



Conference Programme

Servants' Pasts **2nd International Conference**

11-13 April 2018
Senatssaal, Humboldt University, Berlin

Organizers: Nitin Varma (Re: work, Humboldt University, Berlin)
Nitin Sinha (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

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Part of: ERC funded project, 'Domestic Servants in Colonial South Asia'

Day I – Wednesday, 11 April 2018

9.00 – 9.20	Registration and Tea				Rochisha Narayan (History Department, University of Cincinnati, U.S.A): <i>In the Service of Empire: Widows, Dependents and Intermediary Households in Colonial India.</i>
9.20 – 9.30	Introduction				
9.30 – 10.40	Servants, Slaves, Merchants & Royalty I		12.40 – 13.40	Lunch	
	Chair: Pankaj K. Jha (Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi, India)		13.40 – 15.30	Regulation & Domestic Work	
	Sweta Singh (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India): <i>The Unique Case of Master-Servant Relationships among Jews from Mediterranean to Malabar: 1000-1300 C.E.</i>			Chair: David Meyer (Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG), Amsterdam, The Netherlands)	
	Neha Vermani (Royal Holloway, University of London, U.K.): <i>From the Cauldrons of History: Hidden Labours of Kitchen Work in the Mughal Empire.</i>			Akanksha Singh (Department of History, University of Delhi, India): <i>Domesticating the Discourse on Servitude: Slavery vs. Service.</i>	
10.40 – 10.50	Tea Break			Prinisha Badassy (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa): <i>A Tissue of Lies: Crimes of Unlawful Carnal Knowledge and Indecent Assault by Indian Domestic Servants, Colonial Natal.</i>	
10.50 – 12.40	Servants, Slaves, Merchants & Royalty II			Fae Dussart (Department of Geography, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K.): <i>'Keep Them in the Path of Duty': The 'Regulation' of Indian Servants on the Colonial Domestic Frontier 1870-1900.</i>	
	Chair: Pankaj K. Jha (Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi, India)		15.30 – 15.50	Tea Break	
	Lubna Irfan (Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, India): <i>Unearthing the History of the Servants in Mughal India: The Ambiguous Life of the Servile Public within the Larger Socio-Political Structure of Royalty and Nobility.</i>		15.50 – 17.00	Castes of Food	
	Nicholas J. Abbott (Department of History, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, U.S.A.): <i>Cracked Backs and Broken Waists: Eunuchs, Gender, and Verbal Abuse in Early Modern Awadh.</i>			Chair: Heike Liebau (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Germany)	
				Vidhya Raveendranathan (CeMIS, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany): <i>Writing Histories of Pariah Domestic Servants and Butlers in Nineteenth Century Madras.</i>	

Salma Wasi (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India): *Indian Cook Servants in the Imperial Army, 1914-1946.*

17.00 – 18.00

Keynote

Carolyn Steedman (Professor Emeritus, University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K.): *Domestic Servants, Domestic Law: What the Servants Knew (in England and elsewhere, in the long, long 18th century)*

Chair: Nitin Varma & Nitin Sinha (Re: work, Humboldt University / Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Germany)

18.00

Conference Dinner for participants

Day II – Thursday, 12 April 2018

9.30 – 11.20

Male Domesticity

Chair: Victoria K. Haskins (Department of History, University of Newcastle, Australia)

Swapna Banerjee (Brooklyn College, City University of New York, U.S.A.): *Servants as Social Imaginaries: The Intimate Labour of Male Domestic Workers in Colonial Bengal, India.*

Nassima Mekaoui-Chebout (EHESS Paris, France / IRMC Tunis, Tunisia): *Introduction to a Case Study – Abdallah Benameur's Case: The "Indigenous" Valet, A Racialized and Masculinized Domestic Servant in Colonial Algeria (1910s).*

Ritam Sengupta (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India): *Historicising the Slow Death of the Punkah Wallah.*

11.20 – 11.30

Tea Break

11.30 – 13.20

Bungalows & Jungle

Chair: Nitin Sinha (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Germany)

