

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Migration and Mill Work: December 3-6, 2017 **Portuguese communities in industrial New England**

Multi site traveling academic conference at the Boot Cotton Mills Museum, Lowell Historical Center/UMass Lowell; New Bedford Whaling Museum; UMass Dartmouth; Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra, Fall River.

A unique international academic conference that incorporates museum exhibits, historical site visits, and thematic talks and tours in Lowell, New Bedford, Fall River and North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, linking research themes to the living history of the communities under consideration.

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY:

- *The Color of Labor: the Racialized Lives of Migrants* (ERC Advanced Grant Project) Institute of Social Sciences, Universidade de Lisboa
- Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture & Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese American Archives (FMPAA), 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, Massachusetts
- Casa dos Açores da Nova Inglaterra, Fall River, MA

MIGRATION AND MILL WORK is a multi-disciplinary conference providing an overview of migrant mill labor through extended discussions of the settlement and development of early Portuguese communities in New England. The conference will address the waves of migrant laborers in textile and manufacturing mills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island from the late nineteenth century onwards.

The unique conference program is spread across Portuguese migrant mill contexts in Lowell, New Bedford and Fall River, with site visits in each location and talks in museum galleries and archives helping to illustrate the presented research.

International scholars from the US, Portugal and Europe will examine the theme and period; with special conference program including site visits, guided tours and gallery talks; oral history panels with former millworkers and community residents; historical documents and artifact exhibits; and scholarly community historical keynote talks.

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; workers rights movements; trans-local approaches to migrant trajectories; mill technology and 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 conference also serves 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).

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE. WE INVITE AND ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

PRESS & GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT

Miguel.Moniz@ICS.Ulisboa.pt

ERC Advanced Grant Project *The Color of Labor: the racialized lives of migrants*
Instituto das Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa