

HUMANITARIANISMS: MIGRATIONS AND CARE THROUGH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Teaching Module for 1 Class Unit

Rescuing the Dead and Rethinking the Human

Sinan Antoon argues that material and discursive resources and energies are dedicated (insufficiently and unequally) to rescue the living from harm, and to tend to their wounds. But what of the dead? What can we, the living, learn from the rituals and traditions of tending to the dead and to their wounds? Beyond the corporeal, encounters with the ghosts and memories of the dead raise crucial political questions about the ways in which humans inhabit this world. Al-Ma'arri cautioned us a millennium ago to “tread gently, for the soil of this earth is made of these corpses.” This talk will summon al-Ma'arri's ghost, among others, to address these questions.

Webinar:

Sinan Anton, "Rescuing the Dead."

▷ Watch [here](#).

Short Description:

Sinan Antoon discusses rescuing the dead and rethinking the human to explore how the inequalities that characterize and persist in human life endure in death and grief, as well. Antoon asks us to think of war's collateral damage as a black hole into which worlds disappear and from which not even the dead are safe.

Readings:

- Antoon, S. (2012). Chapter 6. “What Did the Corpse Want?” Torture in Poetry. In J. Carlson & E. Weber (Ed.), *Speaking about Torture* (pp. 99-108). New York, USA: Fordham University Press, ▷ access [here](#).
- Antoon S. (2019). *The Book of Collateral Damage*, translated from the Arabic by J. Wright. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. P. 20-23 & 106-108.

**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: “Explore

what ethical relationships and moral stakes Antoon's usage of the phrase 'rescuing the dead' unearths."