
SPARC PARTNERS WITH NEW LABOR STUDIES JOURNAL

Entire editorial board moves to new journal

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Washington, DC – SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) today announced a partnership with *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History in the Americas* a new journal founded by the entire editorial board of *Labor History*, a commercial title owned by Taylor and Francis. As SPARC's first partnership in the humanities, the alliance with *Labor* broadens SPARC's reach into another field plagued by disproportionate prices for commercial journals and a lack of competitive alternatives.

The new journal, to be launched by the Duke University Press in February 2004, was created in response to "irreconcilable differences" between the editorial board and Taylor and Francis. According to Leon Fink, the former editor-in-chief of *Labor History* and editor of the new *Labor*, the principal issue was maintaining the journal's editorial independence. States Fink, "We couldn't continue to maintain the journal's editorial quality while meeting the demands of Taylor and Francis to increase the number of pages published per year."

More than 40 people associated with the Taylor and Francis journal have joined Fink at the new *Labor* journal, including four associate editors, the book review editor, the six-person editorial committee, and the 30 contributing editors.

Labor, the new journal, is available for \$200 for print, which is 20 percent less than the commercial title. *Labor* is \$180 for electronic-only subscriptions. SPARC and Duke University Press are encouraging SPARC members to subscribe to *Labor*.

Moving to a not-for-profit publisher such as Duke University Press appealed to Fink, who is a professor of history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I came to realize that a different logic motivates a commercial publisher," he said. "Even as a labor historian, I do not relish labor conflict in my role as a journal editor. But with our new journal, U.S. labor historians will have confidence for the first time in years that they are truly running the show when it comes to publishing the best work in the field. Duke University Press embodies what we feel are the appropriate concerns of the academic community."

"Until recently, SPARC has focused on STM, so we were delighted to learn of their support for *Labor*. As with all our journals, we see the publication of *Labor* as a collaboration between Duke University Press and a dedicated group of academics," said Duke University Press Director Steve Cohn. "Leon Fink and his editorial team have already shown the strength of their editorial vision by dramatically transforming the scope and intellectual power of *Labor History* in just two years. It is our task as a university press to help them fully realize their vision of what a journal on labor and working class history can accomplish when it is published in a spirit of academic partnership."

"The editors of *Labor* have demonstrated that academic editors should and can control their journals," said SPARC Director Rick Johnson. "We commend their efforts and congratulate them on their decision to join with Duke University Press to offer a high-quality, economical alternative. Libraries and the labor history community will benefit from their leadership and determination."

Labor History was founded in 1960 and owned by the Tamiment Institute. Since the late 1990s, the journal has been published by CarFax, a subsidiary of Taylor and Francis. The issue of more frequent publication arose after Tamiment sold the journal to Taylor and Francis. One editorial board member told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that the plan was designed to justify an increase in subscription prices.

Labor will publish four issues annually. For more information: www.dukeupress.edu/labor.

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SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and SPARC Europe are initiatives of universities, research libraries, and library organizations that support increased competition in scholarly publishing. SPARC publishing partnerships and educational activities encourage expanded dissemination of research and reduced financial pressure on libraries. Worldwide membership currently includes 277 institutions and organizations. SPARC is located on the web at www.arl.org/sparc. SPARC Europe is at www.sparceurope.org.

Duke University Press (<http://www.dukeupress.edu>) publishes 35 journals and more than 100 books annually. The Press now publishes primarily in the humanities and social sciences. It is best known for its publications in the broad and interdisciplinary area of theory and history of cultural production, and it is known in general as a publisher willing to take chances with nontraditional and interdisciplinary publications.