John Basy Paul (Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad, India): *Servant, Servitude and Salvation: Domestic Workers of Missionary Bungalows – A Case Study.*

Tresa Abraham (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay, India): *The 'Griffin' and the 'Nouker' in the Colonial Domestic Space: A Study of E.H. Aitken's 'Behind the Bungalow'.*

Ezra D. Rashkow (Department of History, Montclair State University, U.S.A.): *Jungle, Home: Camp Servants and Glamping in British India.*

13.20 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.40

Intimate Labour

Chair: Charu Gupta (Department of History, University of Delhi, India)

Ruchika Sharma (Gargi College, University of Delhi, India): *Engendering Śringara, Procuring Love: Sakhi, Duti, and Go- Between in Riti Poetry.*

Victoria K. Haskins (Department of History, University of Newcastle, Australia): *"Her Only Real Intimate": British Colonialism, Loyalty, and the Visual Iconography of the Indian Ayah, 18th to 20th Centuries.*

15.40 – 15.50

Tea Break

15.50 – 17.00

Mobile Intimacies

Chair: Swapna Banerjee (Brooklyn College, City University of New York, U.S.A.)

Satyasikha Chakraborty (History Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, U.S.A.): *Racialized Nursemaids in Early 20th Century Picture-Postcards: A Comparative Study of the Ayah, the Mammy, and the Baboe.*

Raffaella Sarti (Department of Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy): *European Governesses in Asia: Power Relations, Cultural Exchanges, Intimacies, 19th to 20th Centuries.*

17.00

Conference Dinner for participants

Day III – Friday, 13 April 2018

9.30 – 11.20

Narratives, Imaginaries & Servants

Chair: Jana Tschurennev (CeMIS, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany)

Pankhuri Dasgupta (Centre for Women's Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India): *Kalua and Lajjo: A Look at the Lives of Domestic Servants through the Literature of Ismat Chughtai.*

Dele Maxwell Ugwanyi (General Studies Department, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria): *Migrants Metaphor and Postcolonial (Dis)Engagements: Rethinking the African Domestic Narratives in the African Literary Imaginaries in the Present Past*

Charu Gupta (Department of History, University of Delhi, India): *Mistresses & Servants: Literary and Legal Sketches in Early 20th Century Uttar Pradesh.*

11.20 – 11.30

Tea Break

11.30 – 12.40

Urdu Literature & Servants

Chair: Pankaj K. Jha (Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi, India)

Ufaque Paiker (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India): *Fault lines of familiarity: Hearing silences in representation of domestic servants.*

Christina Oesterheld (South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany): *Between Trust and Mistrust: Master-Servant Relationships in Urdu Narratives of the 1860s-1880s.*

12.40 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.50

City & Servants

Chair: Raffaella Sarti (Department of Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy)

Lauren Wilks (Department of Sociology, University of Edinburgh, U.K.): *Contestation and Constraint: Commuting Domestic Workers and their Employers in Contemporary Kolkata.*

Nargis Vasundhara (Department of Sociology, Delhi University, India): *Rethinking Female Servers: Negotiating Urban Domesticity.*

Müge Telci Özbek (Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish History, Bogazici University, Turkey): *Behind the Gloss of Paternal Protection: Negotiating the Labour and Sexuality of Female Domestic Servants in Istanbul, during the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries.*

15.50 – 16.00

Tea Break

16.00 – 17.10

Politics & Power

Chair: Franziska Roy (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Germany)

Lokesh (Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, India): *"From the Home to the World": Ethnography of a Contemporary Domestic Workers' "Riot"*.

Sonal Sharma (Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.): *Class and Classification: Rethinking the History and Politics of Paid Domestic Labour in India.*

17.10

Final Session

Chair: Andreas Eckert (Re: work, Humboldt University, Berlin)

Raffaella Sarti (Department of Communication Sciences, Humanities and International Studies, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy)

Nitin Varma (Re: work, Humboldt University, Berlin)

Nitin Sinha (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin, Germany)