

Seminar Series: Interrogating Intersectionality Across Migration Studies

Reflecting on power relations, representations and methodologies

Organized by Jane Freedman, Nina Sahraoui & Elsa Tyszler.

Session 4 - Feminists From the Kitchen Floor: On Domestic Workers' Erased Feminism

JUNE 2, 2022

2:30-4:30pm Paris time (GMT+1)

Speaker

Sara Farris

Goldsmiths, University of London

Discussant

Mahdis Sadeghipouya

LEGS, Paris

To participate in person:

Salle de conférences
59-61 rue Pouchet
75017 Paris

To participate online:

[https://univ-paris8.zoom.us/j/91262789112?
pwd=ZDBnMXhTWWMYSUZ4b1hMTFNXMGY2dz09](https://univ-paris8.zoom.us/j/91262789112?pwd=ZDBnMXhTWWMYSUZ4b1hMTFNXMGY2dz09)

Meeting ID: 912 6278 9112 | **Passcode:** 718122

Upcoming sessions

JUNE 16 2022: Nothing Has to Make Sense: Upholding White Supremacy Through Anti-Muslim Racism (Book presentation)

Speaker: Sherene H. Razack, *UCLA*

Discussant: Jane Freedman, *GTM-CRESPPA*

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The relationship between feminists and domestic workers has long been debated in feminist and gender studies. In the Global North, while increasing numbers of women entered the labour market, they have sought to outsource domestic tasks (cleaning, childcare, elderly care) to other (often migrant) women, thereby contributing to the growth of domestic workers and the so-called feminisation of migration. Given that women's participation in the labour market and their economic independence was one of the main demands of 'first' and 'second wave' feminism, scholars began to question whether feminists had unwittingly created a system where the liberation of one group of women implicitly depends on the exploitation of another group of women. Are we returning to a personal service economy, where immigrants, racialised and working-class women take on the tasks given lowest priority by those trying to combine family and work lives? The large majority of studies that try to address this question have explored either the ways feminists respond (or ignore) the contradictions in outsourcing of domestic roles to other women, or domestic workers' conditions, particularly migrant women given their significant presence within our global cities. They thus emphasise the missed encounters between feminist groups and domestic workers groups, assuming that they are 'separate' entities. But what happens when we foreground domestic workers themselves qua feminists? This paper aims to challenge such an assumption and explore the ways in which more and more domestic workers groups explicitly address and articulate feminist politics.

