



Au Pair

Daniel Miller, Zuzana Burikova

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DESCRIPTION

Many families leave their children for years to be looked after by young people about whom they know next to nothing, from places they have barely heard of. Who are these au pairs, why do they come and what is their experience of this arrangement? Do they, for their part, find that they are treated as one of the family, and would they even want to be? After a year of careful research, this book shows how most of our assumptions and expectations about au pairs are wrong.

This is the first book devoted to the lives of au pairs, their leisure as well as their work time. We see this world from the eyes of the visitors, and their unique perspective on what lies at the heart of our family life. The book does not flinch from documenting the realities of the situation – the racism and the problematic behaviour of the au pairs themselves, as much as the ignorance and exploitation they can be subject to. The book is a case study in how to come to feel modern life empathetically from the viewpoint of one of those many migrant groups we take for granted and rely on but rarely try to understand.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zuzana Búriková is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology SAV, Slovakia and Lecturer at Masaryk University, Czech Republic

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FEATURES

- Danny Miller is one of the leading anthropologists in the world today and is a key figure in the study of material culture.
- This book is unique: it is the first attempt to analyse in detail the life of the au pair and the families for whom they work.
- The book is based on a detailed ethnographic study of 50 au pairs and their host families in London.
- This should appeal to students working on topics related to domestic work, child care, family life and migration, as well as a wide general readership including people who have employed, or are thinking of employing, au pairs.

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