



MEDICINE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Explorations on Tibetan Grounds

Edited by Vincanne Adams, Mona Schrempf, and Sienna R. Craig

Summary

There is a growing interest in studies that document the relationship between science and medicine—as ideas, practices, technologies and outcomes—across cultural, national, geographic terrain. Tibetan medicine is not only known as a scholarly medical tradition among other Asian medical systems, with many centuries of technological, clinical, and pharmacological innovation; it also survives today as a complex medical resource across many Asian nations—from India and Bhutan to Mongolia, Tibet (TAR) and China, Buryatia—as well as in Western Europe and the Americas. The contributions to this volume explore, in equal measure, the impacts of western science and biomedicine on Tibetan grounds—i.e., among Tibetans across China, the Himalaya and exile communities as well as in relation to globalized Tibetan medicine—and the ways that local practices change how such “science” gets done, and how this continually hybridized medical knowledge is transmitted and put into practice. As such, this volume contributes to explorations into the bi-directional flows of medical knowledge and practice.

“...an excellent contribution to the literature on Tibetan medicine in the context of modernity and globalization... The editors do an exceptional job at framing the analyses provided in specific chapters.” · **Craig Janes, Simon Fraser University, BC**

“...an excellent volume with many important contributions that fit together well.” · **Frances Garrett, University of Toronto**

About the Editors

Vincanne Adams is Professor and Director of the University of California San Francisco Graduate Program in Medical Anthropology (joint with UC Berkeley). Her books include *Tigers of the Snow and Other Virtual Sherpas* (Princeton 1996), *Doctors for Democracy* (Cambridge 1998), *Sex and Development* (with Stacy Pigg, Duke 2005), and she has authored numerous articles on Tibetan Medicine, modernization, research translation, and women’s health based on field research in Central and Eastern Tibet.

Mona Schrempf is Research Fellow and part-time Lecturer at the Central Asian Seminar at Humboldt University Berlin, the Horst-Görtz-Institute for Chinese Life sciences, Charité University Medicine, Berlin, and the South Asia Institute at the University of Heidelberg. She has edited several books on Tibetan medicine, health and more general on modernity—*Soundings in Tibetan Medicine. Anthropological and Historical Perspectives* (Brill 2007); *Studies of Medical Pluralism in Tibetan History and Society* (International Institute for Tibetan and Buddhist Studies 2009); *Figurations of Modernity. Global and Local Representations in Comparative Perspective* (Chicago University Press 2008).

Sienna R. Craig is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College. She is the author of *Horses Like Lightning: A Story of Passage through the Himalayas* (Wisdom Publications, 2008), and the co-editor of *Studies of Medical Pluralism in Tibetan History and Society* (IITBS forthcoming). Her work has also appeared in scholarly journals, including *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*; *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*; *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*, and the *European Bulletin for Himalayan Studies*.

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Mona **SCHREMPF**
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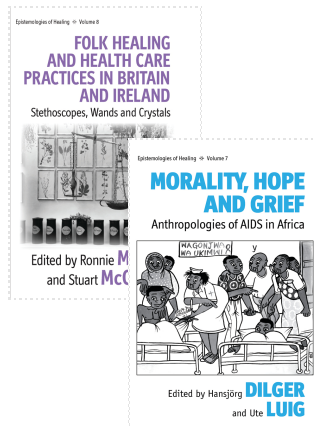
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