This talk will explore the history of Home Economics in higher education from the 1920s-1970s. Through a close analysis of the career of Dr. Flemmie P. Kittrell, the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in Home Economics, this presentation will discuss how the field was more diverse, progressive, and internationally minded than has been imagined. Challenging the notion that these experts were merely “homeward bound,” Horrocks will explore the range of women’s activisms within this field, giving new meaning to domestic politics in the 20th century.

Allison Horrocks is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Connecticut. For her work on the history of Home Economics, she received the Dean’s Fellowship in Human Ecology from Cornell University in 2013. Her advisor is Professor Micki McElyea.