

THE DIANE AND ADAM E. MAX CONFERENCE IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

MARCH 6, 2016

All talks will take place in the Robert H. Smith Auditorium

- 8:30 **Continental Breakfast** (Smith Gallery)
- 9:00 **Welcome**
Louise Mirrer, President and CEO, New-York Historical Society
- 9:15 **Introductory Keynote Address**
Alice Kessler-Harris, R. Gordon Hoxie Professor of American History, Columbia University
- Morning Sessions: The Garment Industry in History*
- 10:10 **A Century of Change: The Immigrant Workforce Over Time**
The ethnic makeup of the largely female garment workforce shifted with the tides of immigration in the late 19th and early 20th century, from German and Central European, through Russian Jewish, Italian, Latina, and Asian. This panel examines how these demographic changes affected the industry and the lives of workers.
Panelists: Daniel Soyer, Fordham University; Hector Cordero Guzmán, Baruch College, CUNY; Margaret M. Chin, Hunter College, CUNY
Moderator: Annie Polland, The Tenement Museum
- 11:00 **Commemorating the Triangle Fire**
Mary Anne Trasciatti, Hofstra University/Remember the Triangle Fire, Inc.
- 11:10 **On Fire, On Strike: Labor Activism in the Garment Industry**
A powerful activist spirit inspired female workers to fight for better labor conditions in the garment industry. This panel highlights pivotal points of women's organizing from the 1910s through the 1980s, and discusses how gender and migration shaped women's demands for higher wages, shorter hours, and a right to join unions.
Panelists: Jennifer Guglielmo, Smith College; Daniel Katz, Brooklyn College, CUNY; Katie Quan, UC Berkeley
Moderator: Lara Vapnek, St. John's University

SWEAT EQUITY: WOMEN IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

12:00 **Lunch Break** (on your own)

Afternoon Sessions: The Garment Industry Today and Tomorrow

- 1:30 **Afternoon Keynote Address**
Julie Kushner, Director, United Auto Workers Union Region 9A
- 2:30 **Preservation and Renewal in New York's Garment District**
In the late 20th century, as American manufacturing moved overseas, the clothing industry became a global business—with dramatic consequences for New York's garment district. This panel will explore the current state of the district with designers who have chosen to remain there. What does the future hold for this area, its surviving factories, and the business of fashion?
Panelists: Nanette Lepore, Founder and Designer, Nanette Lepore; Yeohlee Teng, Founder and Designer, YEOHLEE, Inc.
Moderator: JoAnne Olian, Curator Emeritus, Costume Collection, Museum of the City of New York
- 3:30 **The Future of Fashion: From Consumption to Sustainability**
Fashion designers and consumers alike struggle to balance the desire for cutting-edge style with the obligation to reduce over-consumption and exploitation. This presentation will discuss the challenges of reducing waste without sacrificing comfort, style, and affordability. It will conclude with a display of the work of up-and-coming designers who focus on sustainability.
Speaker: Timo Rissanen, Parsons School of Design
- 4:45 **Closing Remarks**
Valerie Paley, Director, Center for the Study of Women's History
- 5:00 **Reception** (Smith Gallery)

Program subject to change

*Presented in honor of Jean Dubinsky Appleton by
The Center for the Study of Women's History
at the New-York Historical Society*