

How Did My Mother End Up Cleaning Your Mother's Toilets?



Scholar Danielle Phillips Examines the Historical Roots of Domestic Workers in the U.S. Her Global Perspective Closely Studies Racism, Sexism, Class, Gender and Sexuality Issues in these Fascinating Lectures.

Wednesday, March 26, 11:00 AM-12:20 PM in UC228 “Who wants to be an ‘English Mother’?: Irish and African American Domestic Workers, 1880-1940”

Using the “ideology of mothering” as a framework, Phillips examines the global movement and formation of racialized ideas of class, gender, and sexuality that determined who became the **domestics** and **caregivers** in New York society.

Certain forces positioned Irish and African American domestic workers as the largest groups of women employed in domestic service in New York. Phillips considers the following in her stirring analysis of the domestic service tradition: ▪ tracing the circulation of ideas between England and New York ; ▪ women’s labor migration from Ireland and the U.S. South to New York; ▪ traditions of domestic service in England; ▪ histories of English colonialism both in Ireland and the southern region of the U.S. She argues that a comparative study of Irish and African American women demonstrates the importance of a global perspective for examining the history of domestic work in the United States.

Find out how an historical research treatment can help us answer the pressing questions we ask today!

For those able to stay, an informal **WORKSHOP** with Danielle will follow the presentation.

Wednesday, March 26, 2:00 PM-3:20 PM in UC228 “Moving with the Women: Tracing Migration, Labor, and Identities of Domestic Workers in the Archives”

Phillips invites the audience on an exciting journey through the research archives.

Danielle Phillips explores the methodological implications of archival research about Irish and African American domestic workers for teaching and researching within the field of Women’s Studies. She’ll discuss archival sources located at four prominent research sites: ▪ The British and Fawcett Women’s Library in London, England; ▪ the Schomburg Library in Harlem; ▪ the Ellis Island Library; ▪ the Young Women’s Christian Association Archive at Smith College. Drawing from periodicals, diaries, domestic service manuals, interviews found at the research sites, and personal interviews she conducted with domestic workers, Phillips examines how such sources become a lens to interrogate what is largely discussed and written about in academia as two disconnected migration histories and groups of women.

Learn how to connect the dots via archival research with Danielle as she shares this academic process with us!

For those able to stay, an informal **WORKSHOP** with Danielle will follow the presentation.

About Danielle Phillips: Danielle graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in May 2004 with a B.A. in Women’s Studies and she is currently a fourth year graduate student in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Rutgers University. Phillips is working on her dissertation titled “(Re) Shaping Race, Class, and Gender in the ‘home’: African American, Irish, and Afro-Caribbean domestic workers in New York, 1880-1940.” Her other research interests include examining institutional racism, classism, and sexism. She served as a research assistant for the “Re-Affirming Action: Designs for Diversity in Higher Education” Project, which was a two-year project funded by the Ford Foundation and housed in the Institute for Women’s Leadership at Rutgers University. The project documents faculty activism at twelve institutions across the United States aimed towards disrupting racial, gender, and class inequalities in higher education.



Light refreshments will be served.

Women’s Studies Program

Kean University

To reserve space for yourself or your class, or for further information about this and other upcoming **Women’s History Month** events, contact the Women’s Studies Program at x74020, or womenssp@kean.edu. Co-Sponsored by the Global Studies Department.