

the secret history of home economics

The Secret History of Home Economics

the secret history of home economics is a fascinating journey that unravels much more than just cooking and sewing lessons. While many of us might associate home economics with simple domestic skills taught in school, its origins and evolution tell a much richer story about society, education, gender roles, and economic empowerment. This article delves into the hidden layers of this discipline, exploring its roots, its impact on women's education, and how it quietly shaped modern household management and beyond.

Understanding the Roots: Where Did Home Economics Begin?

Home economics, as a formal field of study, may seem like a modern invention, but its foundations stretch back centuries. Historically, skills related to managing a household were passed down informally through generations, often among women. However, the secret history of home economics as an academic discipline begins in the late 19th century during a period of rapid industrialization and social change.

In the United States and Europe, the rise of factories and urban life prompted a need to rethink domestic life. Women were increasingly moving away from rural farming communities to cities, where managing a household became a different kind of challenge. It was during this time that pioneers like Ellen Swallow Richards, often called the "mother of home economics," began advocating for a scientific approach to household management.

The Role of Ellen Swallow Richards

Ellen Swallow Richards was a chemist and educator who believed that knowledge of science could revolutionize how families lived and worked together. She introduced the idea that home economics should not just teach cooking and cleaning, but also incorporate nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, and efficient resource management. Richards' vision was to elevate household work to a respected field backed by research and practical application.

Her influence led to the first home economics courses in universities and high schools, focusing on empowering women with skills that extended beyond traditional expectations. This blend of science and domesticity was revolutionary, helping transform the perception of home economics from mere chores to a discipline that contributed to public health and economic efficiency.

Home Economics and Women's Empowerment

One of the most intriguing aspects of the secret history of home economics is its connection to

women's empowerment and education. At a time when women's roles were largely confined to the home, home economics became a vehicle for broader social change.

Education and Economic Independence

Home economics provided women with practical skills that could lead to employment opportunities in teaching, dietetics, and institutional management. It was one of the few academic fields open to women in the early 20th century, offering a pathway to financial independence.

Moreover, by teaching women how to manage household resources more effectively, home economics played a subtle but powerful role in promoting economic literacy. Understanding budgeting, nutrition, and sanitation helped families improve their quality of life and health outcomes, which was especially vital during times of economic hardship such as the Great Depression.

Challenging Gender Norms

While some critics argued that home economics reinforced traditional gender roles, the secret history reveals a more nuanced picture. Many educators and reformers used home economics as a platform to challenge stereotypes by advocating for women's education and professional opportunities. Over time, the curriculum expanded to include child development, family relations, and consumer science, reflecting a broader understanding of women's roles in society.

The Evolution of Home Economics: From Domestic Science to Family and Consumer Sciences

As society evolved through the 20th century, so did home economics. The secret history of home economics includes its transformation and rebranding in response to changing cultural attitudes and economic realities.

Broadening the Curriculum

By mid-century, the field began to incorporate emerging scientific knowledge and social sciences. Courses started to include topics such as psychology, sociology, and even interior design. This shift acknowledged that managing a home was not just about physical tasks but also about understanding relationships, consumer behavior, and lifestyle choices.

The Name Change and Modern Identity

In the latter half of the 20th century, many institutions changed the name of their programs from

home economics to “family and consumer sciences.” This rebranding reflected a desire to modernize the field and make it more inclusive, covering a wide array of topics such as financial literacy, nutrition science, and community leadership.

This evolution also represented a break from the stereotype that home economics was only for women. Today, family and consumer sciences programs actively encourage students of all genders to learn skills essential for personal and professional success.

Why the Secret History Matters Today

Understanding the secret history of home economics offers valuable insights into how education shapes societal roles and personal well-being. It also sheds light on the ongoing importance of skills that, while sometimes overlooked, remain critical in everyday life.

Skills That Stand the Test of Time

Whether it's budgeting household expenses, preparing nutritious meals, or understanding consumer rights, the principles rooted in home economics continue to be relevant. In today's fast-paced world, such knowledge helps people make informed decisions that affect their health, finances, and quality of life.

Continuing Legacy in Modern Education

Many schools and universities still offer courses inspired by the original home economics curriculum, though often under the banner of family and consumer sciences. These programs emphasize sustainability, wellness, and technology integration, demonstrating the field's adaptability.

