

Joseph A. McCartin
Brief Biographical Statement

[Joseph A. McCartin](#) is a historian of the U.S. labor movement and 20th century U.S. social and political history. He is a Professor of History at Georgetown University, where he has taught since 1999, and served as the founding Executive Director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor & the Working Poor, since 2009. His research focuses on the intersection of labor organization, politics, and public policy. His first book, *[Labor's Great War: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy and the Origins of Modern American Labor Relations](#)*, won the 1999 Philip Taft Labor History Book Award. His book, *[Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America](#)*, examined the origins and implications of the 1981 PATCO strike of air traffic controllers and won the Richard A. Lester Award for the Outstanding Book on Industrial Relations and Labor Economics. Most recently, he is co-author with Melvyn Dubofsky of *[Labor in America](#)* (10th edition) and co-editor with Luis LM Aguiar of *[Purple Power: The History and Global Impact of SEIU](#)*. He is the author of more than 150 articles, chapters, and reviews in the fields of labor history and labor studies, and his writing has appeared in a wide variety of venues including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Dissent*, the *American Prospect*, *The Nation*, and *Jacobin*. His current research explores the intersection of labor organization and democracy, tracing the decline and attempted reconstruction of collective bargaining in the United States. He is a member of the board of the *[Catholic Labor Network](#)*, a contributing editor to *[Labor: Studies in Working-Class History](#)*, and a member of the International Advisory Board/Conseil Consultatif international of *[Labour/Le Travail](#)*. He is past Vice President and current President (2024-26) of the *[Labor and Working-Class History Association](#)*.