

Towards a Union at Home



RENTING-CLASS POWER IN A FINANCIALIZED ECONOMY

September 19, 2024

Experience

Practitioner-in-Residence at UC Berkeley Labor Center

Eight years as Lead Organizer at Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco (HRCSF)

Multi-year campaign against Veritas Investments

Trained labor organizer

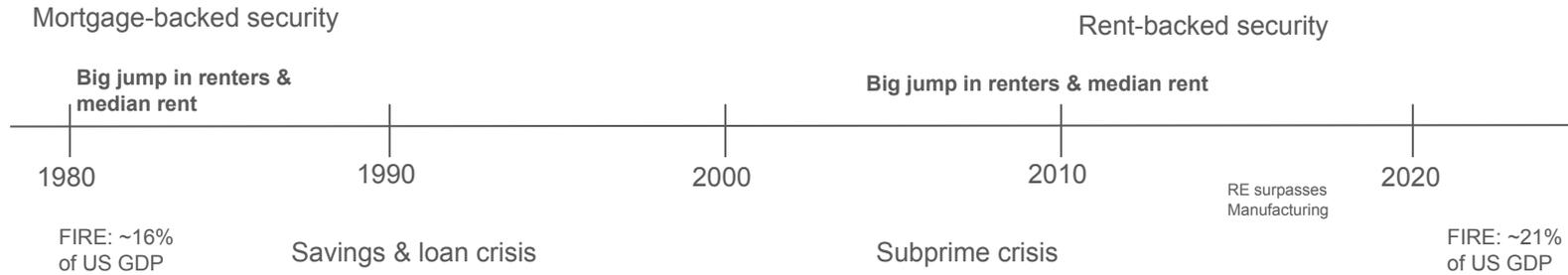
Goals

Share lessons from my fieldwork and residency to

Analyze the contemporary political economy of real estate, rental housing, and tenant-landlord relationship

Discuss an effective organizing strategy for reducing power, wealth, and influence of financialized real estate

Lesson #1:



The increase in **renting households** in this country is no accident.

Financialization



Deindustrialization



Union-Busting



Stagnant Wages

Lesson #2:

Renting-class people (tenants) are **uniquely positioned to win** against the rentier class (landlords) in a financialized economy.

Lesson #3:

Workers are tenants,
and tenants are workers.

SF Renters on Verge of Winning Collective Bargaining Rights

In San Francisco, Tenants Use Labor Tactics to Challenge Their Landlords

A New Effort in San Francisco Aims to Debate Rent at the Bargaining Table

The city's 'Right to Organize' ordinance requires landlords to recognize tenant associations in their buildings.

Tenants take advantage of new union-like bargaining rights

Tenants Are Forcing Bay Area Landlords to the Bargaining Table

As San Francisco's largest landlord falters, tenants are banding together and winning

SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS ARE TAKING ON THE CITY'S LARGEST CORPORATE LANDLORD

A new law in San Francisco gives tenant unions new power. Here's how residents are using it to fight for justice.



Massive Tenant Union Demands Its Corporate Landlord Bargain With Them

San Francisco's groundbreaking Union at Home legislation encourages tenants to organize in their buildings the way employees organize at work. Housing activists in Berkeley are hoping their city will follow suit — but landlords are pushing back.