Bridging Past and Present

The secret history of home economics reminds us that what might seem like simple domestic skills have deep historical and cultural significance. They reflect broader themes of social progress, scientific advancement, and empowerment. Recognizing this legacy can inspire current and future generations to appreciate and expand upon the foundations laid by early home economists.

Practical Tips Inspired by Home Economics' Legacy

Drawing from the rich history of home economics, here are a few timeless tips that anyone can apply to improve their daily life:

- **Plan meals thoughtfully:** Use nutrition principles to create balanced, budget-friendly menus that reduce waste.
- **Budget wisely:** Track expenses and prioritize spending to maintain financial health.
- **Prioritize hygiene and sanitation:** Simple practices can prevent illness and promote well-being.
- **Manage time efficiently:** Organize household tasks to create a balanced routine that reduces stress.
- **Embrace lifelong learning:** Stay curious about new developments in nutrition, consumer science, and family dynamics.

These practices echo the original goals of home economics—to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed for a healthy, efficient, and fulfilling life.

The story behind home economics is far richer and more complex than many realize. It highlights an intersection of science, education, and social change that quietly shaped how generations manage their homes and lives. By appreciating this secret history, we gain a deeper understanding of the value embedded in everyday skills and the enduring impact of this unique field.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Secret History of Home Economics' about?

It explores the overlooked and complex history of home economics, revealing how the field has influenced education, gender roles, and social policies.

Who is the author of 'The Secret History of Home Economics'?

The book is authored by Danielle Dreilinger, a journalist who investigates the origins and impact of home economics.

Why is home economics considered 'secret' or hidden in history?

Because its contributions to social reform, labor, and education have often been minimized or ignored, despite its significant influence on American society.

How did home economics shape women's education historically?

Home economics provided women with practical skills and scientific knowledge, legitimizing their education during times when female academic opportunities were limited.

What role did home economics play in social reform movements?

It was instrumental in promoting public health, nutrition, and household management, contributing to broader social improvements.

How has the perception of home economics changed over time?

Once seen as a crucial field for women's empowerment and scientific management of the home, it later suffered from stereotypes and diminished status in education.

What were some key figures in the history of home economics?

Notable pioneers include Ellen Swallow Richards, who applied chemistry to home management, and Catherine Beecher, an early advocate for women's education.

How did home economics influence public policy?

Home economists contributed to policies on nutrition standards, child welfare, and consumer protection, affecting legislation and public programs.

Is home economics still relevant today?

Yes, its principles are reflected in modern fields like family and consumer sciences, nutrition, and sustainability education.

What insights does 'The Secret History of Home Economics' offer about gender and labor?

It reveals how home economics both reinforced and challenged traditional gender roles by professionalizing domestic work and advocating for women's education and economic participation.

Additional Resources

The Secret History of Home Economics: Unveiling a Discipline Beyond the Kitchen

the secret history of home economics reveals a complex narrative that extends far beyond the typical association with cooking and sewing. Often dismissed as a mere vocational subject or a relic of a bygone era, home economics has historically played a pivotal role in shaping societal norms, gender roles, and educational reforms. This investigative article delves into the origins, evolution, and cultural impact of home economics, shedding light on its multifaceted legacy and the subtle ways it has influenced modern education and domestic life.

The Origins and Early Development of Home Economics

Home economics emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a formal field of study aimed at applying scientific principles to household management. Rooted in the domestic science movement, its inception was closely tied to progressive educational reforms and the broader social agenda of improving public health, nutrition, and efficiency within the home.

One of the pioneers, Ellen Swallow Richards, is often credited with founding the discipline. A chemist by training, Richards advocated for the use of scientific methods to optimize household tasks, promoting hygiene and nutrition as essential components of family well-being. Her work laid the groundwork for what would become a nationwide push to professionalize and legitimize domestic work through education.

From Domestic Science to Home Economics

The term “home economics” was popularized in the early 1900s, signaling a shift from purely scientific inquiry to a more holistic approach that encompassed family relations, consumer education, and community welfare. This evolution was not just semantic but reflected a strategic effort to broaden the scope of the discipline to include social and economic dimensions of home life.

