**Week 9: Migrating Selves**

**Chandra Mohanty**, *“Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity”*

1. What are the problems with the term “Third World”? Is it outdated according to Mohanty?
2. Mohanty suggests that there is a “heterosexualization of women’s work – women are always defined in relation to men and conjugal marriage.” Are Lucy or Mariah defined solely by their relationship with men?
3. Mohanty poses the question: “How do women understand their own positions and construct meanings in exploitative job situations?” How would you answer this question? Are any of the characters in Lucy in an “exploitative job situation”? Are the characters that are exploited conscious of their exploitation? Do any of the characters resist their exploitation?
4. Mohanty concludes “homework is one of the most significant, and repressive forms of “women’s work” in contemporary global capitalism” (27). Do you agree? Is this a message that resonates in Kincaid’s Lucy?
5. Mohanty suggests that we should “understand the commonalities of experiences, histories, and identity as the basis for solidarity and in organizing Third-World women workers transnationally” (27). Are there any commonalities between the female characters of Kincaid’s Lucy? Do these commonalities enable solidarity?
6. Is there a “renewed politics of hope and solidarity” (29) by the end of the novel?

**Maria Mies**, *“Colonization and Housewifization”*

1. Is Lucy “foreign capital”? Is she exploited?
2. How does Kincaid portray “women’s work” in the novel, is it invisible?

**Pun Ngai**, *“Becoming Dagongmei: Subject, Gender and Power in a Global Workplace”*

1. According to Ngai the creation of a new industrial subject can be empowering. “The constitution of new selves and identities is an act of power, and a process of self-subjectivization, exclusion and displacement” (18) Is Lucy empowered by her move to the metropole?

**Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy***

1. How does Lucy escape this domestic world?
2. Where does Lucy fit within the global political economy?
3. What are the differences between her two homes?
4. Is Lucy’s role in the novel primarily to accommodate men, whether they are in the home, workplace or elsewhere?
5. Why does Lucy leave her job as an *au pair*?
6. Are the female characters in the novel complicit with male patriarchy?