

Sara Gia Trongone

Labor Center, Department of Sociology
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Thompson Hall, 200 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003

Email: saratrongone@umass.edu
saragiatrongone.com

Education

- Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2025
Committee: Gay Seidman (Chair), Robert Freeland, Joseph Conti, Jennifer Gaddis, and Barry Eidlin (McGill)
- M.A. Steinhardt School of Education, New York University, 2017
- B.A. College of Arts and Sciences, Anthropology, Cornell University, 2013

Research and Teaching Interests

Labor and labor movements; race, class, gender; organizations; urban studies; social movements & collective behavior; critical pedagogy; qualitative and comparative historical methods; public sociology & community-based research

Professional Appointments

- 2025- Postdoctoral Research Associate – **Labor Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst**, Amherst, MA.

Publications

- forthcoming* **Trongone, Sara Gia**, Jennifer Gaddis, Reece Lyerly & Beth Katz. “Dishing Out Public Goods: School Food Workers and the Struggle to Revalue Reproductive Labor.” *Labor Studies Journal*.
- 2026 **Trongone, Sara Gia** & Barry Eidlin. “Labor Mobilization (and Revitalization) in the 21st Century” in *Contemporary Social Movements: Descriptive & Historical Accounts*. Eds., David Snow, Douglas McAdam, and Dana Moss. Wiley Blackwell Publishing.
- 2025 **Trongone, Sara Gia**. “[Working for the Public Good: Organizational Dilemmas and Strategy in Public-Sector Unions.](#)” *Work and Occupations*, 52(4): 529-568. DOI: 10.1177/07308884251350253
- 2023 Sallaz, Jeffrey. J., & **Sara Gia Trongone**. “[Toward a Field of Labor Activism.](#)” *Work and Occupations*, 50(3). DOI: 10.1177/07308884231165077
- 2022 **Trongone, Sara Gia**. “[A New Collective Bargain? A Multicase Comparison of U.S. Labor Union Strategy.](#)” *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*, 27(2): 149-168. DOI: 10.17813/1086-671X-27-2-149

- *Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Labor and Labor Movements Section, Co-Winner, 2022*

Articles In Preparation

Eidlin, Barry and Sara Gia Trongone. “The Politics of Labor in the U.S. and Canada.” (*invited submission*)

Gaddis, Jennifer, Laura Dresser and Sara Gia Trongone. “Worker-Centered Research: Building a Flexible Framework to Further Worker Voice in Federally-Funded Projects.”

Gaddis, Jennifer, Beth Katz, Reece Lyerly, and Sara Gia Trongone. “The Positive Spillover Effects of Investing in the School Food Labor Force”

Kalmijn, Jelger and Sara Gia Trongone. “Unions in Ideological and Organizational Crisis.”

Gaddis, Jennifer, Sara Gia Trongone, Katherine Villanueva*, Rebeca Acosta*, and Yesenia Mazariegos*
 “Labor, Wages, and Compensation in Wisconsin’s School Nutrition Programs: Insights from a Community-Based Participatory Research Project”

*denotes high school student activist/community partner

Invited Book Reviews

2024 Trongone, Sara Gia. Review of *Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice*, by Todd E. Vachon. *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*, 29(3): 413-415.

Policy Reports & Public Sociology

2023 “Maximizing the True Value of School Nutrition Programs in Wisconsin: Strategies for Investing in BIPOC, Socially Disadvantaged, and Historically Underserved Producers.” *University of Wisconsin Madison Community Food Systems & School of Human Ecology*.

2022 Gaddis, Jennifer and Sara Gia Trongone. “Hungry for Good Jobs: The State of the School Nutrition Workforce in Wisconsin.” *Wisconsin Idea Collaboration & Healthy School Meals for All Wisconsin*.

2022 Blog Post, “[How Are Unions Building Power in an Anti-Labor Era?](#)” *ASA Sociology Section Blog*.

Awards & Grants

2024 Labor Research & Action Network New Scholar Grant, Jobs with Justice

2023 Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Graduate Research Fellow

2023 Research Grant Awardee, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Funding, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2022 Early Excellence in Teaching Award (campus wide), Departmental Nominee, University of Wisconsin- Madison

2022 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section

2017 Valedictory Banner Bearer; Steinhardt School, New York University

2013 Merrill Presidential Scholar Award, Cornell University (awarded to outstanding graduating seniors)

2012 Engaged Learning + Research Fellow, Cornell University

2012 Phi Beta Kappa, Cornell University

Invited Talks

- 2024 American Sociological Association Thematic Panel, “Sociology for Hope,” August 11, Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 Labor Research and Action Network, Jobs with Justice, “A City to Win: Labor Militance and Strategy in Post-Recession Chicago,” June 21, Portland, OR.
- 2023 University of California, Los Angeles, Labor Studies Speaker Series, “Working for the Public Good: Organizational Dilemmas & Strategy in Public Sector Unions,” December 13, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 Arizona State University Center for Work and Democracy Fall Conference, “Organizing and Protest in Political Crisis,” Research Panel, August 26, Tempe, AZ.

