Sunday, December 3, 2017 Lowell, MA

10:00-12:00 Guided tour

The creation of Lowell through *millwork* and the *immigrant labor force*

US national Park Service Guides, UMass Lowell History Department Grad Students

In this journey through the history of Lowell’s creation as a mill town, guided talks will use ethnographic exhibits, artifacts, architecture, recordings and a short film to provide participants with a broad understanding of the global industry and immigrant labor force that powered the city’s mills.

Location: The tour departs from the Visitor Center of the Lowell National Historic Park with stops at the Park’s Mill Girls & Immigrant’s Exhibit and Boott Cotton Mills exhibits.

12:00-2:00 LUNCH BREAK

2:00-3:00 Conference Welcome and Lowell Historical Keynote

*The Mills Beckon: Immigrant Life in Lowell, 1880–1920*

Robert Forrant, Distinguished University Professor of History, UMass, Lowell

A great immigration wave swept across the United States from the 1880s to the mid 1920s. As a result, Lowell, a seemingly ever-expanding mill city, became home to thousands of newcomers. Carrying essential elements of their cultures with them, people from around the world settled into the city’s immigrant neighborhoods. French Canadian, Greek, and Portuguese newcomers crowded into the city’s tenement blocks and got onto the payroll of one textile mill or another. Utilizing a variety of sources, this presentation will offer an overview history of immigrant work and family life in the mill city on the Merrimack.

Location: Events Center, Boott Mill #6, 2nd Floor (Amphitheater)

3:00-4:30 Oral History Panel

*The Portuguese Immigrant Experience in Lowell since the 1960s*

This facilitated discussion invites a panel of Lowell residents to reflect on their lives in the city, the Portuguese community and migration. Illuminating personal stories, experiences, and influences in Lowell’s Portuguese community, the panelists will bring to life individual and collective immigrant experiences of the Portuguese in Lowell beginning from the 1960s.

Location: Events Center, Boott Mill #6, 2nd Floor (Amphitheater)

4:30 Migration and Millwork Conference Opening Reception & The Portuguese of Lowell Historical Exhibit

*Historical Exhibit. From the Atlantic Islands to Lowell, Massachusetts: the Mill City’s Portuguese Community*

Robert Forrant, Kady Phelps, Molly Mahoney and Frank Sousa, UMass Lowell

The panels in the exhibit recount the story of the early Portuguese mill worker period in Lowell through photographs and historical documents.

Location: Location: Counting House, Boott Mill 2nd Floor
Conference paper presentations examine mill town communities and ethnic groups; class and culture in industrial New England; work and living conditions; racialization, categorization and identity; social histories of the mill communities; life-histories of the working classes; worker’s rights movements; trans-local approaches to migrant trajectories; mill technology & technologies of labor governance; studies of age, gender, labor class, etc. The Portuguese case study will be connected to broader themes in race, ethnicity and labor practices, and will contextualize the political and economic forces confronted by migrant mill wage workers in the period.

The Racialization of Labor
Cristiana Bastos, ISC, Universidade de Lisboa

Neither slum nor élite suburb. The ‘emergence’ of a Portuguese colony in Cambridge, MA, in the early 20th century
Graça Cordeiro, ISCTE/Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

English language journalism about new immigrants from Portugal
Miguel Moniz, ISC, Universidade de Lisboa

Ethnic and racial identities and civic life. Establishing Portuguese-American chartered cultural, socio-religious, political, and economic associations in New England in the pre WWII era
Miguel Moniz, ISC, Universidade de Lisboa

Labor and Mobility: Whaling voyage and transportation logs
Andres Novoa, ISC, Universidade de Lisboa

Portuguese civic organizations in the United States: notes toward a history
Silvia Oliveira, Rhode Island College

Late 19th and early 20th Century Portuguese in Lowell
Kady Phelps and Molly Mahoney, UMass Lowell

The Honing of a craft: Joseph Conforti’s Another City Upon a Hill (2013)
Carmen Ramos Villar, University of Sheffield, UK

The Portuguese of Fall River, 1920
Paula Rioux, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Demographic data on New Bedford 1900
Rose P. Rodrigues, Fairfield University

Demographic data on Southeastern New England Communities
Maria de Sá, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Mill labor, organizing in a multi-ethnic workplace
Camilo Viveiros, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Location: Boott Mill #6

PRESENTATIONS WILL BREAK FOR LUNCH from 12:00-2:00
New Bedford Whaling Museum gallery presentations

New Bedford’s Transition between Whaling and Millwork
New Bedford Whaling Museum Guides

Using the Whaling Museum Energy & Enterprise gallery, the city’s transformation from the whaling industry into a mill and manufacturing industrial center will be discussed.

