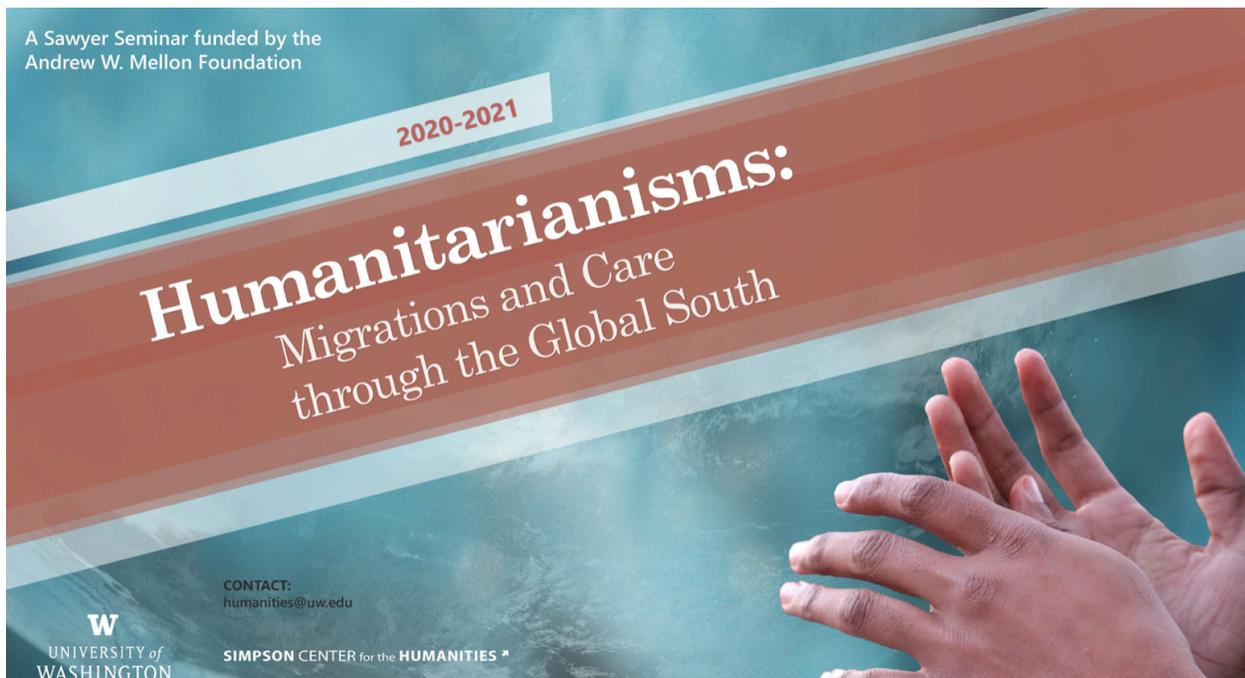


# HUM 597C: Humanitarianisms Part II: Comparative Humanitarianisms

Winter 2021 | remote micro-seminar | University of Washington

**Time:** Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30 pm PST



**Instructor:** Cristian Capotescu, Postdoctoral Scholar, Simpson Center for the Humanities ([cc20@uw.edu](mailto:cc20@uw.edu))

**Office hours:** Wednesdays | 12:30 – 1:30 pm PST or by appointment

*This micro-seminar is part of the series: Humanitarianisms: Migrations and Care through the Global South.*

## **Introduction**

This micro-seminar is the second in a three-part series of micro-seminars offered in conjunction with a Simpson Center for the Humanities-sponsored Sawyer Seminar *Humanitarianisms: Migrations and Care through the Global South*. The following question will guide this quarter's micro-seminar: What non-Western humanitarian logics shape when and how communities provide care and refuge to migrants or victims of emergencies?

This micro-seminar will explore non-Western ideologies, movements, values, or beliefs that underlie a concern with the suffering of distant others. We will engage a genealogical study of humanitarianism that begins not with European moral sentiments from the eighteenth century but with the traditions, philosophies, and values, such as service, hospitality, gift-giving, or mercy, which preceded and influenced such moral reasoning. A significant body of inquiry establishes these connections through the examination of faith-based aid networks. Our focus here is rather than to take for granted that such efforts stand to the side of "real" humanitarianism, these practices may indeed underlie and legitimate practices of care as they have developed and as they function as a part of daily experiences and ethical ideals of both care-givers and care-receivers.

