

Panel proposal for the 13<sup>th</sup> Seminar of IATS: Ulaanbaatar 2013

### **Medicine and Astrology between Tibet, Mongolia and China, late 17th - early 20th centuries**

Over the past decade there has been a significant amount of new research on the topic of *gso ba rig pa* that has greatly advanced the field. In particular, this research has tended to focus on three pivotal points of historical development: the formation of a native medical tradition in Tibet (ca. 12th century), the synthesis of diverging medical lineages and institutionalization under the Fifth Dalai Lama and Desi Sanggyé Gyatso in Lhasa (17th century), and the fate of medicine in Tibet and exile during the 20th century. This panel will bring together recent scholarship on an era of medical history that has been less considered, especially within the Western academy, between Desi Sanggyé Gyatso's founding of Chakpori - the famous medical monastery in Lhasa - in 1696, and contemporary times. These dynamic two centuries are especially notable for great activity in medicine and its related discipline, astrology, outside of central Tibet, and for the flourishing of *sman pa grwa tshang* and *dus 'khor grwa tshang* in Amdo, Mongolia and Buryatia. Tibetan and Mongolian medical scholars also took part in intellectual exchanges in the imperial centers of Qing China, and benefitted from Tibet's placement at the center of various trade routes connecting inland Asia. This vibrant exchange of ideas, practices, and *materia medica* begs a re-evaluation of *gso ba rig pa* as a system during this time, for its internal debates and permeability as well as for its distinctive resources to act as a bridge between cultures.

Panel organizer: Stacey Van Vleet (sav2109@columbia.edu)

Paper presentations:

1. Thubten Phuntsok, Minzu University of China and Southwest University for Nationalities (Senior Professor)
  - On the difference between Tibetan and Chinese medicine  
བོད་ཀྱི་གསོ་བ་རིག་པའི་གཞུང་ལུགས་ཀྱི་ཁང་ཚོས་འགའ་ཞིག་བཤད་པ།
2. Natalia Bolsokhoeva, Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Senior Research Fellow)
  - Ringzin Sambu Danzhinov (1826-1923) - Buryat amchi and astrologer from the Aginsk Manba Datsan
3. Lhusham Gyal, Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College (Professor and Dean)
  - Research on the medical achievements of Sumpa Yeshé Peljor  
སུམ་པ་ཡེ་ཤེས་དཔལ་འབྱོར་གྱི་གསོ་རིག་མཛད་རྗེས་ཐད་ཀྱི་ཞིབ་འཇུག།
4. Kunchok Gyaltsen, Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College (Assoc. Professor), Kumbum Monastery Tibetan Medical Hospital (Executive Director), Tibet Healing Fund (Founder, Senior Manager), University of California-Los Angeles (PhD)
  - Tibetan and Mongolian medical figures at Kumbum monastery, and the shift from individual to institutional medical practice
5. Yangga, Tibetan Medical College Lhasa (Assistant Professor), Harvard University (PhD)
  - The history and current practice of Tibetan medical bath therapy
6. Yumpa, Institute of Tibetan Astro-science and Traditional Tibetan Medicine (Director and Associate Research Fellow)

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- On the *Rgya rtsis chen mo* and some aspects of Chinese astrology  
ཐུ་རྩིས་ཆེན་མོ་དང་ཐུ་རྩིས་ཀྱི་ཐད་ལ་རྩུང་བཅད་དུངས།
- 7. Dhondup Drotsang (Duan zhi), Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College, Lanzhou University (PhD Candidate), Qinghai Tibetan Medical Hospital/ Arura Tibetan Medical Group (Vice-Director)
  - Tsangmen Yeshé Tsangpo, a Tibetan medical scholar living in Amdo's Mongolian areas in the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- 8. Lhamo kyi, Lanzhou University (PhD Candidate)
  - The *dus 'khor grwa tshang* of Labrang monastery
- 9. Barbara Gerke, Humboldt University of Berlin (Principal Investigator, DFG-funded research project), University of Oxford (D.Phil & M.Sc.)
  - Purifying metals - Purifying the land: Mercury preparation practices in Tibet during the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- 10. Katharina Sabernig, Medical University of Vienna Center for Public Health Unit Ethnomedicine and International Health (Lecturer), Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Science (Associated Researcher)
  - Counting bones and moving joints at the Medical College in Lhasa in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century?
- 11. Alessandro Boesi, Faculté de Médecine de Marseille, Unité d'Anthropologie et Adaptabilité Biologique (PhD)
  - Plant Therapeutic Properties According to a Tibetan Materia Medica Manuscript
- 12. Stacey Van Vleet, Columbia University (PhD Candidate)
  - Envisioning medicine between Tibet, Mongolia and China in the *Mdzes mtshar mig rgyan* and its 16-19<sup>th</sup> century Tibetan and Chinese sources

Respondents:

1. Janet Gyatso, Harvard University (Hershey Professor of Buddhist Studies)
2. Johan Elverskog, Southern Methodist University (Professor and Chair of Religious Studies)