Reading Tawfiq Canaan: Against Statelessness as Method, Towards Statelessness as Technology

Researchers Khaled Malas and Nadine Fattaleh’s inquiry into an assemblage of ‘talismanic objects’ collected in the first decade of the twentieth century by Dr Tawfiq Canaan—a Palestinian physician, scholar, and collector today remembered for his groundbreaking ethnographic work on Palestinian folklore and ‘superstition’—is a foray into understanding the heritage of Palestinians who shared spaces and lifestyles with natural and perpetual forces that offered gifts and presented demands upon their bodies, communities, and land.

These reading, in Malas and Fattaleh’s words, “will help us think hard about our preferences and expectations from texts generally, and scholarship in particular. We admit some of these texts are tedious, whilst others are dense. Some you may find unusual, whilst others are frankly offensive and disturbing. All are worth our attention. All may contribute to our understanding of the efficacy of Canaan’s collections and its potential in contemporary Palestinian struggles.”

The reading list forms the preliminary source material for their workshop, Reading Tawfiq Canaan: Against Statelessness as Method, Towards Statelessness as Technology, and is organised into sections, reflecting the themes of the sessions.

Reading list:

Introduction


Background on Tawfiq Canaan and his Collections


Technologies & Things


Spaces


Healing from the Land


**Conclusions: Pending Questions and Responsibilities**


