



# MODERN WORK & WORKERS' VOICES

## *Virtual Conference*



May 7 - 8, 2024 | 9 AM - 3 PM Pacific  
[calaborlab.ucsf.edu/2024-annual-conference](https://calaborlab.ucsf.edu/2024-annual-conference)

General Registration: Free    Registration for CEUs: \$49

In 1972, Studs Terkel published *Working*. The book was about good and bad jobs, written in a time when it was possible to extract meaning, economic sustenance, and even satisfaction with many, if not all jobs. Now, as current economic and political forces drive down wages and erode worker protections, we find sustenance is often impossible and meaning has been stripped from modern work.

The Third Annual Conference of the California Labor Lab focuses on the state of working today and the recovery of workers' voice. With continued low unemployment, worker expectations and an increased sense of empowerment may again produce some leverage in the labor market. Some signposts of that leverage include increases in local minimum wages, successful efforts by labor unions to increase wages and improve working conditions in previously unorganized industries, and white collar workers' resistance to demands to forgo remote work.

This conference is organized around thematic modules that explore the experience of working in the contemporary economy, with a focus on California, the nation's largest state and, if it were a nation, said to have the fifth largest economy in the world.



The California Labor Lab is a collaboration among investigators at UCSF, UC Berkeley, and the California Department of Public Health. The Lab is housed at the Philip R Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at UCSF. Our mission is to extend the pursuit of health and safety for workers in traditional employment to those in a wide range of alternative arrangements in partnership with affected communities.

# Tuesday, May 7, 2024

## Introduction: Modern Work and Workers' Voices



Edward Yelin, PhD, University of California, San Francisco



Cristina Banks, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

## Opening Remarks



Julie A. Su, Acting Secretary of Labor

## Keynote Presentation: Supporting Gig Workers with the California Labor Federation



Lorena Gonzales Fletcher, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation

## Modern Work in California: Results from the California Work and Health Survey



Edward Yelin, PhD, University of California, San Francisco



Laura Trupin, MPH, University of California, San Francisco

## Work and Workers in Higher Education



Alfredo Carlos, PhD, CSU Dominguez Hills

## Current and Ongoing Challenges Facing the Health Workforce



Bianca Frogner, PhD, University of Washington

## Panel Discussion: Working in Higher Education



Alfredo Carlos, PhD



Jim Philliou



Catherine Hutchinson, MA



Rafael Jaime



Monique Hosein, DrPH, MPH

## Panel Discussion: Working in Health Care



Laura Stock, PhD



Bianca Frogner, PhD



Marnie Dobson, PhD



Jessica King, MSW, PhD, PHI



Jane Thomason, CIH



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## Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this activity, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the extent to which non-standard employment arrangements, including alternative ways of hiring workers, contingent employment, and app-based work have taken hold
- Identify issues facing workers in two important sectors of the economy: higher education and health care
- Discuss the primary goals of workers' representatives in dealing with the growth of non-standard employment

## Accreditation:

The Center for Occupational and Environmental Health designates this activity for a maximum of 5.0 Contact Hours. Participants should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 12983, for 5.0 contact hours.

# Wednesday, May 8, 2024

## Revisiting Key Themes from Day 1



Victor Rubin, MCP, PhD, California Labor Lab

## Low Pay and More: Challenges Facing Today's Low-Wage Workers



Alix Gould-Werth, PhD, United States Department of Labor

## Stress at Work: How Communication Both Harms and Heals



Justin Boren, PhD, Santa Clara University

## Food for Thought: Healthy Campus Initiatives



Wendy Slusser, MD, MS, FAAP



Theodore F. Robles, PhD, UC Los Angeles

## Keynote Introduction



Daniel Schneider, PhD, Harvard University

## Keynote Presentation: Just Work: Choices and Options at this Critical Moment



David Weil, MPP, PhD, Brandeis University

## Panel Discussion: Working in Low Wage Sectors



Alix Gould-Werth, PhD



Nicole Moore



Nancy Zuniga, MPH



Deysi Gomez



Suzanne Teran

## Policy Panel Discussion



Liz Ortega



Elmer Lizardi



Robert Harrison, MD, MPH



Laura Stock, MPH



Victor Rubin, MCP, PhD

## Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this activity, the learner will be able to:

- Explain how low wage labor affects worker well-being and how it is experienced on a daily basis on the job and beyond
- Examine how contemporary work generates stress and results in mental health problems, and describe efforts to minimize the stresses associated with employment
- Describe how working conditions are the consequence of a set of strategies to diffuse responsibility for the welfare of workers and what public policy is focusing on to reduce adverse effects of trends in the labor market

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