

HUMANITARIANISMS: MIGRATIONS AND CARE THROUGH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Teaching Module for 1 Class Unit

Comparative Humanitarianisms in Egypt and the Himalayas

Amira Mittermaier presents argues that caring for those in need is a central pillar of Islam. But caring for is not necessarily the same as caring about. Drawing on fieldwork in informal spaces of giving in post-2011 Egypt, this talk lays out an Islamic ethics of care—one not driven by compassion or pity but centered on divinely prescribed rights & responsibilities. Sienna R. Craig asks: How does “humanitarianism” surface in contexts that are primarily non-biomedical & that emerge from Tibetan Buddhist worldviews? What ideals, materials, & practices shape such encounters? Building on ethnographic research that focuses on Tibetan medical camps in India & Nepal, & incorporating recent events related to Tibetan medical responses to COVID-19 in North America & Asia, Craig considers how local logics of care intersect with a global politics of compassion.

Webinar:

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

▷ Watch [here](#).

Short Description:

Amira Mittermaier and Sienna Craig discuss comparative humanitarianisms in Egypt and the Himalayas. Both articulate the need to move away from human-centric, conventional humanitarianisms by bringing to light the Islamic, Tibetan, and Himalayan logics of giving and aid in Egypt, Himalayas, and the U.S.

Readings:

- Mittermaier, A. (2014). Bread, freedom, social justice: the Egyptian uprising and a Sufi Khidma. *Cultural Anthropology*, 29(1): 54–79.
- Craig, S., Gerke, B., Sheldon, V. (2019). Sowa Rigpa Humanitarianism: Local Logics of Care within a Global Politics of Compassion. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

**Optional Readings can be added here.*

Assignments:

1. Fill out the Study Guide.
2. Write two discussion questions on the Discussion Board.
3. Write a 2-3 page response paper using one of the following prompts: "Reflect on the non-human centric ethics of care driven by divine inspiration offered by the speakers and examine how it challenges the Western logics of humanitarian care."