Companion website

Care for Sale

Chapter 1 Introduction

Key words:

Migration

Neoliberalism

Morality and ethics

Care

Emotional labor

Middle class

Race

Dislocations

Subjectivity

How useful is neoliberalism as a framework to understand the selling of care?

What is the impact of globalization on the networks of care?

What does the introduction tell us about personhood and migrants’ subjectivities?

What does this chapter tell us about global inequality?

How is class defined? How useful is to speak about a middle-class identity? How is this connected to race in Latin America?

What is *mestizaje*? Is this a necessary category to understand women’s subjectivities as migrants?

Chapter 2

Key words:

Narratives

Life histories

Debt

Political economy

Class and racial aspirations

Kinship

What is the methodological value of following narratives of life histories within anthropology? What are the advantages and the limitations?

Is it possible to fully represent the voices of others?

Is the chapter able to link macro socio-economic structural conditions to women’s stories of migration?

In which ways does class manifest itself in women’s plans and migration journeys? What is the role of class and aspiration in women’s narratives? Are these useful analytic categories to study migration?

In light of the material presented in the chapter, what is the morality of debt?

In what ways does the chapter question the classic push pull type of explanations to talk about migration?

What do these narratives tell us about cultural and social categories of gender, race and class? How important is the role of gender and kinship in women’s journeys?

Chapter 3

Key words:

Illegality

Deportability

Temporality

Liminality

Resistance

Is phenomenology a useful methodology to understand the embodied experience of illegality? What are the benefits and limitations?

How does the chapter explain the dislocation of “illegality”? How is this related to notions of invisibility?

What do women’s journeys tell us about the temporality of illegality?

What is the role of race and gender in the experience and embodiment of illegality?

How is the chapter engaging with intersectionality as a way to understand legal categories? What is the methodological and analytical value?

Is resistance a resourceful category to analyze and understand practices of illegality? How is this manifested in the chapter?

Are migrants able to escape the category of being deportable? What are the social conditions that allow for this category to exist? What are the social and personal consequences?

How is waiting conceptualized in the chapter? It is possible to escape from the temporality of the law and processes of waiting?

How do legal systems constitute and reconstitute notions of personhood and liminality?

Chapter 4

Key words

Care work

Domestic work

Home

Downward status mobility

Ethics of care

Morality

Dislocation

Commodification of intimacy

Inequality

Emotional labor

What is the difference between care as work and care as emotion? Does money devalue the work? How is this manifested in the lives of domestic workers? Is it possible to separate care from work?

What are the links that exist between class and race in domestic work? What are the strategies that women used to deal with racial and class dislocations?

In which ways do women deal with the commodification of intimacy within domestic work?

What is the role of the law in the public perception of domestic work?

In which ways do women deal with and/or solve the contradictions inherent in domestic work as a form of caring labor?

How is the choice to care or not to care articulated in the chapter? What does this tell us about care work?

Chapter 5

Key words:

Sex work

Stigma

Morality

Race

Choice

Care

Romance and love

Middle class

Bounded intimacy

How can choice be understood in the lives of sex workers? How useful or problematic is it to talk about choice in sex work?

What is the paradox that sex work poses when thinking about the commodification of sexual intimacy and emotions?

What resources do women use in order to cope with stigma and moral conflict in sex work?

Can we talk about sex work as empowering? How?

It has been argued that women moved into sex work for economic reasons, is this always the case?

How are moral and legal frameworks contributing to the experience of risk, stigma and violence in sex work in the UK? What are the structural and social conditions that provoke this?

What is the main point regarding the discussion of the “real self” in sex work? Is this unique to this form of labor?

How does emotional labor look in sex work? What are the consequences of this?

What are the structural conditions behind the dilemmas of care in sex work?

What do domestic and sex work as caring labor tell us about the commodification of intimacy in neoliberal regimes? Does it make sense to talk about domestic and sex work as part of a continuum?

Chapter Six

Key words:

Gift giving

Reciprocity

Intimacy

Dependency

Gifts and debts

Class and racial inequality

Value

What is logic behind giving gifts? What are the particular characteristics of these exchanges? What are the meanings that women attach to the various gift that they receive from clients and employers?

What sort of inequalities produced by gifts? Are these inevitable? What do these inequalities reflect of care work?

What type of strategies do women use in order to deal the debts and obligations created by gifts?

How do women manage to understand and categorize the various types of exchanges, payments and gifts that they receive from clients and employers? Are these categories useful and/or necessarily? If so, why?

Domestic and sex workers receive quite different gifts from their employers and clients. What do they represent? What do they tell us about both occupations and structural conditions of inequality?

Is there any link between gifts and intimacy? How is this manifested?

Is there a difference between gifts and commodities? How do women deal with these differences?

Is it useful to analyze the intimacy of caring labor through the exchanges of gifts? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

Chapter 7

Key words

Normality

Consumption

Social status

Middle-class taste

Distinction

Making home

Sociality

Kinship and gender

How is normality understood in the chapter? Is this a useful analytical category to study women’s dislocations and locations?

What is the economic, social and symbolic value of home in migrants’ lives? How do women appropriate markets goods and imbue them with meaning? Why do they do this?

Are there any links between consumption, race and gender? What is the impact that consumption has on women’s subjectivities, including class dislocations? How is consumption related to care?

What does “normal home” tell us about women’s personhood? What does this entail? What are the main criticisms around the category of home?

What can we infer from the material culture that women had in London? What is the symbolic, economic and social value of material culture in this chapter?

What is the role of taste and distinction in women’s shopping practices? What do they tell us about women’s class and racial identities? What do they tell us about inequality and racism?

What is the role of transnational spaces in the lives of migrants? How are these spaces produced? What do they represent?

What is the connection between distinction, class and respectability? How is this illustrated in the chapter?

What is the impact of illegality in the social life of migrants?

Is the reconstruction of “normality” a useful way to sort out personal dislocations? What does the struggle to recuperate a sense of “normality” tell us about women’s subjectivities?

Conclusion

What were the initial images and ideas you had about domestic and sex work before starting this book? How did the life stories presented in this book challenge these ideas? In what ways has your understanding of care changed after reading this book?

What are the main challenges that migrant care workers face in contemporary Britain?

In which ways do you think that Brexit will affect the lives of Latin American migrants (documented and undocumented in the UK?