Place Matters: The Portuguese Community in 1900, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Rose P. Rodrigues, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Fairfield, University

New Bedford faced dramatic social and economic changes in the last decades of the nineteenth century—the whaling industry declined, textile mills and other manufacturing enterprises proliferated and a large number of immigrants moved in and out of the city. Following a discussion of New Bedford’s transition from whaling to textile manufacturing and the arrival of the Portuguese, this talk examines the year 1900 to understand the roles and positions of Portuguese in the mills, how they were regarded and where they lived.

Location: Energy & Enterprise Gallery

Opportunities for research on Portuguese topics available at the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Reading Room and Archives, New Bedford Whaling Museum
Mark Procknik, Librarian (with Cristiana Bastos, André Novoa, and Miguel Moniz, ERC Advanced Grant Project Researchers, ICS, Universidade de Lisboa)

With holdings that include the Portuguese Consular archives, shipping and transportation logs and other documents, the New Bedford Whaling Museum research library is an exceptional resource for studies on the Portuguese. This presentation will introduce some research opportunities for Portuguese themes in the diverse holdings of the archives.

Location: Cape Verdean and Azorean Galleries

LUNCH BREAK

Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archives presentations, North Dartmouth, MA

Historical Exhibit: Understanding the 1920s in the South Coast
Sonia Pacheco, Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archive

Using a variety of items—photographs, postcards, textual documents, oral histories—the exhibit will explore what it was like to live in the South Coast of Massachusetts during the 1920s. A time that saw both a burgeoning cultural scene but also a changing working environment for the Portuguese-American community that lived in this region.

Remarks on the Strike of 28 archive and oral history archives
Daniel Georgianna. UMass, Dartmouth

The author of the Strike of ’28 and a researcher who collected many oral histories of Portuguese millworkers held in the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archives will discuss his research and the wealth of research material in the FMPAA archives.

Racialism, social sciences and the politics of knowledge in the 1920s: the case of Two Portuguese Communities in New England
Cristiana Bastos. ICS, Universidade de Lisboa

While using state-of-the-art social science research methods—including extensive statistical analysis—to address social problems like infant mortality in migrant cities, Donald Tafts’s 1923 Two Portuguese communities did not fully depart from the old racialist paradigm and some of its remarks stirred indignation among the Portuguese in New England. This presentation will discuss the political and intellectual context of the book’s contents and of the reactions to it.
Wednesday, December 6, North Dartmouth & Fall River

10:00-4:00 Migration and Mills published volume paper workshop

The conference will serve as a working meeting for researchers organizing an edited volume on the theme for the project *The Color of Labor: the Racialized Lives of Migrants* (ERC Advanced Grant).

Location UMass Dartmouth, Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture.

**WORKSHOP WILL BREAK FOR LUNCH from 12:00-2:00**

7:00-9:00 Fall River Historical Keynote at Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra

*The Fall River Family Wage System During the Spindle City’s Textile Heyday*

*Philip Silvia, Dept. of History, Bridgewater State University*

Tracing the successive waves of post-Civil War ethnic groups, including the Portuguese, who found mill work readily available. The wage compensation level negatively impacted family well-being and negatively influenced schooling opportunities.

*The Portuguese Immigrant Experience of Fall River*

This facilitated discussion invites a panel of former Fall River mill workers to reflect on their lives in the city, the Portuguese community and migration. Illuminating personal stories, experiences, and influences in Fall River’s Portuguese community, the panelists will bring to life individual and collective immigrant experiences of the Portuguese.

**Closing Meal and Reception**

Location: Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra, Fall River

**Sponsors and supporting Institutions**

ERC Advanced Grant Project the Color of Labor: racialized lives of migrants. (Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa)

Saab Center for Portuguese Studies, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archives, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth


New Bedford Whaling Museum

Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra, Fall River

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