committee, 2004-2005  
*UWM Institute for Service Learning*  
Faculty Fellow, Fall 2004.  
*UWM Center for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Studies,*  
Political Economy of Race Reading Group, Coordinator, 2004-2005  
*Rutgers Department of History*  
Nominations Committee, 2000-2002  
*UNC Graduate and Professional Student Federation*  
Senator, 1995-1997 (recognized for service)

## **Public Service**

Guest, *At Issue with Ben Merens*, Wisconsin Public Radio, January 19, 2009  
*Wisconsin Labor History Society*, Board of Directors, 2006-  
Recent Trends in U.S. History, Staff Retreat, Wisconsin State Historical Society,  
Madison, WI, May 21, 2008  
Discussant, "Harlan County, USA," Tales from Planet Earth Film Festival, Orpheum  
Theater, Madison, WI, November 3, 2007  
Panelist, March on Milwaukee Community Conference, University of Wisconsin,  
Milwaukee, September 29, 2007  
"The Origins of Martin Luther King Day, Keynote Address, Martin Luther King Day  
Celebration, The Hill School, Pottstown, PA, January 16, 2006  
"The History of AFSCME," Lecture to AFSCME Retirees Chapter, Madison, WI, May  
15, 2007  
"Changing Racial Perceptions: Shaping the Future," public forum, MATA Community  
Media, Milwaukee, June 21, 2004.  
"Race or Class: Which is the Real Obstacle?" *4<sup>th</sup> St. Forum*, Turner Hall, Milwaukee,  
WI, Thursday, May 13, 2004. Broadcast on Milwaukee Public Television, Friday,  
May 14 and Sunday, May 16, 2004.  
"Out of Wisconsin: The Theory and Practice of Labor History" & "Five Suggestions for  
Teaching Working-Class History in a Classless Society." Invited lectures to the

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*Northwest Wisconsin Teaching American History Program, UW Green Bay, August 2004.*

Academic advisor to Wisconsin Chapter, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., project awarded \$5000 grant from Wisconsin Humanities Council.

"Conducting an Oral History Project," training requested by Wisconsin Chapter, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, Saturday, April 19, 2003

"Living Wage Campaigns: A National View." Invited lecture, *8th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Hunger Network*, Fuquay-Varina, NC, September 24-25, 1999

"Chapel Hill and Carrboro, Chaos or Community?" keynote, *16th Annual Chapel Hill/Carrboro Martin Luther King Day March and Rally*, January 19, 1998

Institute for Southern Studies, Advisory Board and Program Committee, 1998-2000

**Professional Affiliations:** American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Southern Historical Association, Labor and Working-Class History Association, American Federation of Teachers.