



Sociology Department

University of Colorado **Boulder**



# Spring 2018 Speaker Series



Barry Eidlin received his Ph.D. in 2012 from the University of California-Berkeley. He is a comparative historical sociologist who studies class, politics, inequality, and social change. He has examined diverging trajectories of working class power in the United States and Canada over the course of the twentieth century, changing party-class relations in the United States and Canada, intra-class conflict and organizational transformation in the Teamsters Union, and the effect of Walmart on retail sector wages, among other things. His current major project, which will be the topic of his talk, asks the question, “why are unions weaker in the US than in Canada, two otherwise similar countries?” This difference has shaped politics, policy, and levels of inequality in both countries. Conventional wisdom points to differences in political cultures, party systems, and labor laws. But Barry’s analysis of archival and statistical data shows that the two countries’ union trajectories resulted from different ruling party responses to worker upsurge during the Great Depression and World War II. Paradoxically, US labor’s long-term decline resulted from what was initially a more pro-labor ruling party response, while Canadian labor’s relative long-term strength resulted from a more hostile ruling party response that embedded ‘the class idea’ more deeply in Canada’s policies, institutions, and practices .

**BARRY EIDLIN OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY**

**Tuesday, April 24th**

**12:30 pm**

**Ketchum 1B40**

[www.colorado.edu/Sociology/news-events/news](http://www.colorado.edu/Sociology/news-events/news)

