

“Love and Gold”- Arlie Russell Hochschild

We will do some in-class writing on “Love and Gold” in response to these questions.

1. “But if First World middle-class women are building careers that are molded according to the old male model, by putting in long hours at demanding jobs, their nannies and other domestic workers suffer a greatly exaggerated version of the same thing. Two women working for pay is not a bad idea. But two working mothers giving their all to work is a good idea gone haywire. In the end, both First and Third World women are small players in a larger economic game whose rules they have not written.”

2. “The notion of extracting resources from the Third World harkens back to imperialism in its most literal form: the nineteenth century extraction of gold, ivory and rubber from the Third World.... Today, as love and care become the “new gold”, the female part of the story has grown in prominence. In both cases, through the death or displacement of their parents, Third World children pay the price.”

3. “On the one hand, the First World extracts love from the Third World. But what is being extracted is partly produced or “assembled” here: the leisure, the money, the ideology of the child, the intense loneliness and yearning for one’s own children.”

4. “... migration creates not a white man’s burden but, through a series of invisible links, a dark child’s burden.”

5. “Just as the market value of primary produce keeps the Third World low in the community of nations, so the low market value of care keeps the status of women who do it—and ultimately, all women—low.”

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