

**Abstract:**

Accounts in most contemporary management textbooks would lead readers to see management theorizing at the Progressive era Taylor Society as an activity almost wholly restricted to white male managers and engineers. In reality women played a significant role in the Society's deliberations in the Progressive era and into the 1920s. Labor leaders participated as well. The seminar will discuss diversity at the Taylor Society with a focus on trying to answer two questions: Why did the Taylor Society—a group formed to spread scientific management insights-- make deliberate efforts to diversify participation by gender and class long before such imperatives were common in American society? Why do contemporary accounts of management history often elide this early attempt at purposeful diversity?