



Entangled Knowns and Unknowns: Rethinking Knowledge in Medical Past

Tübingen, June 27-28, 2025

As part of the *China Wissen und Nichtwissen* series at China Centrum Tübingen, this mini-workshop explores the circulation, transformation, challenges and uncertainties of knowledge in the realm of medicine. While classical texts and long-standing traditions have shaped the foundations of Chinese medicine, historical shifts, cross-cultural exchanges, and epistemic crises have continuously reshaped its landscape.

How did physicians navigate between established knowledge and new discoveries? How were medical ideas reinterpreted, challenged, or even lost over time? What tools and techniques did they employ to investigate the mysteries of the human body?

Bringing together young scholars, this workshop provides a platform to examine the transmission of medical knowledge across different historical contexts, fostering discussion on how ideas, practices, and theories evolved through dynamic processes of adaptation and exchange.

Location: China Centre Tübingen, Hintere Grabenstraße 26, 72070 Tübingen

Friday, 27th of June 2025

morning Arrival in Tübingen

13 - 15, c.t. **Dr. Yijie Huang** (University of Heidelberg)

The Drifting Touch and the Multiple Tangibility: Rethinking Pulse Diagnosis between Early Modern China and Europe

15 - 15.30 Coffee Break

15.30 - 17 Exhibition Tour: **Anatomy Unbound**

Old Anatomy (Alte Anatomie) | Österbergstraße 3 | 72074 Tübingen

17 - 18 City Walk

18 - 20 Dinner

Restaurant: 1821, Wilhelmstraße 3, 72074 Tübingen

Hotel: Hotel Konzept, Horemer 16, 72076 Tübingen

Saturday, 28th of June 2025

8.30 - 9.30 Breakfast

9.30 - 10.15 Xinyu Zheng (Tübingen): Diagnosing with the Cosmos: Disease Classification under Epistemic Crisis in Late Imperial China

10.15 - 11.00 Ruixuan Du (Marburg/MPIWG): Is Liver on the Left or on the Right? Visualizing the Internal Organs in the Seventeenth-Century China

11.00 - 11.45 Ruihao Zhang (Hamburg): Jingyan 經驗 Revisited: A Puzzling Concept in Modern Chinese Medicine

12.30 - 13:30 Lunch

Restaurant: Collegium, Lange Gasse 8, 72070, Tübingen

13:30 - 15:00 Roundtable Discussion

Departure

left: Calligraphy: Knowing and Not-Knowing 知與不知 by Dan-Wei Zhu-Mittag

right: art based on n.a. 1969. *A Compendium of Materials on the Treatment Methods of the New Medicine Commanded by Mao Zedong Thought* 毛泽东思想統帥新医疗法资料汇编. Internal publication provided for educational purposes. Beijing: Beijing shi weishengju geming lingdao xiaozu and Beijing di er yixueyuan geweihui.

Image (below):

Character of book title of the medical book *Shiyi tongbian yaofa* 世医通变要法 by Ming-Dynasty physician Ye Tingqi 叶廷器, 1993 reprint by Zhongyi guji chubanshe 中医古籍出版社 of Ming Dynasty 1539 print, photographed by Emily Graf, September 23, 2024 at the library of the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences (IHNS), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS).

