

How can we make subalterns speak ?
Lessons and advice from historians of imperial domesticities

19 June 2025 - 9:00-17:00

UNIGE - Uni-Mail 1170

Program of the day:

9:00-12:30: International Conference on “Imperial Domesticities”

9:00-11:00: Panel – Domestic Work and Servile Labor

Céline Flory (CNRS), On the margins of indentured labour: being an “indentured immigrant” and domestic servant in post-slavery Guyana (second half of the 19th century)

Victoria Haskins (University of Newcastle, Australia): ‘Traited no better than a slave’: Ayahs, exploitation, and domestic power in the early Australian colonies

Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (Utrecht University): Care and Coercion. Patriarchy, (Forced) Labour and Caregiving in the Household in the Dutch Empire, c. 1750-Present

Julie Hardwick (University of Texas): A tale of two households of seamstresses: labor, violence, fugitivity as the keys to the experiences of free and enslaved black women in eighteenth-century Nantes.

11:00-11:30: Coffee break

11:00-12:30: Conclusion/discussion

12:30-14:00: Lunch with Swapna Banerjee (CUNY), Julie Hardwick (UT-Austin), Victoria Haskins (University of Newcastle) and Claire Lowrie (University of Wollongong). All the workshop’s participants are invited.

14:00-17:00: Individual presentations of participants and collective discussion