

Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers, Second Edition

By Nicole Constable

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From reviews of the first edition:

"This ethnography is an indisputable contribution to both Asian studies and anthropology and a pioneering work in the field of transnational migration studies. I strongly recommend this lively and readable study of the complex lives of domestic workers in Hong Kong as a textbook for use in a variety of classes."?*American Ethnologist*

"An ethnography with a twist, in that it portrays the domestic workers in their own terms, speaking for themselves through their experiences and reactions, including the strategies of resistance developed by the workers."?*China Journal*

"Constable undertakes extensive naturalistic and participant observation. . . . The interviews are lively, presenting an array of experiences."?*China Quarterly*

"Maid to Order in Hong Kong is a stimulating and compellingly written book."?*American Anthropologist*

"The combination of analyses of the social structural forms of domination and the individual forms of resistance makes Constable's work insightful and useful."?*Signs*

Middle-class Chinese women in the global city of Hong Kong have entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers over the past three decades, and the demand for foreign domestic workers has soared. A decade ago some foretold the decline in foreign workers and the influx of mainland workers. But today over 120,000 women from the Philippines, over 90,000 from Indonesia, and thousands more from other parts of South and Southeast Asia serve as maids on two-year contracts in Hong Kong, sending much needed remittances to their families abroad.

Nicole Constable tells their story by updating *Maid to Order in Hong Kong* with a focus on the major changes that have taken place since Hong Kong's reunification with mainland China in 1997, the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s, and the outbreak of SARS in 2002-2003. Interweaving her analysis with the women's individual stories, she shows how power is expressed in the day-to-

day lives of Filipina domestic workers and more-recent Indonesian arrivals.

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Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers, Second Edition By Nicole Constable Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1097899 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cornell University Press
- Published on: 2007-10-11

- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.05" h x .68" w x 6.13" l, .83 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
"This book contains rich qualitative data and provides sophisticated analysis of the plights, resistance, and accommodation of domestic workers. The writing is highly engaging. I strongly recommend it to students of qualitative methodology, gender and migration studies, as well as to all those who are interested in agency and contestations of women, and who care about the struggles of the disadvantaged."?Catherine C. H. Chiu, Work and Occupations

From the Back Cover
"People interested in Hong Kong have discussed the `Filipina maid issue' and waited for someone to do a serious study. This book is such a study. Its audience, however, will certainly go beyond students of Hong Kong and the Philippines. Those interested in domestic workers, labor migrations, and questions of labor discipline will find this book relevant to their own work."--Rubie Watson, Harvard University

"The interest of this particular work goes way beyond the geographical area upon which Constable focuses, even though it is of course a must read for students of the Philippines and of Hong Kong. Perhaps Constable's greatest achievement resides in her ability to let different, at times disharmonious, voices be heard. Filipina workers do not speak in union of course and Constable succeeds in conveying the tormented complexity of each situation to her readers, because she is a superb ethnographer who is sensitive to nuances and subtleties in the lives of these Filipina workers for whom empowerment and oppression remain inextricably intertwined."--Jean-Paul Dumont, George Mason University (Anthropology)

About the Author
Nicole Constable is Professor of Anthropology and Research Professor at the University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail Order" Marriages and the editor of Cross-Border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia.

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