

James R. (Jamie) McQuaid

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Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in History, 2023

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

This Union Cause: The Queer History of the United Auto Workers, 1935-2000

Dissertation Committee: Elizabeth Faue (Chair), Liette Gidlow, Paul Kershaw, Ryan

Patrick Murphy, Michael Schmidt

Graduate Bridge Certificate in World History, 2023

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Master of the Arts in History, 2018

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Masters Essay: "Pride in the UAW: The UAW's Accommodation and Defense of Its
LGBTQ Rank and File"

Bachelor of the Arts in English Language and Literature, 2012

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

PUBLICATIONS

"That Other Minority: The UAW, Midwestern Politics, and pre-Stonewall Queer-Labor
Solidarity." In *The Liberal Heartland: A Political History of the Postwar American
Midwest*. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 2025.

"Pride, Prejudice, and Ron Woods' Fight for Dignity," *Looking Back, Moving Forward*,
Michigan Labor History Society, 2022.

Perry, Tam, James McQuaid, Claudia Sanford, and Dennis Archambault. "Detroit's Work to
Address the Pandemic for Older Adults: A City of Challenge, History and Resilience." In
Global Reflections on COVID-19 and Urban Inequalities, Vol. 2: Housing and Home,
edited by Brian Doucet. Bristol, UK: Policy Press, 2021.

Perry, Tam, James McQuaid, Claudia Sanford, and Dennis Archambault. "COVID-19 Responses
in Detroit, MI: An Affordable Housing Coalition Furthers the Link between Housing
Stability and Health." University of Toronto, School of Cities Series, 2021.

"Health and the Right to Healthy Food in a Global Pandemic," *Community Health Blog* (blog),
Authority Health, Senior Housing Preservation—Detroit, July 23, 2020.

"Pride, Wrath, and the 'Authentic' Spirit of Queer History," *Wayne State HGSA Blog* (blog),
Wayne State History Graduate Students' Association, July 3, 2020.

“The Kapanowski Challenge: How Rank and File UAW Members Rallied Around Gay Activists to Fight Runaway Shops in 1972 Detroit,” *The Metropole* (blog), Urban History Association, January 15, 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “A (Very Short) Labor History Tour of Detroit,” Wayne State University Coalition of Campus Unions, March 19; AFL-CIO Michigan WDI Women in Skilled Trades (WIST), April 15.
- 2024 “‘Why So Many Queer People Joined Up with the New Deal:’ The UAW’s Discrete Postwar Activism,” Law Librarians of Metropolitan Detroit, December 5, 2024.
- 2024 “Understanding Pride and the Importance of Stonewall: Informing and De-Stigmatizing LGBTQ+ Communities,” Mount Clemens Public Library, Youth Services, June 28.
- 2024 “This Union Cause: Queer History and the Sterling Heights Labor Movement,” Sterling Heights Public Library, SHPL Programming Center, February 22.
- 2023 “Coming Out in History: The Need for Queer Solidarity and Scholarship,” Creating and Magnifying Pride (CAMP), Wayne State University, October 5.
- 2023 “This Union Cause: The Queer History of the United Auto Workers, 1935–2000,” Dissertation Defense, Department of History, Wayne State University, September 18.
- 2023 “The LGBTQ Community in the Labor Movement,” Novi Historical Commission, Novi Public Library, April 26.
- 2023 “Queer Oral Histories: Preparation, Strategies, and Ethics,” Queer History Series, Joining Intersectionality, Gender, Sexuality at Wayne (JIGSAW), February 3.
- 2022 “Queer Russian History,” Queer History Series, Joining Intersectionality, Gender, Sexuality at Wayne (JIGSAW), October 14.
- 2022 “Coming Out at Work: Queer Union Advocacy in American Labor History,” Works in Progress Workshop Series, Wayne State University Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program, October 11.
- 2022 “Pride on the Line: The UAW and Queer-Labor Solidarity after Stonewall,” Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Lecture Series, Capital Area Motorcities and The Michigan State University Gender and Sexuality Campus Center, Conducted Virtually, September 23.
- 2022 “Joining Forces: Intersectional Activism in the UAW,” Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference, Conducted Virtually, March 26.
- 2022 “The Queer History of the United Auto Workers (UAW),” Poster presented at the Wayne State University Graduate Research Symposium, Detroit, MI, March 8-10.

