

Labor

Latino/Latin American Studies Fall 2022 Series

September 28

Organizing for Change: The Worker-driven Social Responsibility Model Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM Multicultural Center, CSB



A lead organizer for the Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL) will share with us insight about his organization, its worker rights campaign in the construction industry, and current organizing experience. CTUL is a workers center that promotes worker rights, including in the non-unionized sectors of the Twin Cities metro area construction industry, seeking to improve the conditions for all workers. Since CTUL's inception in 2004, about a quarter of workers who have connected with the organization have worked in the non-union construction industry. After years of witnessing exploitation and rampant wage theft in the industry, CTUL began a construction worker committee where non-union

construction workers bring their voice, experience, and leadership to improve conditions and win back stolen wages. CTUL's campaign builds on the remarkable success of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to create a Worker-driven Social Responsibility Program in the construction sector. Please come prepared with questions you have about CTUL, the construction campaign, or about organizing.

Carlos García Velasco, pictured center, began doing community organizing work in 2004. He has done this work off and on for many years and in different spaces, including political work, union organizing, campaigns, and more. He has been with the Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) for the last three years. He is the lead organizer with CTUL's construction campaign, through which CTUL is organizing non-union construction workers to build power and fight for change in the non-union sector of the construction industry.

Chinese Indentured Labor during the Era of Abolition: Cuba, Peru, and the United States during the Mid-Nineteenth Century Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM Quad 264, SJU

October 18

This talk examines the experience of the tens of thousands of Chinese indentured laborers who went to Cuba, Peru, and the United States during the mid-nineteenth century as replacements or supplements for slaves. In particular, it explores how and why Cuba and Peru, despite their many differences, developed similar systems of Chinese indentured labor—ones in which supposedly free individuals labored like slaves—while an effort to copy this system failed in the U.S. South. Race, abolition, Chinese resistance, and international relations all interacted to shape the trajectory of Chinese indentured labor in these three places. Nevertheless, the strength (even if temporary), goals, and actions of the state helped determine the viability of this labor system.



Dr. Benjamin Narvaez is Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where he also serves as coordinator of the Latin American Area Studies program. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and his B.A. from Grinnell College. His research focuses on the history of Chinese migration to Latin America, especially Chinese indentured labor in nineteenth-century Cuba and Peru and Chinese immigration in early twentieth-century Costa Rica. His work has appeared in various journals, including the *Journal of Social History*, *The Americas*, and the *New West Indian Guide*, as well as edited volumes.

November 10

CottonPicker Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM Multicultural Center, CSB



Using the name of his hometown's mascot, the Robstown CottonPickers, as his point of departure, Bobby will explore intersections of labor and community and how they play roles in identity and creative practice.

A native of Robstown, Texas, **Bobby Marines** is a Minnesota-based artist whose interdisciplinary practice considers the influence of socio-economics, race, and the criminal justice system on Chicano(x) identity. Growing up engulfed by poverty, gang culture, and drug epidemics, his practice references personal experiences which reflect the candid reality of marginalized and underserved communities today. Bobby is the recipient of an Advancing Artist grant from Southeast MN Arts Council in 2015. In 2021, he was awarded a Creative Support for Individuals grant from MN State Arts Board. In 2021 and 2022, he was awarded multiple grants for his online project, *Voces y Visiones*, which uses art as a catalyst to explore issues in the Latinx community.

His work has been featured in various exhibitions and publications throughout Minnesota and resides in private collections across the country. His work was most recently featured in the group exhibitions "La Línea: 20 Years of Soap del Corazón" at Plains Art Museum, "Mestizaje: Intermix-Remix" at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, and "Images Unbound" at the Des Moines Art Center.