

Chas Walker * Curriculum Vitae

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PhD Student, Boston University Department of Political Science

Education & Training

Boston University *PhD Student in Political Science* *2020 – present*

- Research interests: political thought and US politics, racial and economic inequality, unions and social movements, and participatory democracy.

Brown University *African American Studies (B.A.)* *1996 -2000*

Additional Education and Training

- University of Michigan / Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program (2021)
- UMass-Amherst / Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) Methodology Workshop in Network Analysis (2021)
- Dēmos: Race-Class Narrative Training (2018)
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU): Coordinator (2018), IGNITE Sparking Leadership (2015), New Media / Digital Organizing (2012), and WAVE New Organizing (2004) trainings
- RI Institute for Labor Studies & Research: Leadership for a Future (2003)
- People's Institute for Survival and Beyond: Undoing Racism (2002)
- Center for Third World Organizing: Community Action Training (2001)
- School for International Training: Semester abroad in Mali (1998) and Nicaragua (1999)

Academic Awards, Research Grants, and Fellowships

- Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: Social Science Graduate Student Summer Internship Award for placement at the Center for Antiracist Research (2021)
- Boston University Initiative on Cities: Early Stage Urban Research Award as co-Principal Investigator for research on mayors, policing, and protests (2021)
- Brown University English Department: Preston Gurney Writing Prize for the top essay by a member of the senior class (2000)
- Brown University Peter G. and Paul G. Hanoian Memorial Award for students dedicated to improving the lives of working people (1999)

Writing

- [The government is failing healthcare workers. Unions aren't.](#) – *Strikewave* (February 2021)
- [Mentions: The Relentless Picnic / Red Plenty](#) *The Drift* (Issue 3, February 2021)
- [The Working Dead: Reviving the Crowd as a Protagonist.](#) *Los Angeles Review of Books* blog (June 2020)
- [“Soul Searching” Will Not Stop the Police Murders of Black People.](#) *Truthout* (June 2020)
- [Poverty Wages in Nursing Homes Have Accelerated the Coronavirus Outbreak.](#) *The Boston Globe* (April 2020)
- [Frederick Douglass and the Transformational Power of Courage in a Fearsome World.](#) *The American Philosophical Association's Black Issues in Philosophy Blog* (February 2020)
- [They called us “flat-earthers.” But we were right.](#) *The Boston Globe* (November 2019)

Languages

- Fully fluent in Spanish.
- Intermediate fluency in French.

Work History

Self-Employed, Dorchester, MA

Researcher/Writer

2019-2020

- Research, data analysis, and writing for multiple unions on child care affordability, child care worker wages, staffing levels at Medicaid-funded skilled nursing facilities, and collective bargaining.
- Grant-writing and project assistance for worker-centered and worker-driven non-profit training fund.

SEIU District 1199NE, Providence, RI

Elected Organizer

2004 - 2019

Union Organizing

- Led organizing drives to help more than 1,200 child care and health care workers win a union in RI, often overcoming significant opposition from employers, public officials, and anti-union groups.
- Participated in SEIU organizing drives in other states including Illinois, Washington, and Maryland.
- Negotiated union contracts in multiple settings, coordinating member engagement and proposal development, leading discussions at the table, and organizing field, media, and community outreach.
- Led direct actions, marches, vigils, rallies, picket lines, and strikes.
- Filed and won numerous grievances and complex arbitration cases.

Communications & Public Affairs

- Led member communications including writing, layout, and translation of newsletters, flyers and leaflets, petitions and visibility actions, etc.
- Piloted union's digital organizing efforts via social media, email and text messaging platforms; transitioned union website to WordPress (including basic coding and graphic design).
- Wrote and edited policy white papers, press releases, op-eds, and other public communications.
- Trained member activists on messaging and storytelling for public events.

Electoral Campaigns

- Recruited and coached member candidates to successfully run for public office including the first Dominican-American woman elected to a state legislature in the U.S., Grace Diaz.
- Coordinated independent expenditure campaigns in multiple election cycles, supervising both targeted direct mail and door-to-door canvas operations.

Legislative Campaigns

- Coordinated successful grassroots campaigns for RI state laws to ban mandatory overtime for hospital workers (2007); establish the right to organize for home-based child care providers (2013); and establish the right to organize for independent home health care workers (2018).
- Participated in statewide coalitions that won paid family leave (2013) and earned sick time (2017) for hundreds of thousands of workers in Rhode Island.

Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing

- Established a labor-management training and support fund with the RI Department of Human Services for home-based child care providers.
- Secured funding from the RI Department of Labor & Training to create a substitute pool to support home-based child care providers' professional development and use of earned sick time benefits.

Training, Facilitation, and Organizational Leadership

- Trained and supervised organizers to build member participation, multiracial unity, and power. Coordinated organizing blitzes in RI and CT, training staff and members on organizing conversations and digital organizing tools.
- Worked with peers to create and deliver leadership development trainings using popular education methods. Trained hundreds of union delegates on organizing skills, grievance procedures, and more.
- In close coordination with 1199's officers and members, helped establish organizational goals and priorities, develop strategic plans, build coalitions, and allocate resources effectively.

Day Care Justice Co-Op, Providence RI

Organizer

2001 – 2003

- Coordinated membership meetings, direct actions, trainings, and professional development opportunities in a non-profit of home-based child care providers.
- Responsible for numerous successful grant proposals to local, state, and regional foundations to support the Co-Op's organizing and programming.

Undergraduate Internships

1997 – 2000

- Rhode Island Jobs with Justice
- Direct Action for Rights & Equality

Boards & Volunteer Activity

- Providence Student Union Board of Directors (2017 to 2019)
- RI Congressman David Cicilline's District Child Care Roundtable (2018)
- Department of Human Services' BrightStars Think Tank (2017)
- Rhode Island Early Learning Council (2010-2013)
- State of Rhode Island's Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care (2001 - 2013)
- Haymarket Peoples' Fund, RI Funding Panel Member (2001-2003)
- Member, Brown Student-Labor Alliance (1996-2000)

Professional Recognition

- Citations from the *RI Governor*, *RI General Assembly*, and the *Providence City Council* (2019)
- Labor wins elections because "they employ some very, very smart political operatives...[like] SEIU's Chas Walker." – *Ted Nezi, WPRI.com* (2012)
- Paul E. Moura Leadership Award - *RI Institute for Labor Studies & Research* (2006)
- Sister Carol McGovern Voice for the Voiceless Award, *RI Fund for Community Progress* (2003)