- 2020 “Know Your History: The American Labor Movement,” Penguicon Open-Source Skill Sharing Convention, Southfield, MI, April 25. Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020 “So You Want to Unionize Your Workplace,” Penguicon Open-Source Skill Sharing Convention, Southfield, MI, April 25. Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020 “Queering the UAW: Gender and Sexuality Transgression in WWII,” Charles F. Otis and Jeffrey L. Reider Graduate Symposium on the History of Gender, Women, and Sexuality, Detroit, MI, April 14.
- 2020 “The Queer History of the United Auto Workers (UAW),” National Labor Relations Board, Region 07, Detroit, MI, February 12.
- 2020 “Kapanowski’s Labor: Queering Working-Class Solidarity on the 1970s Shop Floor,” Detroit Historical Society, Third Thursday Speaker Series: WSU Student Researchers, Detroit, MI, January 16.
- 2019 “A Platform for People: The Rise and Fall of the Human Rights Party and Its LGBTQ Advocacy in History,” Charles F. Otis and Jeffrey L. Reider Graduate Symposium on the History of Gender, Women, and Sexuality, Detroit, MI, April 9.
- 2018 “LGBTQ Labor History: The Importance of Undoing Heteronormative History,” Penguicon Open-Source Skill Sharing Convention, Southfield, MI, May 5.
- 2018 “Pride in the UAW: Exploring Organized Labor’s Representation of LGBTQ Workers,” Charles F. Otis and Jeffrey L. Reider Graduate Symposium on the History of Gender, Women, and Sexuality, Detroit, MI, April 10.

GUEST LECTURES AND INTERVIEWS

- Mokoene, Kearabetswe (KB). *Thriving as a GTA*, (podcast). March 19, 2024. Interview with James McQuaid: “Episode 7: Sharing Experiences with Jamie McQuaid.” <https://youtu.be/enrsZQnTczE?si=OlUCOD-mxnv38663>.
- “Queer History in the Workplace,” in HIST 385: Workers and Work in the United States, Amanda Walter, Towson University, November 2, 2023.
- Penn, Allie, and Rae Manela. *Students Teaching Students*, (podcast). December 27, 2020. Interview with James McQuaid: “Episode 23: James McQuaid.” <https://anchor.fm/stspodcast19/episodes/Episode-23-James-McQuaid-eo97d2>.
- Golodner, Dan, Troy Eller English, and Meghan Courtney. *Tales from the Reuther Library*, (podcast). June 15, 2020. Interview with James McQuaid: “This Union Cause: The Queer History of the United Automobile Workers.” <http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/14939>.

“Deindustrialization, Globalization, and the Rise of Inequality,” in HIS 1050: History of the Headlines, Liette Gidlow, Wayne State University, March 21, 2019.

“LGBTQ Life and Rights: WWII to Obergefell,” in HIS 1050: History of the Headlines, Liette Gidlow, Wayne State University, November 6, 2018, and March 19, 2019.

CONFERENCE PANELS

“Changing the Scope: Building a Praxis of Solidarity Within Academia,” 2025 Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Conference, Cincinnati, OH, April 5, 2025

“‘Why So Many Queer People Joined Up with the New Deal:’ Fighting for a New Order amid Reaction and Repression in the Postwar Labor Movement,” Panel 7A: The Gendered Politics of Labor, North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, MI, October 12, 2024

“Anti-LGBTQ Politics in the 2024 Elections,” 2024 Conference on American History, Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, LA, April 13, 2024.