Institutions such as Cornell University and the University of Chicago established dedicated departments, offering curricula that combined practical skills with scientific study. This period also saw the rise of extension programs and the involvement of government agencies, emphasizing home economics as a tool for societal improvement, especially in rural and underserved communities.

Home Economics and Gender Roles: A Double-Edged Sword

While home economics advanced educational opportunities for women, it also reinforced prevailing gender norms by framing domestic responsibilities as women’s work. This duality is central to understanding the secret history of home economics; it empowered women with knowledge and skills but simultaneously maintained the status quo of gendered labor divisions.

Empowerment Through Education

For many women in the early 20th century, home economics was one of the few academic fields available that acknowledged and validated their experiences. It provided a platform for women to engage with science and management concepts, fostering leadership and expertise that extended beyond the home.

Moreover, home economics courses often incorporated elements of economics, psychology, and sociology, offering a multidisciplinary education that prepared women for roles as consumers, caretakers, and community organizers. This broadened perspective challenged the notion that

domesticity was purely instinctual or uneducated labor.

Reinforcing Traditional Norms

Conversely, the curriculum and cultural messaging embedded in home economics frequently emphasized women's primary responsibility for family care and household management. By institutionalizing these expectations, the discipline contributed to the social construction of femininity centered on nurturing and service.

Some critics argue that home economics served as a mechanism of social control, channeling women's ambitions into acceptable domestic roles and limiting their access to broader professional opportunities. This tension highlights the complex legacy of home economics as both a tool for advancement and a reinforcement of traditional gender roles.

Home Economics in the Modern Era: Evolution and Challenges

As societal attitudes toward gender roles and education have evolved, so too has home economics. The late 20th and early 21st centuries witnessed significant transformations in curriculum, nomenclature, and professional focus, reflecting changing cultural values and economic realities.

Transition to Family and Consumer Sciences

Many institutions have rebranded home economics as Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) to better represent the contemporary emphasis on diverse family structures, consumer literacy, and life skills relevant to all genders. This shift also aims to destigmatize the discipline and attract a wider student demographic.

The modern FCS curriculum typically includes topics such as financial planning, nutrition, human development, and sustainable living. This interdisciplinary approach aligns with current societal needs, addressing issues like health disparities, environmental concerns, and economic uncertainty.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite these adaptations, Family and Consumer Sciences programs often struggle with public perception and funding. The enduring stereotype of home economics as outdated or trivial undermines efforts to position the discipline as vital for practical education in areas such as personal finance, food security, and wellness.

However, the resurgence of interest in skills like cooking, budgeting, and sustainable living amid economic challenges and health crises presents opportunities for renewed relevance. Integrating technology and research-based methodologies could further enhance the appeal and impact of

modern home economics education.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

The secret history of home economics is also a story about cultural influence. Beyond formal education, the principles propagated through home economics have permeated advertising, public policy, and popular media, shaping consumer behavior and societal expectations about family life.

Influence on Consumer Culture

Home economists were instrumental in developing consumer education programs that guided purchasing decisions and promoted product safety standards. Their expertise helped establish labeling laws, nutritional guidelines, and appliance standards that continue to affect everyday life.

Shaping Public Health and Nutrition

Educational campaigns rooted in home economics have historically contributed to public health improvements by promoting hygiene, balanced diets, and food preservation techniques. These initiatives have been particularly impactful during wartime rationing and the Great Depression, underscoring the discipline's practical significance.

Reflection in Popular Media

From early 20th-century magazines to contemporary cooking shows, the ethos of home economics has influenced how domestic skills are portrayed and valued. This media representation has at times reinforced stereotypes but also celebrated domestic expertise as a form of cultural capital.

In uncovering the secret history of home economics, it becomes clear that what might seem like a simple school subject is actually a rich tapestry woven from science, social reform, gender politics, and cultural dynamics. Its evolution mirrors broader societal changes, offering valuable insights into how education intersects with everyday life and identity.

