‘I Put Food on Everyone’s Table’: Food Provisioning and Domestic Work Across Three Generations of Black Women in Santiago de Cuba

Based on long-term ethnographic research, this talk draws on three generations of Black women from a low-income family in Santiago de Cuba. Hanna Garth details their household labor to feed the family, paid domestic labor cooking and cleaning in the homes of wealthier white Cubans, and entrepreneurial endeavors, such as raising pigs, and selling prepared food, as ways to generate income. She analyzes this within a broader phenomenon of “luchando la vida” (struggling for life) as Cuban families continue struggle to access food and maintain a decent quality of life as the socialist welfare state continues to falter in post-Soviet Cuba.

Hanna Garth (Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles) is a sociocultural and medical anthropologist. Garth’s scholarship is broadly focused on the ways in which marginalized communities struggle to overcome structural inequalities and prejudice as they attempt to access basic needs. She studies these questions in Latin America and the Caribbean, and among Black and Latinx communities in the United States. Garth has focused on the ways in which the global industrial food system affects food access inequalities.

Tues., Nov. 16, 5:00pm (EST), Zoom | Register HERE

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