This comparative approach to the study of humanitarianism allows us to consider "vernacular" or "daily" humanitarianisms by exploring the new global humanitarian project as one founded on hybrid formations of the management of care through practices that recognize human suffering, the labor, and principles of providing care, and the transformations produced through exchanges of material and affective expressions of care. As five of the six top host states for forced migrants are Muslim-majority countries, examining how people articulate Islamic values as both a force of faith and as a source of intellectual knowledge that underwrites logics of care will be a crucial focus of this section on Comparative Humanitarianism. Because this Seminar goes beyond the study of charitable organizations in comparative humanitarian practices, our focus will be on inviting speakers who will address the ethical systems, logics, and rationalities of care that underlie everyday practices of humanitarianism as a form of caring labor across cultural and religious traditions in the Global South.

## **Objectives**

The aim of such reorientations (de-centering migration and de-colonizing care) is to transform our perspectives on humanitarian care and integrate the diverse rationalities and forms of expertise that underlie them.

Each of you is engaged in your research project. This micro-seminar will be flexible and accommodate your intellectual aims through direct meetings, conversations, and assignments towards your larger projects.

### **Requirements, Grading, and Evaluation**

Students will be asked to (1) participate in synchronous discussion sessions on the days noted; (2) submit reading reflections (500-word min.) before each synchronous session; (3) attend (synchronously or asynchronously) the webinars slated for the Winter 2021 Sawyer Seminar.

Grading is Credit/No Credit and will be based on class participation and reading responses. More information will be provided in the first session.

### **Texts**

Readings consist of one or two articles per synchronous session. I will post articles on Canvas one week before we meet for class discussion. Webinars will take place live and remotely on the dates designated below. You will also be able to view a visual recording asynchronously beginning on the Monday after the live event.

### **Dates**

January 14	Introduction
January 21	Live Webinar
January 28	Class Discussion
January 4	Live Webinar
February 11	Class Discussion
February 18	Live Webinar
February 25	Class Discussion & Conclusion

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 1 - January 14: Introduction to HUM 597C**

### **Week 2 - January 21: Webinar (no class meeting)**

Watch webinar live or asynchronously:

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, "Shifting the Gaze: Southern-led Humanitarian Responses to Displacement"

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM PST

Register here: [https://washington.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LVh1r71RTL95NrymdSstg](https://washington.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LVh1r71RTL95NrymdSstg)

Assigned reading:

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, "Introduction: Faith-Based Humanitarianism in Contexts of Forced Displacement," in *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 24, No. 3, 429-439.

Due: Post response paper to Canvas by 11:59 pm, Tuesday, January 19

### **Week 3 - January 28: Class Discussion**

### **Week 4 - February 4: Webinar (no class meeting)**

Watch webinar live or asynchronously:

Amira Mittermaier, "God, Humans, and an Islamic Ethics of Care" & Sienna R. Craig, "From Earthquakes and Empowerments to Pandemics: Tibetan Medical Humanitarianisms"

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM PST

Register here: <https://bit.ly/SawyerSem-Feb4>

Assigned reading: (choose at least one)

Sienna R. Craig et al., Sowa Rigpa Humanitarianism: Local Logics of Care within a Global Politics of Compassion, in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol. 34, Issue 2, pp. 174-191.

Amira Mittermaier, Introduction, *Giving to God. Islamic Charity in Revolutionary Times* (University of California Press, 2019).

Due: Post response paper to Canvas by 11:59 pm, Tuesday, February 9

**Week 5 - February 11: Class Discussion**

**Week 6 - February 18: Webinar (no class meeting)**

Watch webinar live or asynchronously:

Basit Kareem Iqbal, "Ambivalence and Askesis in Zaatari Refugee Camp" & China Scherz, "Seeking the Wounds of the Gift: Recipient Agency in Catholic Charity and Kiganda Patronage"  
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM PST  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/SawyerSem-Feb18>

Assigned reading:

Basit Kareem Iqbal, *Theorizing Humanitarianism for an Islamic Counterpublic* (read [here](#))

China Scherz (TBD)

Due: Post response paper to Canvas by 11:59 pm, Tuesday, February 23

**Week 7 - February 25: Class Discussion & Conclusion**