“The Untold Story of the Flint Sit-Down Strike: A UAW History & Its Lessons,” First Northeast Ohio State of Labor Summit of the Northeast Ohio Workers’ Center, the Cleveland State University College of Law, and the National Lawyers’ Guild, Cleveland, OH, April 5, 2024. Presented with Martha Grevatt and Anna Stroinski

“Unions and Human Rights,” Second Annual Labor Spring Teach-In, Labor@Wayne and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, March 20, 2024. Presented with Jeremy Milloy, Noelle Belanger, and Scott Urbanowski

“What is a Union? How do I Organize?,” Second Annual Labor Spring Teach-In, Labor@Wayne and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, March 20, 2024. Presented with Noelle Belanger, Sam Stark, Kae Halonen, and Andrew Bradley

“Organizing around LGBTQ+ Issues,” Inaugural/First Annual Workers’ Pride Conference of the University of Michigan–Dearborn Center for Labor and Community Studies, Dearborn, MI, June 24, 2023. Presented with Jordan Easley and Joe Hanson

“Justice for All Workers,” First Annual Labor Spring Teach-In, Labor@Wayne and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, April 20, 2023. Presented with Andy Levin, Gavin Strassel, and Jared Eno

“Queering the D: Contesting Sexuality and Gender in Metro Detroit,” Tenth Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Detroit, MI, 2020. Presented with Jennifer Dominique Jones, Emma Maniere, and Timothy Retzlaff. Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

“Shifting Boundaries: Race and Political Economy in Postwar Suburban Detroit,” Tenth Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Detroit, MI, 2020. Planned presentation with Kenneth Alyass, Mitchell Fleischer, and Emma Maniere. Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

“Reclaiming Our History: Let’s Hear it for the ‘Losers,’” Penguicon Open-Source Software and Hardware Convention, Southfield, MI, May 5, 2018. Presented with Kristine Larsen and Jennifer Matthews

OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Berigan, Lia. “The ‘We Have Always Been Here’ Myth in Context.” Senior Honors Thesis, Department of Anthropology, Wayne State University. Advisor. (Forthcoming)

Avery, Brooke. “Policing Queer Bodies through Fashion.” Senior Thesis, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, Wayne State University. December 2024. Advisor.

Yett, Aeyanna and James McQuaid. “Proposal for a Senior Housing Preservation-Detroit (SHP-D) Senior’s Food Distribution Network.” Presented to SHP-D Organizers, July 19, 2020.

Schroeder, Kim, Rickie Barkoff, and James R. McQuaid. Interview Conducted 2018. *LGBT Oral History Project*. Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

AWARDS, GRANTS, ASSISTANTSHIPS

2025 Michigan AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute Key Collaborator Award, WDI Leadership Team, awarded jointly to the Labor@Wayne team on May 9, 2025, including Labor@Wayne Director Elizabeth Faue and academic services officer Sean O’Brien

2024 2024-2025 Labor Education Development Grant, Douglas A. Fraser Center for Workplace Issues, Wayne State University, Awarded for Class Proposal “Work and Artificial Intelligence,” Submitted in Partnership with Sean O’Brien

2023 Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in U.S. Labor and Working-Class History, Honorable Mention, Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA), Honorable Mention Awarded April 12, 2024, at the Organization of American Historians (OAH) 2024 Conference, New Orleans, LA.

2023 Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Award for Excellence in Teaching, Graduate School, Wayne State University.

2023 Certificate of Appreciation to Instructional Staff at the Inaugural Workers’ Pride Conference, Center for Labor and Community Studies, University of Michigan–Dearborn.

2021 – 2022: Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship, Department of History, Wayne State University.

2021 Dr. Louis Jones HGSA Award, Department of History, Wayne State University. Received jointly with Rachel Manela.

- 2021 Kruman-Lion Endowed History Graduate Student Award, Department of History, Wayne State University.
- 2020 Joe L. Norris Endowed Award, “The First Ladies of Labor: How Women Challenged Restrictive Gender Conventions and Established Lesbian Identities on the UAW Shop Floor during World War II,” Department of History, Wayne State University.
- 2020 Joseph Gelinas Drouillard & Elizabeth Lesperance Annual History Award, Department of History, Wayne State University.
- 2019 Charles F. Otis and Dr. Jeffrey L. Reider Scholarship in the History of Gender and Sexuality, Department of History, Wayne State University.
- 2018 – 2021: Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of History, Wayne State University.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present: Instructor
Wayne State University Detroit, MI
- 2018 – 2021: Graduate Teaching Assistant
Wayne State University Detroit, MI

