

Teacher Professional Development Programs with Edward T. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

Shedding the Light on Poverty The Work and Impact of Jacob Riis

Jacob Riis was one of the most influential and effective Progressive Era reformers. This presentation examines Riis' pioneering investigative photography and book, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890) and how they led to greater public awareness of urban poverty and significant reforms in tenement housing laws. We also examine Riis' contributions to the expansion of urban public school systems and parks as part of his larger reform agenda.

Also available as part of a wider talk on urban reforms, including settlement houses, labor law, and public health.

Walking Tour Option: Lower East Side | **Museum Options:** LES Tenement Museum or Ellis Island

This presentation, augmented with more than 75 visuals, examines the following:

- Riis and the rise of photojournalism and muckraking
- how and why his photos had such an impact on the American public

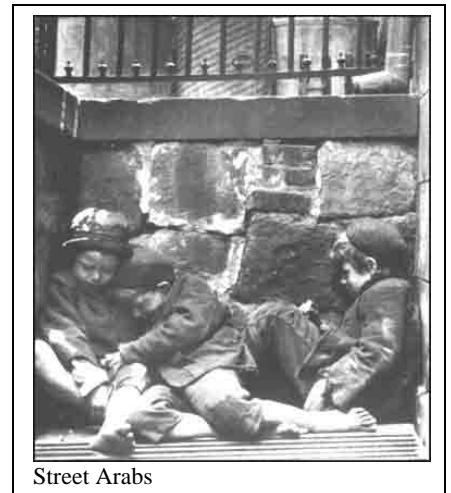
- Riis' attitude toward the immigrant poor, given his frequent use of stereotypes in his book.
- Riis' contribution to the tenement reform movement
- Riis' successful promotion of playground parks in poor neighborhoods (Seward Park)

About the Presentation:

Today's students are visual and interactive learners – and so are their teachers. Consequently, this multimedia presentation is built around 75-100 unique and carefully selected visuals, including vintage photographs, etchings, maps, cartoons, and documents (samples appear on this page). O'Donnell uses them to enhance a lively and interactive presentation. Ample time is allotted for Q & A, but O'Donnell always welcomes questions at any time during the session.

Benefits for your teachers:

- a renewed and/or deepened awareness of topic's **essential content**.
- an enhanced understanding of the topic's critical **questions, concepts, & ideas**.
- new ideas for finding and using **primary sources** and developing DBQ's, simulations, projects, debates, and field trip preparation.



Street Arabs



An Italian Ragpicker

Programming Options:

- Time Flexibility – all presentations and workshops can be tailored to meet your needs, from 1 to 3 hours.
- Pedagogy Workshops – O'Donnell is also available to lead workshops on primary sources, DBQ's, simulations, projects, and debates.
- Walking Tours & Historic Site Visits - O'Donnell has led thousands – just ask!

Edward T. O'Donnell, Ph.D. is a professional historian, author, and speaker. He earned his Ph.D. in American History from Columbia University (1995) and currently is Associate Professor (tenured) of History at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. He is the author of several books and frequently publishes history essays in publications such as the *New York Times*. He has made countless teacher professional development presentations and served as lead historian for the Teaching American History grant, "Enlivening American History Through Primary Sources" (2001, Queens College). For a full c.v., please visit his website: www.EdwardTODonnell.com.



Five Cents a Spot