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the secret history of home economics: The Secret History of Home Economics Danielle Dreilinger, 2021-05-04 Deeply researched and crisply written. —Margaret Talbot, *The New Yorker* The surprising, often fiercely feminist, always fascinating, yet barely known, history of home economics. The term “home economics” may conjure traumatic memories of lopsided hand-sewn pillows or sunken muffins. But common conception obscures the story of the revolutionary science of better living. The field exploded opportunities for women in the twentieth century by reducing domestic work and providing jobs as professors, engineers, chemists, and businesspeople. And it has something to teach us today. In the surprising, often fiercely feminist and always fascinating *The Secret History of Home Economics*, Danielle Dreilinger traces the field’s history from Black colleges to Eleanor Roosevelt to Okinawa, from a Betty Crocker brigade to DIY techies. These women—and they were mostly women—became chemists and marketers, studied nutrition, health, and exercise, tested parachutes, created astronaut food, and took bold steps in childhood development and education. Home economics followed the currents of American culture even as it shaped them. Dreilinger brings forward the racism within the movement along with the strides taken by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators. She also looks at the personal lives of home economics’ women, as they chose to be single, share lives with other women, or try for egalitarian marriages. This groundbreaking and engaging history restores a denigrated subject to its rightful importance, as it reminds us that everyone should learn how to cook a meal, balance their account, and fight for a better world.

the secret history of home economics: US History in 15 Foods Anna Zeide, 2023-01-12 From whiskey in the American Revolution to Spam in WWII, food reveals a great deal about the society in which it exists. Selecting 15 foods that represent key moments in the history of the United States, this book takes readers from before European colonization to the present, narrating major turning points along the way, with food as a guide. *US History in 15 Foods* takes everyday items like wheat bread, peanuts, and chicken nuggets, and shows the part they played in the making of America. What did the British colonists think about the corn they observed Indigenous people growing? How are oranges connected to Roosevelt’s New Deal? And what can green bean casserole tell us about gender roles in the mid-20th century? Weaving food into colonialism, globalization, racism, economic depression, environmental change and more, Anna Zeide shows how America has evolved through the food it eats.

the secret history of home economics: Edmund J. James and the Making of the Modern University of Illinois, 1904-1920 Winton U Solberg, J. David Hoeveler, 2024-11-12 In 1904, Edmund J. James inherited the leadership of an educational institution in search of an identity. His sixteen-year tenure transformed the University of Illinois from an industrial college to a major state university that fulfilled his vision of a center for scientific investigation. Winton U. Solberg and J. David Hoeveler provide an account of a pivotal time in the university’s evolution. A gifted intellectual and dedicated academic reformer, James began his tenure facing budget battles and antagonists on the Board of Trustees. But as time passed, he successfully campaigned to address the problems faced by women students, expand graduate programs, solidify finances, create a university press, reshape the library and faculty, and unify the colleges of liberal arts and sciences. Combining narrative force with exhaustive research, the authors illuminate the political milieu and personalities around James to draw a vivid portrait of his life and times. The authoritative conclusion to a four-part history, *Edmund J. James and the Making of the Modern University of Illinois, 1904-1920* tells the story of one man’s mission to create a university worthy of the state of Illinois.

the secret history of home economics: An Introduction to the History of Human Development and Family Science Andrea Roach, Ashley Ermer, 2025-05-02 This comprehensive textbook offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the history of human development and family science. It provides insights from home economics, sociology and psychology to explain and analyze how the field was established and how it is developing and showcases the contribution of its unique transdisciplinary nature. Expert authors cover key topics and highlight historical contributions from women, scholars of color and LGBTQIA scholars; they emphasize and incorporate research that cuts

across cultures; and examine current human development and family science trends in research and careers in their chosen fields. Subjects and issues covered include historical and contemporary studies of child development, adolescent development and young adulthood, adulthood and aging, family science, marriage formation and maintenance, parenthood, divorce, the role of grandparents and sibling relationships. Exploring how human development and family science can be used as a springboard into careers such as marriage and family therapy, social work, case management, teaching and research, this essential textbook is for all students of human development and family science.

