

Migration and Mill Work: Portuguese communities in industrial New England
Conference Program
Dec. 3-4 Lowell; Dec. 5 New Bedford & North Dartmouth; Dec. 6 Fall River

Sunday, December 3, 2017 Lowell, MA

10:00-12:00 Guided tour

Mill Work and the Immigrant Labor Force
US National Park Service Guides and Staff

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

Location: The tour begins at Boott Cotton Mills at the Lowell National Historic Park and will go to the Park's Mill Girls & Immigrant's Exhibit.

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 Farrant, 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 Mill Work 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 Farrant, 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: Counting House, Boott Mill 2nd Floor

Monday, December 4, Lowell, MA

9:00-5:00 Migration and Mill Work Conference paper presentations

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 elite 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 (1880s-WWII).

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

The Occupational structure of Portuguese-American women in the U.S. from 1900 to 2000

M. Gloria 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

Tuesday, December 5, New Bedford and North Dartmouth, MA

10:00-12:00 **New Bedford Whaling Museum gallery presentations**

***New Bedford's Transition between Whaling and Mill Work*
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 Prokrik, 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: Azorean Whaleman Gallery, Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit, G-G Reading Room

12:00-2:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

2:30-5:30 **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.

***Saving Portuguese American Labor History in the FMPAA*
Daniel Georgianna. UMass, Dartmouth**

The author of the *Strike of '28*, a local labor leader, who collected many oral histories of Portuguese mill workers held in the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archives will discuss his work, local Portuguese American labor history, 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**

Although he used state-of-the-art social science research methods (including extensive statistical analysis) to address social problems like infant mortality in migrant cities, Donald Taft's 1923 *Two Portuguese Communities* did not fully depart from the old racist paradigm with some of the work stirring indignation among New England's Portuguese. This presentation will discuss the political and intellectual context of the book's contents and reactions to it.

Wednesday, December 6, North Dartmouth & Fall River

10:00-4:00 **Migration and Mill Work: industrial communities in New England**
Edited volume workshop

Working meetings for researchers organizing an edited volume on the conference theme for the project *The Color of Labor: the Racialized Lives of Migrants* (ERC Advanced Grant).

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, 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

Jointly sponsored by:

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

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

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

Saab Center for Portuguese Studies, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Lowell National Historic Park, US National Park Service, Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra, Fall River

Additional support provided by:

Clubhouse Capital, Providence, RI

Consulate General of Portugal in Boston

Education Office/Coordenação do Ensino de Português nos EUA (Boston) - Camões, I.P.