Family and Friends in Eighteenth-Century England

Household, Kinship, and Patronage

Naomi Tadmor

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Synopsis

This book concerns the history of the household in eighteenth-century England. Tadmor provides a new interpretation of concepts of household, family and kinship through an analysis of contemporary language (in diaries, conduct treatises, novels by Richardson and Haywood, and other sources). She uncovers a vibrant language of kinship which recasts our understanding of the eighteenth-century novel in constructing notions of the family, and shows how ties of “friendship” formed vital racial, economic and political networks.

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Tadmor’s discussion of the household in constructing notions of the family in the eighteenth century is supplemented by her analysis of contemporary language (in diaries; conduct treatises; novels by Richardson and Haywood; and other sources). She emphasizes the importance of the household in constructing notions of the family, and shows how ties of “friendship” formed vital racial, economic and political networks.

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