Organized Labor at The Crossroads 1987-88

Department of Economics

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“Organized Labor at the Crossroads” is the twenty-fourth Annual Public Lecture Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. This year’s series is directed by Dr. Wei-Chiao Huang of the WMU Economics Department, and is co-sponsored by the Western Michigan University.}

The guest scholars also participate in a graduate student and advanced undergraduate student seminar under the supervision of Professor Wei-Chiao Huang of the WMU Economics Department which is offered for academic credit to students enrolled at the University. Interested guest are also welcome.

Lecture: 8:00 p.m., 3750 Knauss Hall, WMU 
Seminar: 3:00 p.m., 3760 Knauss Hall, WMU

Directions: Take 131 to Exit 36A (about 2 miles north of the I-94/131 junction) onto Stadium Drive. Travel east on Stadium Drive until reaching the 3rd traffic light. Turn left onto Howard Street, cross the railroad track, and turn right onto VandeGiesen Road. Turn right at the stop sign and bear left to the Wood Hall parking lot. The dark brown building on your left is Knauss Hall.

The Department of Economics, Western Michigan University is pleased to have this seminar-lecture series co-sponsored by the Western Michigan University.}

Dr. Sharon P. Smith
Manager-Labor Relations Department
Corp. Headquarters
American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Dr. Sharon P. Smith is Manager of Labor Relations in the Labor Relations Department, Corporate Headquarters of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. She received her B.A. (Summa Cum Laude), M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Rutgers University.

Dr. Smith has previously served as Research Associate and Adjunct Associate Professor of Industrial Relations at Princeton University (1974-1976), Economist and Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (1976-1981), and Visiting Associate Professor of Labor Economics at the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University (1981). Prior to her present position with AT&T, Dr. Smith was Manager of Economic Reports in the Economic Analysis Section of AT&T. She is currently in charge of estimating both direct and indirect contractual costs for AT&T’s 200,000 non-management employees for use in corporate financial plans, developing wage positions for bargaining at the national level, and supervising outside consultants who help design major research on wage and benefit patterns across the country.


In addition to the 8:00 p.m. lecture, Dr. Smith will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3760 Knauss Hall, WMU.

Dr. Thomas A. Kochan
Professor of Industrial Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Thomas A. Kochan is Professor of Industrial Relations at M.I.T.’s Sloan School of Management. From 1973 to 1980 he was on the faculty of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. He also served one year as a consultant to the Secretary of Labor in the Department of Labor’s Office of Policy Evaluation and Research. Professor Kochan received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1973. Since then he has served as a three year term member of the National Labor Relations Board, the Labor Panel of the American Arbitration Association, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Dr. Kochan has done research on a variety of topics related to collective bargaining in both the public and the private sector. He has received funding for his research projects from the Department of Labor, Ford Foundation, National Science Foundation, and Sloan Foundation. He has published eleven books and monographs, and about ninety journal articles, chapters in books, and book reviews. His recent books include: Collective Bargaining and Industrial Relations—From Theory to Policy and Practice (1980), Industrial Relations Research in the 1970s: Reviews and Appraisal (1981), Workplace Participation and American Unions: Threat or Opportunity (1984), Challenges and Choices for American Labor (1985), Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations (1985), and The Transformation of American Industrial Relations (1986). Professor Kochan is on the editorial boards of Industrial Relations and Academy of Management Journal. He also serves as a consultant to seven different journals and for research proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation.

In addition to the 8:00 p.m. lecture, Dr. Kochan will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3760 Knauss Hall, WMU.
**Dr. George E. Johnson**

Professor of Economics and Public Policy
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Dr. George E. Johnson is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Michigan. He has been teaching at that institution since he received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1966. During that period Professor Johnson has been a Visiting Research Associate in the Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University (1967-1968), Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi (1968), and Visiting Professor at Stanford University (1970-1971), Director of the Office of Evaluation, U.S. Department of Labor (1973-1974), Senior Staff Economist, President's Council of Economic Advisors (1977-1978). Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Labour Economics, London School of Economics (since 1979), Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (since 1980), and member of the Faculty of the Federal Judicial Center (1985).


In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Johnson is an expert on public policy and program evaluation. He has developed a theory of labor market intervention, and analyzed the effects of several public employment and training programs, affirmative action programs, immigration policy, employment subsidies, higher education subsidies, and comparable worth policies.

