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Speaker: **Dr. Cati Coe, Rutgers University**

Topic: ***Social Class in Transnational Perspective: Emotional Responses to the Status Paradox among Ghanaian Migrants***

Date: **Thursday, March 11th, 2021**

Time: **12:00 - 1:30 PM (EST)**

Place: **Zoom Webinar: [Register Here](#)**

All Are Welcome!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Cati Coe is a professor of anthropology at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on transnational migration, care, and education in West Africa. Her current book project is on changes in aging and elder care in Ghana. She is the author of *The New American Servitude: Political Belonging among African Immigrant Home Care Workers* (2019) and *The Scattered Family: African Migrants, Parenting and Global Inequality* (2013).

ABOUT THE TALK

Increasing interest in the middle class in Africa and the Global South has prompted new discussions of social class since 2010; however, this literature does not adequately theorize migration, treating social class solely within a national frame, despite the role that global flows play in cultivating class aspirations. Migration complicates the concept of social class as a stable identity, in that migrants usually have multiple class statuses across their lifetime, and in different social fields and geographic locations. Furthermore, class remains undertheorized within the literature on African migration and migration in general, despite the fact that class-making projects are central to migrants within, into, and out of Africa. Migrants often experience a low-class status in the countries to which they migrate and a middle-to-high one in their home country, because of their remittances. For Ghanaian migrant home health workers, their social class debasement in the United States leads to strong emotions about their class status. They mitigate their humiliation in their work through transnationalism, in which they direct their energy towards an alternative social field through house construction in Ghana. Their houses indicate both how the social fields in which they operate are de-linked, resulting in differing opportunities for social class mobility, and how social class positioning in one social field helps in another. I argue that both a national class analysis and an emergent global class hierarchy seem to make sense, simultaneously, of migrants' class projects.