

# HUMANITARIANISMS: MIGRATIONS AND CARE THROUGH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Teaching Module for 1 Class Unit

## Palestinian Rights and the Postcolonial Origins of Refugee Rights

Ilana Feldman argues that Palestinians have long insisted both that humanitarianism is a right and that it entails specific obligations. Although the idea of humanitarian rights might seem an oxymoron, Palestinian efforts show that even as such demands may not have the force of law, they have, at least sometimes, been effective in changing practice. Pamela Ballinger shows that a rich body of scholarship has highlighted the particularistic and Eurocentric nature of the 1951 Convention. Less studied, however, are the ways in which the refugee definition also excluded many European displaced persons from recognition. Ballinger's talk recuperates the complex efforts to categorize displacees in the Italian peninsula in the early postwar period, notably migrants produced by Italian decolonization. The Italian case offers an alternative history to the Convention, one that further provincializes (to employ Chakrabarty's term) the regime of international law and assistance developed around the Convention.

### Webinar:

Ilana Feldman, "Humanitarian Rights and Palestinian Presence" & Pamela Ballinger: "Provincializing the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees."

▷ Watch [here](#).

### Short Description:

In this webinar, the panelists Pamela Ballinger and Ilana Feldman discuss how refugees—international and internally displaced, recognized and unrecognized by various institutions—shape the political, legal, ethical, and lived worlds of humanitarianism and human rights.

### Readings:

- Feldman, I. (2018). *Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics*. Oakland, California: University of California Press. Retrieved January 23, 2021, ▷ access [here](#).
- Ballinger, P. (2020). *Introduction to The World Refugees Made: Decolonization and the Foundation of Postwar Italy*. Ithaca; London: Cornell University Press.

### Optional Readings:

- Ballinger, P. (2007). *Borders of the Nation, Borders of Citizenship: Italian Repatriation and the Redefinition of National Identity after World War II*.

Comparative Studies in Society and History, 49(3), 713-741. Retrieved January 23, 2021, ▸ access [here](#).

- Feldman, I. (2009). Gaza's Humanitarianism Problem. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 38(3), 22-37.

**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 the following prompt: “In what ways do Feldman and Ballinger’s works disrupt the conventional Humanitarian logics?”