

HUMANITARIANISMS: MIGRATIONS AND CARE THROUGH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Teaching Module for 1 Class Unit

Islamic Ethics of Refugee Care in Syria and Recipient Agency in Catholic Charity in Uganda

Basit Iqbal discusses how 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 talk draws on the anthropology of humanitarianism and literature on political theology in order to understand his ethical project. China Scherz highlights that it is often claimed that gifts of charity contain hidden dangers for those who receive them. Her talk challenges such a reading by exploring instances of beneficiary agency in the context of charitable exchange. These instances of asking, giving, and receiving complicate arguments about charity and humanitarianism which see charitable gifts as inevitably harmful.

Webinar:

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."

▷ Watch [here](#).

Short Description:

In this webinar, Basit Kareem Iqbal and China Scherz discuss comparative humanitarianisms in Jordan and Uganda. They ask us to explore a new global humanitarian project as one founded on diverse practices that recognize human suffering, the labor and principles of care, and the material and affective expressions of caring. Iqbal and Scherz invite us to examine the ethical systems, logics, and rationalities that underlie everyday practices of humanitarianism across cultural and religious traditions in the Global South.

Readings:

- Scherz, C. (2013). Let us make God our Banker: Ethics, Temporality, and Agency in a Ugandan Charity Home, *American Ethnologist* 40 (4): 624-636.
- Iqbal, B. (2019). Theorizing Humanitarianism for an Islamic Counterpublic, *Alegra lab*, ▷ access [here](#).

**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:
 - “In what ways does Basit Iqbal disrupt the conventional understanding of aid provision?”
 - “How do the case studies China Scherz examines in her talk prompt us to rethink dependency in a different light?”