Aid and the Help: An Exploration of Domestic Service and International Development

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12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.
Anthropology 206

Light lunch provided

Dinah Hannaford recently defended her PhD thesis "Married to the Mobile: Migration, Gender, Class and Kinship in Contemporary Senegal" in Emory's Department of Anthropology. Dinah has been researching and writing about Senegalese migration and transnational marriage for close to ten years in France, Italy and Senegal. Her work can be found in the journal *Mondi Migranti, Global Networks*, and soon in *Africa Today*. The material for this talk comes from her second research project which takes her back to West Africa and draws from her years working in a local NGO in Senegal.

**Talk Abstract:** A growing field of literature examines the ethnographic context of international development practice, looking to interpersonal dynamics that shape policy decisions and the implementation of aid programs. One aspect of the lived experience of working in international development has been largely overlooked despite its ubiquity and importance—relationships between foreign development practitioners and their domestic employees. Most aid workers in developing countries employ some form of household help including maids, nannies, cooks, drivers and security guards. Their relationships with these local people often form their most intimate relationships with citizens of the host nation. Drawing on an established literature about domestic service in anthropology, Hannaford asks what might be gleaned from an ethnographic study of the dynamics between aid workers and their household help to throw into relief the multiple inherent ambivalences and contradictions of both domestic work and international aid.