

Road to California Domestic Worker Bill of Rights: Local Structure of Immigrants Social Movements and the Influences of National/International Struggles

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For a long time, the rights of domestic workers in the U.S. remained unprotected even after the establishment of a federal labor protection system during *the New Deal* era. Although the labor rights of domestic workers have been gradually recognized since the 1970s comprehensive protection for domestic workers at the national level is yet to be realized. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, local regimes of protection for domestic workers have been emerging in various states, such as N.Y., Hawaii, and California. These are intended to complement structural holes in national labor regulations but are still insufficient and differ significantly between states.

This presentation will focus on the *California Bill of Rights for Domestic Workers*, and the on-going struggle by domestic workers and their supporters who brought about its' implementation, in a state where two million households depend on the labor of domestic workers. This year domestic workers and their supporters in the state have succeeded in passing SB 1015 which made paid overtime a permanent feature of regulation for domestic workers. To understand this regional political struggle, I will examine the local structure of employer-employee relationships of domestic work involving large and diverse immigrant populations. I will then analyze the local structures of mobilization of immigrant domestic workers in the context of a series of organizing campaigns for immigrant workers who had been the least inclined to be organized, such as janitors, construction day laborers, and car washers. Against this backdrop, the process and conditions of alliance-building—between domestic workers, other immigrant workers, as well as those employing domestic workers—will be examined based on field research in Los Angeles and northern California. Finally, this presentation will elucidate the gap between local, national, and transnational efforts to create regulatory mechanisms for domestic workers. Through this analysis I will try to offer important lessons regarding the possibility of implementing local protection regimes in Japan.