



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
- 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

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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