



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE & SOCIETY



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
POZEN FAMILY CENTER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



What Force on Earth?

Theorizing the Labor Movement

October 10–11, 2025

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society
The University of Chicago

Friday, Oct. 10

- 9:00 am **Coffee and Welcoming Remarks**
Gabriel Winant, University of Chicago
- 9:15 **The Forces of Capitalism**
Ahmed White,
University of Wisconsin Law School
Alex Gourevitch, Brown University
- 10:30 **Forms of Worker Power**
Rudi Batzell, Lake Forest College
Michael Billeaux-Martinez,
Madison College
Luke Cianiottto,
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
& University of Chicago
- 11:45 **Lunch**
- 12:45 pm **Traditions of Organizing and Struggle**
Yueran Zhang, University of Chicago
Toni Gilpin, Labor Historian and Activist
- 2:00 **Images and Rhetorics of Labor**
John Lear, University of Puget Sound
Ellis Garey, Brown University
- 3:15 **Break**
- 3:30 **Union, Party, State**
Barry Eidlin, McGill University
Cedric de Leon,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 4:45 **Break**

5:00

Keynote Address: What Is a Union?

Daisy Pitkin, Labor Organizer and Author

Saturday, Oct. 11

9:00 am

Transformational Experience

Alethia Jones,
City University of New York

Ben Laurence, University of Chicago

Gilbert Cruz, Starbucks Workers United

10:15

Economic Democracy

Mattie Webb, Virginia Military Institute

Steven Klein, King's College London

11:30

Recruitment and Commitment

Ruth Milkman,
City University of New York

Mie Inouye, Bard College

Kevin Moore, Chicago Teachers Union

12:45 pm

Lunchtime Brainstorm



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