the secret history of home economics: Food Futures in Education and Society Gurpinder Singh Lalli, Angela Turner, Marion Rutland, 2023-07-11 This book brings together a unique collection of chapters to facilitate a broad discussion on food education that will stimulate readers to think about key policies, recent research, curriculum positions and how to engage with key stakeholders about the future of food. Food education has gained much attention because the challenges that influence food availability and eating in schools also extend beyond the school gate. Accordingly, this book establishes evidence-based arguments that recognise the many facets of food education, and reveal how learning through a future's lens and joined-up thinking is critical for shaping intergenerational fairness concerning food futures in education and society. This book is distinctive through its multidisciplinary collection of chapters on food education with a particular focus on the Global North, with case studies from England, Australia, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, Canada and Germany. With a focus on three key themes and a rigorous food futures framework, the book is structured into three sections: (i) food education, pedagogy and curriculum, (ii) knowledge and skill diversity associated with food and health learning and (iii) food education inclusivity, culture and agency. Overall, this volume extends and challenges current research and theory in the area of food education and food pedagogy and offers insight and tangible benefits for the future development of food education policies and curricula. This book will be of great interest to students, scholars, policymakers and education leaders working on food education and pedagogy, food policy, health and diet and the sociology of food.

the secret history of home economics: Eating More Asian America Robert Ji-Song Ku, Martin F. Manalansan, Anita Mannur, 2025-04-08 The diversity of Asian American food culture Asian American-inspired foods are everywhere—or so it seems. A decade ago, chop suey, sushi, curry, adobo, and kimchi were emblematic of Asian American culinary influence. Today, boba, ube, bibingka, phở, matcha, gochujang, and málà have joined the roster of foods strongly associated with Asian Americans. These foods were once considered exotic but now are embraced by mainstream culture. Food studies continues to be an appetizing area of Asian American studies. Eating More Asian America is a follow-up to the influential Eating Asian America, and it provides a rich illustration of the intersection of Asian America and its various foodways. The book posits that food is never simply sustenance—the comestible material that provides fuel for our bodies. Rather, food is a way of knowing, a way of being, and a way of understanding. The essays in Eating More Asian America convey the intellectual richness of various foodways as they intersect with and inform the racial and political construct known as “Asian America.” The twenty-one essays in this volume reflect the diversity of Asian America itself as well as the subfield of food studies. The volume not only offers coverage in terms of topics and types of ethnic food, it also provides a rich and impressive array of methodological approaches. A veritable feast for the senses, Eating More Asian America explores the myriad ways critical eating studies has developed over the past decade.

the secret history of home economics: The Thinking Professional Sue L. T. McGregor, 2025-09-24 This book concerns any progressive discipline and human profession looking to transform its practice via the cultivation of thinking professionals. Topics include paradigm shifts, the human condition, transdisciplinarity, the holomovement principle, philosophical well-being, perspective transformation and transformative social change agency.

the secret history of home economics: The Science of Housework Ann Oakley, 2024-07-25 In an era of pandemic infection, the importance of hygiene at home and in public spaces has never

been greater. This book recaptures the buried history of the household science movement, including domestic science teaching, public health, higher education for women and the scientific content and aims of domestic science courses. It explores how it was viewed in the context of new public health concerns and as a driver to opening higher education to women, raising questions about the legacy and modern relevance of the household science movement.