Conference Presentations & Workshops

- 2026 “Worker-Centered Research & School Food Workers' Fight to Revalue their Labor” *with Jennifer Gaddis*, Labor and Employment Relations Association, May 28, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2025 “Does Everyone Secretly Have Structural Power? (aka anyone can strike).” UMass Strike Conference. March 28-29th. Amherst, MA.
- 2024 “Working for the Public Good: Organizational Dilemmas and Strategy in Public Sector Unions” American Sociological Association, August 13, Montreal
- 2024 “Working for the Public Good: Organizational Dilemmas and Strategy in Public Sector Unions” Labor and Employment Relations Association, June 30, New York, New York
- 2024 “Real Food, Real Jobs: The Movement for School Food Justice” *with Jennifer Gaddis*, National Education Association (NEA) Educational Support Personnel National Conference, March 23, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2023 “Recentering the Strike: New Perspectives on Solidarity and Outcomes,” Labor and Employment Relations Association, June 1, Detroit, MI.
- 2023 “Cities for Sale: Corporate Capture and Labor Resistance in Post-Recession Chicago” Social Science History Association, November 16, Washington, DC
- 2022 “Crisis, Opportunity, and Transgressive Unionism in Chicago,” Social Science History Association, November 18, Chicago, IL
- 2022 “Crisis, Opportunity, and Transgressive Unionism in Chicago,” American Sociological Association, August 7, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 “A Class for Itself? Worker Organizing in Post-Recession Chicago,” Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 6, Los Angeles, CA

Conferences Co-Organized

- Chicago Ethnography Conference, April 2, 2022. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Virtual.
- Democratic Socialism in Global Perspective: Electoral Politics and Transformative Perspectives in the Americas and Europe, January 11-15, 2021. Havens Wright Center and the Transnational Institute (Amsterdam), Virtual.
- Festschrift, Celebrating the Work of Erik Olin Wright, November 1-2, 2019. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Teaching Experience

2026-2027 University of Massachusetts Amherst, Labor Center (Undergraduate Certificate in Labor Studies)

- LABOR/SOCIOL 290E: Political Economy and Labor (*new course*)
Spring 2026 and Fall 2027

2024 University of Wisconsin-Madison

- CP 601: Best Practices in Community-Engaged Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison (*graduate-level seminar, co-instructor*)
Fall 2024
- SOC 211: The Sociological Enterprise (*taught as a special topics course on Racial Capitalism*)
Summer 2024

As a Teaching Assistant (Fall 2021-Spring 2024)

- SOC 138: The Sociology of Gender (Fall 2023; Spring 2024)
- SOC/ASIAN AM 220: Racial & Ethnic Movements in the U.S. (Spring 2022)
- SOC 357: Methods of Sociological Inquiry (Fall 2021)
- PRACTUG 1482: Engaged Research, New York University (Fall 2017)

Guest Lecturer

CSCS 125: “Who ‘Counts’ as a Worker? Contests Over Work and Workplace Issues”
(Spring 2023; Fall 2025)

PHIL 241: “What Makes Protest ‘Violent’? Unpacking Assumptions About Disruptive Action”
(Spring 2023)

Current Labor and Community-Based Teaching

Co-Instructor, Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee (EWOC) Fellows Program
(*six-week intermediate organizing course*)

Virtual, Spring and Fall 2025; Spring 2026 with Jelger Kalmijn

Mentorship Development Team, Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee (EWOC)
(*plans all-organizer calls and develops newer advanced organizers*) Fall 2025-Present

Interviews (*select*)

Radio Interview, [“The Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee \(EWOC\) comes to Madison.”](#) *Labor Radio*, WORT-fm, June 15, 2024.

Radio Interview, [“Taking Collective Action as a Collective.”](#) *8 O’Clock Buzz*, WORT-fm, November 9, 2021.

TV Speech, [“Building an Intersectional Workers’ Movement in Wisconsin”](#) introducing Senator Bernie Sanders. *CBS News*, April 12, 2019. See also <https://progressive.org/latest/bernie-barnstorms-the-midwest-conniff-190415/>

“TruStage workers have embarked on Madison’s largest strike since Act 10,” *Tone Madison*, May 21, 2023.

“Uncertain and precarious: UW graduate students fight for improved workplace protections,” *The Capital Times*, January 29, 2020

“UW-Madison graduate students protest over pay, fees,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 26, 2019.

Service**Academic**

ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section, Council Member (Student), 2024-2026

ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section, Nominations Committee Member, 2023-2024

ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section, Program Committee Member, 2022-2023

Real Utopias Project Editorial Board Member, 2020- Present

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Critical Sociology*, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Work and Occupations*, *Mobilization*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociological Focus*

Public (*select*)

Advanced Organizer and Trainer, Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee (EWOC), 2023- Present

Bargaining Team Member, UAW Local 2322 (PRO), 2025- Present

Chair, Labor Solidarity Committee, Teaching Assistants' Association, AFT Local 3220, 2020-2024

Founding Representative, University Labor Council, 2020-2025

Co-President, Teaching Assistants' Association, AFT Local 3220, 2019-2020

Co-Chair, Political Education Committee, Teaching Assistants' Association, AFT Local 3220, 2018-2019

Professional Associations

American Sociological Association

United Association for Labor Education

Social Science History Association

Labor and Employment Relations Association