



Striking Coronation Brick workers, Durban, South Africa (Islandora Repository / David Hemson)

The research seminar «African History» welcomes all to the lecture by

**Alex Lichtenstein (Indiana University)**

## **Emancipating South Africa's Black Working Class: The Meaning of the 1973 Durban Strikes**

**Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 6:15 pm**

Department of History, Hirschgässlein 21, 4051 Basel, Seminar Room 1

During the first three months of 1973, striking African workers brought the port city of Durban to a virtually standstill. Despite a lack of formal organization or any recognized legal strike rights, these workers tested their collective strength against employers and the apartheid regime. In doing so, they helped birth a militant trade union movement that would become crucial to the anti-apartheid struggle. This talk explains why this neglected working-class struggle deserves a central place in South African history.



Alex Lichtenstein is a professor of history at Indiana University in Bloomington, USA. He is also the editor of the journal *American Historical Review*.