the secret history of home economics: *The Secret History of the Five Eyes* Richard Kerbaj, 2022-09-01 'A seminal history' - The Wall Street Journal 'Gripping and shocking' - Tim Shipman, author of *All Out War* 'An extraordinary development' - The Times 'An impressively detailed account of a remarkable alliance' - Jeremy Bowen, *The New Statesman* 'A remarkable book . . . delves into the fascinating individuals involved.' Daily Beast THE TIMES BEST POLITICAL BOOKS OF 2022 Despite being one of the world's most powerful intelligence networks, the Five Eyes has been steeped in secrecy since its formation in 1956. The international intelligence collaboration between Britain, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, has shaped global events since its inception - and continues to do so to this day. Over eight decades, the alliance's agencies, including the CIA, FBI, MI5, MI6, GCHQ, and ASIO, have swapped secrets and tradecraft, and pooled resources. From Nazi hunters and World War II codebreakers, to spymasters and political leaders embroiled in the recent security crisis around Russia and Ukraine, they have shared a common purpose and common enemy, in spite of a mutual mistrust. In this revised and updated edition, Richard Kerbaj expertly weaves together stories of this extraordinary alliance and the unlikely cast of characters who have played a crucial role in its history. Impeccably researched and including interviews with world leaders and intelligence officials, *The Secret History of the Five Eyes* is a major contribution to the literature of international intelligence. _____ 'Reveals in great detail how the U.S. intelligence community closed ranks during Trump's first term in office.' The Wall Street Journal 'The story of this non-binding marriage of convenience through its most compelling personalities.' The Globe and Mail 'This thought-provoking and informative book suggests that the era of globetrotting lone agents such as James Bond is long gone.' - Sydney Morning Herald 'The stories Kerbaj tells reveal ... a story of failure - of missing warnings that could have prevented atrocities, of misusing intelligence to start a war' - Observer 'Scintillating ... full of scoops ... by focusing on the human relationships which are the beating heart of the Five Eyes, Kerbaj has made a singular contribution to the intelligence discourse. It's a service to democracy.' - The Australian 'Kerbaj ... has chronicled the history of the Fives Eyes spy network. His list of interviewees speaks for itself - several former heads of MI5, MI6, GCHQ, the CIA, four former British and Australian prime ministers, and myriad other current and former spooks. But this account is unencumbered by any sense of an agreed or official narrative (the usual price for this level of journalistic access).' - Gabriel Pogrund, Whitehall Editor, The Sunday Times 'Sensational' - Nigel Nelson, Political Editor, The Mirror 'An impressively detailed account of a remarkable alliance' - Jeremy Bowen, *The New Statesman* 'Examines decades of intelligence sharing' - The Telegraph 'Reopen[s] the debate' - The Times 'Explosive' - The World News

the secret history of home economics: Learning for Work Connie Goddard, 2024-09-24 Founded in 1883, the Chicago Manual Training School (CMTS) was a short-lived but influential institution dedicated to teaching a balanced combination of practical and academic skills. Connie Goddard uses the CMTS as a door into America's early era of industrial education and the transformative idea of "learning to do." Rooting her account in John Dewey's ideas, Goddard moves from early nineteenth century supporters of the union of learning and labor to the interconnected histories of CMTS, New Jersey's Manual Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth, North Dakota's Normal and Industrial School, and related programs elsewhere. Goddard analyzes the work of movement figures like abolitionist Theodore Weld, educators Calvin Woodward and Booker T. Washington, social critic W.E.B. Du Bois, Dewey himself, and his influential Chicago colleague Ella Flagg Young. The book contrasts ideas about manual training held by advocate Nicholas Murray Butler with those of opponent William Torrey Harris and considers overlooked connections between industrial education and the Arts and Crafts Movement. An absorbing merger of history and

storytelling, Learning for Work looks at the people who shaped industrial education while offering a provocative vision of realizing its potential today.

the secret history of home economics: The Proof Is in the Dough Kathryn L. Beasley, 2025-01-15 The Proof Is in the Dough examines how rural white and African American women in Alabama and Florida used the Cooperative Extension Service's home demonstration programming between 1914 and 1929 as a means to earn extra income. Kathryn L. Beasley explores an area of rural women's history that has not been closely examined—that is, how rural American women involved with home demonstration used the skills they learned as a way to better themselves economically. Furthermore, Beasley traces how this extra income allowed these women to shape their own producing and consuming habits. While most home demonstration programming during the Progressive Era and 1920s focused on ways to save money—among other objectives—rural women in Alabama and Florida used different strategies to earn more money and gain some economic independence. Beasley's research shows how Alabama and Florida's rural women exercised their own determination and resourcefulness to create ways to economically sustain themselves by using food, tangible items, handicrafts, small businesses, and more to their advantage. However, while there were similarities in how these rural women earned extra money, the states in which they lived differed in important agricultural ways. Florida offered a wider variety of growing and environmental seasons and, as a result, a larger diversity of crops. By taking a comparative approach—both Florida versus Alabama and Black versus white—Beasley details the unique and innovative ways that rural southern women applied their considerable agricultural and domestic skills to improve their lives and the lives of their families. In so doing, she also reveals how disposable income helped establish ideas of empowerment and financial independence in the years before the economic struggles of the 1930s.

