

ARC Future Fellowship

In Her Place: State intervention and Indigenous domestic service in Australia and the United States, 1880-1945

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Summary

From the late nineteenth century to the Second World War governments around Australia enacted and carried out policies involving the forcible placement and control of Indigenous girls and women in domestic service. Such state interventions had a major impact on race and gender relations but their significance for the shaping of the twentieth century nation are little understood. Offering a transnational analysis that compares the Aboriginal with the Native American experience of state intervention in domestic service, this project illuminates our national past, by showing the deeper significance of Indigenous women's place in the history of settler colonial nations.

Profile

Victoria Haskins is a Senior Lecturer in Australian History in the School of Humanities & Social Science, and an ARC Future Fellow. Educated at the University of Sydney (PhD 1999), she held her first academic position in History at Flinders University in South Australia, and before that at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. An historian of cross-cultural relationships and gender, she has published a number of articles and books in the field. Her aim and commitment is to contribute to a deeper understanding of the enmeshed histories of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and the impact of these complex historical connections on present-day race relations.

Victoria's most recent research project and the subject of her ARC Fellowship extends the consideration of cross-cultural histories of domestic labour beyond national confines. From the late nineteenth century to the Second World War governments around Australia enacted and carried out policies involving the forcible placement and control of Indigenous girls and women in domestic service. Such state interventions had a major impact on race and gender relations but their significance for the shaping of the twentieth century nation are little understood. Her project, 'In Her Place: State intervention and Indigenous domestic service in Australia and the United States, 1880-1945', offers a transnational analysis comparing the Aboriginal with the Native American experience of state intervention in domestic service, to illuminate our national past, by showing the significance of Indigenous women's place in the history of settler colonial nations.