



Knowns and Unknowns in the Medical Landscapes of China's Past and Present

Nachtreffen der China-Kolleg Arbeitsgruppe 1
"Medicine & Health in Mao's China: A Global History Approach" der
Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes

Tübingen, May 20-21, 2025

Faculty of Humanities
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies
Department of Chinese Studies

Medicine & Health in China's Past and Present

This is a follow-up meeting to the Arbeitsgruppe 1 "Medicine & Health in Mao's China: A Global History Approach" of the China-Kolleg, organized by the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, that brought us together in Berlin from September 30 to October 5, 2024. In this spring meeting in Tübingen, we connect to our previous focus on the Mao era by discussing the methodological opportunities and challenges that we encounter when working with medical archival materials in our research on China's presence in Africa. Andrea Kifyasi will share his first-hand experiences in accessing archives in China and Tanzania. Next we go back in history to the Republican Period, when dissection as a scientific method in gaining anatomical knowledge was first introduced to and institutionalized in China, gaining insights in what Chinese medical students experienced when studying in the dissection room. And finally we reflect on these insights from the history of medicine and discuss our findings in the context of the current challenges and opportunities that Artificial Intelligence, E-Health and Intelligent Health Care introduce to China in contemporary times.

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

Tuesday, 20th of May 2025

morning Arrival in Tübingen

12-3pm ct. **Dr. Andrea Kifyasi** (Dar es Salaam University / LMU)

"Researching China's Presence in Africa: Uncovering Methodological Opportunities and Challenges"

3pm-4pm Coffee break

4pm-6pm **Assoc. Prof. Dr. David Luesink** (Sacred Heart University)

"Chinese Students in the Dissection Room: Locating Anatomical Knowledge"

6:30-9pm Dinner

Restaurant: Neckarmüller, Gartenstraße 4, 72074 Tübingen

Hotel: Hotel Meteora, Weizsäckerstraße 1, 07071 Tübingen

Wednesday, 21th of May 2025

Hotel Meteora breakfast

9am -11 am **Ideas Workshop on “E-Health in China”**

noon Sightseeing, free afternoon, exploring Tübingen

afternoon Departure

Stipendiaten der Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes:

- Till Finkbeiner (Wirtschaftsingenieurwesen, RWTH Aachen)
- Jule Langen (Allg. Sprachwissenschaft, LMU München)
- Paul Haney (Physik, Universität Heidelberg)
- Dominic Ho (Medizin, Universität Würzburg)
- Leon Rauschnig (Bioinformatik, LMU München)
- Noah Ryll (VWL, Universität Münster)

Images (above):

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).