the secret history of home economics: Creating Digital Exhibits for Cultural Institutions Emily Marsh, 2023-03-28 Creating Digital Exhibits for Cultural Institutions will show you how to create digital exhibits and experiences for your users that will be informative, accessible and engaging. Illustrated with real-world examples of digital exhibits from a range of GLAMs, the book addresses the many analytical aspects and practical considerations involved in the creation of such exhibits. It will support you as you go about: analyzing content to find hidden themes, applying principles from the museum exhibit literature, placing your content within internal and external information ecosystems, selecting exhibit software, and finding ways to recognize and use your own creativity. Demonstrating that an exhibit provides a useful and creative connecting point where your content, your organization, and your audience can meet, the book also demonstrates that such exhibits can provide a way to revisit difficult and painful material in a way that includes frank and enlightened analyses of issues such as racism, colonialism, sexism, class, and LGBTQI+ issues. Creating Digital Exhibits for Cultural Institutions is an essential resource for librarians, archivists, and other cultural heritage professionals who want to promote their institution's digital content to the widest possible audience. Academics and students working in the fields of library and information science, museum studies and digital humanities will also find much to interest them within the pages of this book.

the secret history of home economics: Designing the Domestic Posthuman Colbey Emmerson Reid, Dennis M. Weiss, 2023-12-28 Ever since TIME magazine's 1983 'Man of the Year' was the PC, we have been led to believe that our domestic spaces have been colonized by digital technology. Too little attention has been paid to the domestic spaces and inhabitants impacted by this, and critical posthumanism has been captured by a picture of humanity overly indebted to digital technologies and their largely male progenitors. By applying feminist theory to posthumanism, this work recovers the plethora of sophisticated human-technology mediations associated with the home and practiced primarily by women, the elderly, infants, the disabled and across cultures globally, challenging dominant, contemporary visions of a future humanity. Authors Dennis M. Weiss and Colbey Emmerson Reid look at various iterations of the posthuman and assert the need for alternative, feminist readings that emphasize different standpoints from which to assess

people, places, and products. Chapters address the impact of posthumanism on design theory and look at familiar domestic objects, with different attributes from those typically affiliated with technology and the future, such as clothing, textiles, ceramics, furniture and wallpaper. They reveal their unhomely, extra-human qualities and offer a much-needed perspective on domestic spaces and practices, revivifying the home as a site of species transformation and pushing beyond traditional understandings of person, mothering, families and care-giving to highlight a range of critically-overlooked mediated materialisms and embodiments affiliated with domestic space. By focusing on the neglected intersection of the posthuman with the home and exploring domestic posthuman design, *Designing the Domestic Posthuman* offers a vision of a future humanity that retains identity, integrity and considers our relationship to others, to the world and things in it. This book widens the lens of critical focus in posthumanism, feminist philosophy and design and presents an alternative, inclusive design framework for the future.

the secret history of home economics: *Health Extension* Cheryl L. Eschbach, Elizabeth H. Weybright, Jeffrey W. Dwyer, 2024-12-01 *Health Extension: Community-Based Healthcare and the Future of Cooperative Extension* explores innovation in extension health programs, engaged scholarship promoting research-based information in communities, and the evaluation and documentation of community programs and their impacts. This volume provides land-grant and university-based colleagues up-to-date information on using the Cooperative Extension System (CES) for community engagement in healthcare while also familiarizing those outside CES and the academy with a roadmap for improvement. The contributions of a diverse array of scholars challenge the status quo in extension programs by characterizing the introspection, understanding, creativity, partnerships, and leadership that will be required to improve lives and communities in the twenty-first century. This perspective underscores the role of CES as foundational to the future of Health Extension and offers an alternative to approaches that utilize the CES as a model without the accompanying advantages of history, community embeddedness, and sustainability.

