

Sara Gia Trongone

Labor Center, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
818 Thompson Hall, 200 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003
saratrongone@umass.edu | saragiatrongone.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

EDUCATION

2025 **Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison**, Department of Sociology
Dissertation: "Reimagining Workers' Movements: Labor Power & Strategy in Post-Recession Chicago"
Committee: Gay Seidman (Chair), Robert Freeland, Joseph Conti, Jennifer Gaddis, and Barry Eidlin (McGill)

2017 **M.A., New York University**, Steinhardt School of Education

2013 **B.A., Cornell University**, College of Arts and Sciences

RESEARCH & 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

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*.
- (*accepted*) Eidlin, Barry & **Sara Gia Trongone**. "The Politics of Labor in the U.S. and Canada." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Sociology* (peer-reviewed, article-length chapter)
- 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*

Book Manuscript in Preparation

“How to Build a Movement: Reproductive Politics & the People’s Struggle to Take Back Chicago after 2008”

Articles in Preparation

Gaddis, Jennifer, Beth Katz, Reece Lyerly, and Sara Gia Trongone. “Real Food Requires Real Investment: A Qualitative Analysis of Key Stakeholders’ Perspectives on School Food Workers and Programs” (*under review*)

Gaddis, Jennifer, Laura Dresser and Sara Gia Trongone. “An Integrative Framework for Action-oriented Labor Scholarship: The Worker-Centered Research Wheel.” (*under review*)

Trongone, Sara Gia and Jelger Kalmijn. “Addressing Barriers to Unionization: Centering Worker Perspectives & New Possibilities”

Kalmijn, Jelger and Sara Gia Trongone. “Queer, Politicized, and Ready to Organize: New Workers, Old Unions, 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

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*.

Invited Book Reviews

(*forthcoming*) Trongone, Sara Gia. Review of *We Are the Union: How Worker-to-Worker Organizing is Revitalizing Labor and Winning Big*, by Eric Blanc. *Work and Occupations*.

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (ACADEMIC)

Spring 2026; 2027 **Instructor, University of Massachusetts Amherst**
LABOR/SOCIOLOGY 290E: Political Economy and Labor (*new course*)

Fall 2024 **Co-Instructor, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
CP 601: Best Practices in Community-Engaged Scholarship (*graduate-level seminar*)

Summer 2024 **Instructor**, SOC 211: The Sociological Enterprise (*special topics course on Racial Capitalism*) (Online, Synchronous)

As a Teaching Assistant

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

Guest Lecturer

Summer 2026 LABOR510: “EWOC & New Worker Organizing”, UMass Amherst
 Fall 2025 LABOR620: “Fight for Fifteen: Competing Models & Missed Opportunities”, UMass Amherst
 Fall 2025; Spring 2023 CSCS 125: “Who ‘Counts’ as a Worker? Contests Over Work and Workplace Issues”, UW-Madison
 Spring 2023 PHIL 241: “What Makes Protest ‘Violent’? Unpacking Assumptions About Disruptive Action”, UW-Madison

LABOR AND COMMUNITY-BASED TEACHING

Adult & Worker Education Programs (*last two years*)

2025-2026 [Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee \(EWOC\) Fellows Program](#) (*six-week intermediate organizing course*) (Online, Synchronous) (Spring 2025; Fall 2025; Spring 2026; Fall 2026)
 Fall 2025- Mentorship Development Team, EWOC (*develops curricula for all-organizer calls and internal leadership development*)

One-off Workshops

2026 Labor Notes Workshop Co-Facilitator, “Tactics to Build Power,” (June 12)
 2026 EWOC Labor Notes Cohort Programming, “Planning a Campaign of Escalating Actions” (June 13)
 2026 EWOC Labor Notes Cohort Programming, “Making an Inoculation Plan” (June 14)
 2026 “Navigating Difficult Conversations” (Online, March 11, 2026)

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 (*last three years*)

- 2026 “Addressing Barriers to Unionization: Centering Worker Perspectives & New Possibilities” *with Jelger Kalmijn*, American Sociological Association, August 8, New York, NY. (*Moved to “Resisting Authoritarianism: Global Solidarity and Democratic Futures,” August 10.*)
- 2026 “Dishing Out Public Goods: School Food Workers and the Struggle to (Re)Value Reproductive Labor,” American Sociological Association, Sociology of Food Pre-Conference,” August 7, New York, NY.
- 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 “Recentring 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

Conferences Co-Organized

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

INTERVIEWS (*select*)

- 2024 Radio Interview, [“The Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee \(EWOC\) comes to Madison.”](#) *Labor Radio*, WORT-fm, June 15.
- 2023 “TruStage workers have embarked on Madison’s largest strike since Act 10,” *Tone Madison*, May 21.
- 2021 Radio Interview, [“Taking Collective Action as a Collective.”](#) *8 O’Clock Buzz*, WORT-fm, November 9.

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

SERVICE

Academic

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

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

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

2020- Real Utopias Project Editorial Board Member

Ad-hoc Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Critical Sociology*, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Work and Occupations*, *Mobilization*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociological Focus*, *Social Forces*

Member of the American Sociological Association, United Association for Labor Education, Social Science History Association, and Labor and Employment Relations Association

Labor Movement (*select*)

2023- Advanced Organizer & National Trainer, Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee

2025- Co-Chair & Bargaining Team Member, UAW Local 2322 (PRO)

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

2020-2025 Founding Representative, University Labor Council

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

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

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (*select*)

2025; 2022-2023 Project/Research Assistant, Dr. Jennifer Gaddis, UW-Madison

2024-2025 Project Assistant, Morgridge Center for Public Service, UW-Madison (Community-Engaged Scholarship Portfolio Programs)

2017-2021 Project Assistant, Havens Wright Center for Social Justice (Visting Scholars Program)

2015-2017 Policy Strategist & Organizer, Community Food Advocates (Lunch4Learning campaign)

2014-2015 Organizing Fellow, SEIU 32BJ (Airports campaign)