COURSES TAUGHT

- ELR 1110: Work and Democracy: An Introduction
Winter 2025 (Online), Spring 2025 (Online), Fall 2025
- GSW 2100: Introduction to Queer Studies
Spring 2024 (Online)
- HIS 5205/GSW 5400: Queer American History
Fall 2022, Winter 2024
- HIS 5290/ECO 5490: American Labor History
Fall, 2020 (Online), Winter 2023 (Online)
- HIS 2605: History of Women, Gender and Sexuality in the Modern World
Fall 2023
- HIS 1050: History of the Headlines: The United States Since World War II
Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Winter 2021 (Online), Spring 2021 (Online), Fall 2022, Fall 2023 (Online)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – Current: Extension Program Coordinator II, Labor@Wayne and the Fraser Center for Workplace Issues, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

- 2024 – Current: Program Assessment Coordinator, Bachelors in Employment and Labor Relations (BAELR) and Masters in Employment and Labor Relations (MAELR), Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2024 Program Coordinator and Member of the Organizing Committee for the 2024 North American Labor History Conference, Labor@Wayne, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2024 Organizer for the Second Annual Labor Spring Teach-In, Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2023 Co-Organizer for the First Annual Labor Spring Teach-In, Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2022 Collective Bargaining Transcriptionist, Graduate Employees Organizing Committee, American Federation of Teachers, Local 6123, AFL-CIO, Detroit, MI
- 2018 Graduate Student Representative and Student Volunteer Coordinator, 2018 North American Labor History Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2017 – 2019: Reuther Archives Student Page
Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Detroit, MI
- 2013 – 2016: Training Curriculum / Content Developer, Safety Instructor, Assistant Manager
Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2013 – 2015: Substitute Teacher, Long-Term Substitute Librarian, Professional Educational Services Group, Lansing, MI
- 2013 – 2014: English Language Comprehension and Literacy Tutor
West Michigan Literacy Center, Grand Rapids, MI

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 Second Annual Labor Education Workshop, Labor@Wayne, Wayne State University
- 2025 From “My Courses” to “Our Program,” New Faculty Seminar Series, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University
- 2025 Learning Activities that Take Ten Minutes or Less, New Faculty Seminar Series, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University
- 2024 First Annual Labor Education Workshop, Labor@Wayne, Wayne State University
- 2023 Affirmative Action and Its Impact on Graduate Admissions, Wayne State University
- 2021 Finding Leaders and Mapping Your Workplace, Labor Notes, Troublemakers School
- 2020 Designing Canvas Rubrics, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University
- 2020 Using the OneNote Class Notebook in Canvas, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University

- 2018 Title IX for Faculty and Staff, Get Inclusive, Wayne State University
- 2018 Responsible Conduct of Research, Graduate School, Wayne State University
- 2018 Designing Courses in Canvas, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University
- 2018 Canvas Basics, Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2023 – Present: Secretary, Michigan Labor History Society (MLHS)
- 2022 – Present: Programs Committee Member, Michigan Labor History Society (MLHS)
- 2021 – Present: Founding/Organizing Caucus Member, American Federation of Teachers Michigan Queer Caucus
- 2020 – 2022: Wayne State University History Graduate Students Association, Vice President of Education
- 2020 – 2022: American Federation of Teachers, Local 6123 – GEOC, Treasurer, Interim Records and Data Committee Chair
- 2020 American Federation of Teachers, Local 6123 – GEOC, Vice President
- 2018 – 2022: American Federation of Teachers, Local 6123 – GEOC, History Department Steward

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union
American Federation of Teachers Michigan Queer Caucus
American Historical Association
Higher Ed Labor United
Labor and Employment Relations Association
Labor and Working-Class History Association
Michigan Labor History Society
Organization of American Historians
Pride at Work Michigan
Urban History Association
Wayne Academic Union, AAUP-AFT Local 6075

Professional and Personal References Available Upon Request