

# Humanitarianisms

Part of the Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series 2020-2021

## Basit Kareem Iqbal & China Scherz

### Webinar

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 3:30-4:30pm (Pacific Time)

registration required: <https://bit.ly/SawyerSem-Feb18>

### Basit Iqbal, “Ambivalence and Askesis in Zaatari Refugee Camp”

As he recounted the conditions of his life, an Islamic pedagogue in Zaatari refugee camp distinguished between the registers of divine tribulation and affliction, between the duties and capacities of the subject. This paper draws on the anthropology of humanitarianism and literature on political theology in order to understand his ethical project.

### China Scherz, “Seeking the Wounds of the Gift: Recipient Agency in Catholic Charity and Kiganda Patronage”

It is often claimed that gifts of charity contain hidden dangers for those who receive them. This lecture challenges such a reading by exploring instances of beneficiary agency in the context of charitable exchange. These instances complicate arguments about charity and humanitarianism which see charitable gifts as inevitably harmful.

This webinar is part of the Winter Quarter theme, “Comparative Humanitarianisms”

More information about the series at [humanitarianisms.org](http://humanitarianisms.org)

**Basit Kareem Iqbal** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at McMaster University. He studies displacement, refuge, and theodicy in the wake of the Syrian uprising.

**China Scherz** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Having People, Having Heart: Charity, Sustainable Development, and Problems of Dependence in Uganda* (University of Chicago Press, 2014). She specializes in medical anthropology, the anthropology of ethics, and the anthropology of religion.

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Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by February 8, 2021 to Caitlin Palo, 206-685-5260, [scevents@uw.edu](mailto:scevents@uw.edu).