



Sacred Cures: Situating Medicine and Religion in Asia

Part of the Project *Charting Interior and Exterior Worlds* in Department III

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin May 2-4, 2016

This workshop brings together specialists in the intersection of religion and medicine in the Himalayas and East, South, and Southeast Asia. We will examine what work has been done by the terms medicine/religion, or related binaries such as medicine/healing or classical/vernacular. What is clarified or distorted when these categories are mapped onto other languages, periods and regions? We will explore commonalities across regions and across time, working from the classical to the contemporary. How do scholars and cultural actors alike produce “medicine” and “religion” as fields and as methods? Taking stock of recent gains in the field, we will discuss remaining areas for study, and compare and refine the tools and terms that might be used in that endeavour.

Participants have been invited to address the following areas:

1. **Historiography:** How has the religion/medicine question been framed by different academic communities?
2. **Materials:** What primary sources or archives are available for the given historical periods and/or cultural contexts, and how these afford different kinds of analysis of the question?
3. **Means:** What moments, encounters, processes, practices, and relationships produce or reveal significant (re)structurings of medicine and religion?

Speakers

Pre-Modern/Classical-Medieval

Donald Harper, Vivienne Lo, Michael Slouber, Katja Triplett, Tu Aming & Joey Hung

Early Modern

Leslie DeVries, Angelika Messner, Projit Mukharji, Katharina Saberning

Modern/Contemporary

Celine Coderey, Elisabeth Hsu, Helen Lambert, Geoffrey Samuels, Mona Schrempf

Closing remarks

Judith Farquhar & Kenneth Zysk

Abstracts may be downloaded from the MPIWG website [here](#).

In order to maximize discussion, papers will be pre-circulated, and no presentations will be made in the workshop. We welcome you to attend, but please register with Chaonan Zhang <czhang@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de> to be sent the papers when they are prepared.

Best wishes,

Dr. Michael Stanley-Baker
Berlin Center for the History of Knowledge,
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Dr. Pierce Salguero,
Assistant Professor of Asian History & Religious
Studies, Penn State University