In addition to the 8:00 p.m. lecture, Dr. Johnson will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3750 Knauss Hall, WMU.

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**Dr. Martin L. Weitzman**

Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Martin L. Weitzman is Mitsui Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He received his B.A. in mathematics and physics at Swarthmore College, M.S. in Statistics and Operations Research at Stanford University and Ph.D. in Economics at MIT. He was an Assistant Professor (1967-1970) and Associate Professor (1970-1972) of Economics at Yale University. During 1970-1971 he was a Guggenheim Fellow in the U.S.S.R. Dr. Weitzman has taught economics at MIT since 1972.

Dr. Weitzman has served as a consultant for numerous organizations including the World Bank, Stanford Research Institute, International Monetary Fund, Agency for International Development, and Arthur D. Little. He has been Associate Editor of the Journal of Comparative Economics, Economic Letters, and the Journal of Japanoic Economics. He was elected as a fellow of the Econometric Society in 1976.

Dr. Weitzman has published more than fifty scholarly articles in leading economic journals such as the American Economic Review, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, and the Review of Economic Studies. His writings cover a wide variety of fields, including comparative economic systems, economic planning and development, energy economics, output research, the economics of research and development, mathematical economics, and the macroeconomics of alternative compensation systems.

Dr. Weitzman has attracted national attention with his book, The State Economy, published by Harvard University Press in 1984. Some sections and his proposal for a "share economy" as the best economic idea since the theories of John M. Keynes, while some leading supporters of organized labor have heavily criticized his idea and dubbed him "the guru of profit-sharing."

In addition to the 8:00 p.m. lecture, Dr. Weitzman will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3750 Knauss Hall, WMU.

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**Dr. Richard B. Freeman**

Professor of Economics
Harvard University, National Bureau of Economic Research

Dr. Freeman is Professor of Economics at Harvard University and Program Director for Labor Studies at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1969. Before returning to Harvard in 1975 he taught at the University of Chicago and Yale University. He has also been a Research Economist for the Arms Control Agency, the Committee for Economic Development, Fairfield Distinguished Research Professor at the California Institute of Technology, and Visiting Research Professor at the London School of Economics.

Dr. Freeman is one of the most prolific labor economists in the world today. He has published over 100 articles dealing with topics in trade unionism, youth labor market problems, high skilled labor markets, economic discrimination, social mobility, and income distribution. In addition, he has written 12 books several of which have been translated into Japanese and Spanish. His recent books include: The Youth Joblessness Problem (1981), What Do Unions Do? (1984), The Management Association Prize, The Minority Youth Unemployment Crisis (1986), Public Sector Unionism in the U.S. (1987), and Capitalism and Generosity: Nusslebeck Behavior in a Selfish Economy (forthcoming). What Do Unions Do? (with James L. Medoff) is the first comprehensive economic assessment of labor unions in more than 20 years. Freeman and Medoff argue that contrary to belief, unions play a crucial and largely beneficial role in improving workplaces, increasing productivity and reducing inequality. Their views have prompted a great deal of comment and debate. Two review symposia were held on this book in 1985; one in the Industrial and Labor Relations Review and the other in the Industrial Relations Research Association Annual Proceedings.

In addition to the 8:00 p.m. lecture, Dr. Freeman will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3760 Knauss Hall, WMU.

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**Dr. Orley C. Ashenfelter**

Professor of Economics and Director, Industrial Relations Section
Princeton University

Dr. Orley C. Ashenfelter is Professor of Economics and Director, Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University. He is also the current Managing Editor of the American Economic Review, and a member of the faculty of the Law and Economics Center at Emory University. While continuing his association with Princeton University since receiving his Ph.D., that institution, he has also served as Director of the Office of Evaluation, U.S. Department of Labor (1972-1973), Visiting Scholar of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (1979-1980), Benjamin Meeker Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol (1981), and as a faculty member of the Federal Judicial Center (1984-1985).


Dr. Ashenfelter is regarded as a foremost expert on the economic analysis of resolution of labor disputes with arbitration. He has been asked to testify before Congressional committees, and has written, testified before the advisory boards of the Council for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University, the Project on Women at the Urban Institute, the National Commission for Employment Policy, and the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics.

Dr. Ashenfelter will present a seminar at 3:00 p.m., 3760 Knauss Hall, WMU.