

This workshop raises questions about the diversity and sustainability of health knowledge. With its focus on China, it challenges Eurocentric analytical frameworks and claims of universality woven into past histories of medicine and scientific health knowledge that focused on narrations of progress. Instead of discussing health solely in the context of professional scientific medical knowledge and its history, this workshop seeks to venture into the spheres beyond professionalism and orthodox medical knowledge.

It seeks to explore how multiple agents and practitioners from various fields of expertise participated in shaping knowledge of health around the world. It examines social practices of medicine outside the modern concept of the hospital or laboratory, instead venturing into spaces of health in the house, in the people's commune or local community, and in everyday life. These spaces have played key roles in the making of global health knowledge both in the past and in the present, requiring a workshop which incorporates historical and contemporary perspectives, bridging a modern/premodern divide which still shapes analytical approaches in various disciplines when working on health knowledge.

Pictures

Healthcare and prevention of disease in Communist China. Colour Lithographs, 1950s. Source: Wellcome Collection.

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pevckyg4/items?canvas=6>

Conference Venue

Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen Schloss
Hohentübingen
Burgsteige 11, 72070 Tübingen

Conference Hotel

Hotel Krone
Uhlandstr. 1, 72070 Tübingen

Participation

Only possible with registration

Organisation

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PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT
Department of Chinese Studies

Beyond Professionalism

Global Knowledge of Health
in the House, the Commune,
and the Everyday

October 6-7, 2025

Fürstenzimmer

Schloss Hohentübingen

Monday, 6 October

09:00 **Welcome: HUANG Fei & Emily Graf**

09:15 **Keynote 1: Paul U. Unschuld (Charité Berlin University)**

Beyond Professionalism: A View on the Status of Competence-Past and Present

10:15 *Group Photo and Coffee & Tea Break*

Medical Curses, Magic and Cosmology

Chair: Achim Mittag (Tübingen University)

10:45 **CHANG Chia-feng (National Taiwan University)**

Frightened by Strangers: Rethinking of *Keyu* in Pre-Modern Chinese Medical Literatures

11:25 **ZHENG Xinyu (Tübingen University)**

More Than Diagrams: Modeling the Cosmos in Medical Primers

12:05 **Regula Forster (Tübingen University)**

Magical Medicine: Islamic Medicine beyond Galen

12:45 *Lunch (Catering on-site)*

Healing Waters and Trees

Chair: Carola Lorea (Tübingen University)

14:00 **HUANG Fei (Tübingen University)**

Knowledge and Local Practice of Healing Springs in Early Modern China

14:40 **Christina Brauner (Tübingen University)**

Early Modern Spas as Sites of Contested Knowledge: A Small Place in the German-Dutch Borderlands and its Global Connection

15:20 **Patrick Aberle (Tübingen University)**

Oil trees in Chinese Materia Medica (*bencao*)

16:00 *Coffee & Tea Break*

Integrating the Traditional and Modern

Chair: Karin Polit (Tübingen University)

16:30 **XIAO Fulian (Fudan University)**

Knowledge and the Frontier: Missionary Investigations and Writings on Local Medicine in Southwest China

17:10 **Holger Cramer (Tübingen University)**

Translating Traditions: The Integration of Traditional Medicine into the German Healthcare System

17:50 **Gabriele Alex (Tübingen University)**

Medical Diversity in South India: Practice, Choices, and Social Stratification

19:00 *Dinner: Restaurant Ludwigs, Uhlandstr. 1*

Tuesday, 7 October

09:00 **Keynote 2: FANG Xiaoping (Monash University)**

Beyond Professionalism within Professionalism: The Actors, Contexts, and Resilience of Folk Health Practices in Mao's China and after

10:00 *Coffee & Tea Break*

Medical Pluralism on the Ground

Chair: Nadja Klopprogge (Tübingen University)

10:30 **ZHANG Meng (University of Manchester)**

Connecting humans and animals: The Mask-muzzle entanglement and the vernacularisation of health technologies in East Asia (1880-1950)

11:10 **Emily Graf (Tübingen University)**

Gearing Up with the Bare Necessities: A Material Approach to the Barefoot Doctor's Medical Equipment (1968-1983)

11:50 **SU Jingjing (Peking University)**

Reconfiguration of Breastfeeding Recommendations in China: Class Struggle and Politics of Lactation (1966-1976)

12:30 *Lunch (Catering on-site)*

13:30 **General Discussion & Project Application**

15:00 *"Stocherkahn" (punting boat) along the Neckar River and City-Tour*

18:00 *Dinner: Gasthaus Bären, Schmiedtorstr. 3*