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*Traveling Cultures of Servitude: Loyalty and Betrayal in New York and Kolkata*

Paid domestic work complicates the conceptual divide between family and work, custom and contract, affection and duty, the home and the world. How do we understand the relations of labor involved in this work? Some scholars argue that domestic work is simply another job in a capitalist economy while others claim that it is different because the site of work is a home. In this paper, based on a larger study of domestic work in India, I compare the narratives of two employers -- an upper middle-class South Asian woman in New York who employs another South Asian as her nanny, and a white New Yorker who employs a Mexican woman -- and use the juxtaposition of the two narratives to put forward an argument about the distinctive attributes and structure of feeling of domestic servitude as a labor relation in itself.