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Cleaning house: New perspectives on Households and Economic Development

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Abstract

This paper provides a critical review of the recent literature on households and economic development. Three related points are developed: (1) household activities can be analyzed in economic terms, particularly if these terms are broadly defined to encompass such factors as risk and uncertainty; (2) significant differences between the economic position of men, women, and children within the patriarchal household mean that it cannot be treated as an undifferentiated unit of analysis; (3) microeconomic analysis of the household must be situated within a larger structural analysis of gender and age based inequalities and their interaction with class structure and national position within the world capitalist system.



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