

The Force of Domesticity



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Taking as her subjects migrant Filipina domestic workers in Rome and Los Angeles,

transnational migrant families in the Philippines, and Filipina migrant entertainers in Tokyo, Parreas documents the social, cultural, and political pressures that maintain womens domesticity in migration, as well as the ways migrant women and their children negotiate these adversities. Parreas examines the underlying constructions of gender in neoliberal state regimes, export-oriented economies such as that of the Philippines, protective migration laws, and the actions and decisions of migrant Filipino women in maintaining families and communities, raising questions about gender relations, the status of women in globalization, and the meanings of greater consumptive power that migration garners for women. The Force of Domesticity starkly illustrates how the operation of globalization enforces notions of womens domesticity and creates contradictory messages about womens place in society, simultaneously pushing women inside and outside the home.

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