the secret history of home economics: *Strong Passions* Barbara Weisberg, 2024-02-20 “Riveting.... Weisberg tells a story that fiction could not touch.” —Liesel Schillinger, *New York Times Book Review*? Shocking revelations of a wife’s adultery explode in an incendiary nineteenth-century trial, exposing upper-crust New York society and its secrets. What could possibly go wrong in a wealthy matriarch’s country home when her dilettante son, his restless wife, and his widowed brother live there together? *Strong Passions*, rooted in the beguiling times of Edith Wharton’s “old New York,” recounts the true story of a tumultuous marriage. In 1862, Mary Strong stunned her husband, Peter, by confessing to a two-year affair with his brother. Peter sued Mary for divorce for adultery—the only grounds in New York—but not before she accused him of forcing her into an abortion and having his own affair with the abortionist. She then kidnapped their young daughter and disappeared. The divorce trial *Strong v. Strong* riveted the nation during the final throes and aftermath of the Civil War, offering a shocking glimpse into the private world of New York’s powerful and privileged elite. Barbara Weisberg presents the chaotic courtroom and panoply of witnesses—governess, housekeeper, private detective, sisters-in-law, and many others—who provided contradictory and often salacious testimony. She then asks us to be the jury, deciding each spouse’s guilt and the possibility of a just resolution. Social history at its most intimate, *Strong Passions* charts a trial’s twists and turns to portray a family and country in turmoil as they faced conflicts over women’s changing roles, male custody of children, and men’s power—financial and otherwise—over wives.

the secret history of home economics: *Imaging Animal Industry* Emily Kathryn Morgan, 2024-08-23 *Imaging Animal Industry* focuses on the visual culture of the American meat industry between 1890 and 1960. It describes how, during that period, photographs and other images helped to shape public perceptions of industrial-scale meat production. Although the meat industry today bans most photography at its facilities, in the past this was not always the case: the meat industry not only tolerated but welcomed cameras. Meatpacking companies and industry organizations regarded photographs as useful tools for creating and managing a vision of their activities, their

innovations, and their contributions to the march of American economic and industrial progress. Drawing on archival collections across the American Midwest, this book relates a history of the meatpacking industry's use of images in the early to mid-twentieth century. In the process, it reveals the key role that images, particularly photographs, have played in assisting with the rise of industrial meat production.

the secret history of home economics: The Garretts of Columbia David Nicholson, 2024-01-09 A fascinating excursion into a past that, though relatively recent, has long been hidden from view.—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) • 2024 Women's National Book Association Great Group Reads pick A multigenerational story of hope and resilience, *The Garretts of Columbia* is an American history of Black struggle, sacrifice, and achievement. At the heart of David Nicholson's beautifully written and carefully researched book, *The Garretts of Columbia: A Black South Carolina Family from Slavery to the Dawn of Integration*, are his great-grandparents, Casper George Garrett and his wife, Anna Maria. Papa, as Garrett was known to his family, was a professor at Allen University, a lawyer, and an editor of three newspapers. Dubbed Black South Carolina's most respected disliked man, he was always ready to attack those he believed disloyal to his race. When his quixotic idealism and acerbic editorials resulted in his dismissal from Allen, his wife, who was called Mama, came into her own as the family bread winner. She was appointed supervisor of rural colored schools, trained teachers, and oversaw the construction of schoolhouses. At 51, this remarkable woman learned to drive, taking to the back roads outside Columbia to supervise classrooms, conduct literacy drives, and instruct rural farm women in the basics of home economics. Though Papa and Mama came of age in the bleak Jim Crow years after Reconstruction, they believed in the possibility of America. Resolutely supporting their country during the First World War, they sent three of their sons to serve. One son wrote a musical with Langston Hughes during the Harlem Renaissance. Another son became a dentist. A daughter earned a doctorate in French. And the family persevered. But, for all that Papa and Mama did to make Columbia a nurturing place, their sons and daughters joined the Great Migration, scattering north in search of the freedom the South denied them. The Garretts embraced the hope of America and experienced the melancholy of a family separated by the search for opportunity and belonging. On the basis of decades of research and thousands of family letters—which include Mama's tart-tongued observations of friends and neighbors—*The Garretts of Columbia* is family history as American history, rich with pivotal events viewed through the lens of the Garretts's lives.

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in the public sphere and the agenda of actors who performed such representations. This book argues that the central form of the mediation of home technologies was the projection of specific "sociotechnical imaginaries" that included visions of how these technologies would have an impact on the creation of a desirable future social order and economy. Later, such imaginaries were re-negotiated and challenged as infeasible or undesirable. The author demonstrates how expert groups, the industry lobby, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations attempted to secure their role as intermediary actors in order to have a tangible impact on not only the production of commodities, but more importantly, on the definition of which commodity, or a product feature, is modern and innovative and which is obsolete.

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