

Call for Papers

## TRANSFORMING TIBETAN ANATOMY

Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

12th and 13th of June 2014



Organisation: Katharina Sabernig

A symposium to discuss the origins of Tibetan knowledge of anatomy and physiology within the general context of medical knowledge in Asia will be held in Vienna. The initial focus will be the remarkable development which took place in Tibet in the seventeenth century. This was closely connected with the name of Dar-mo sman-rams-pa Blo-bzang-chos-grags (1638-1710?), an outstanding physician and anatomist who wrote pharmacological texts and played an important role in advancing the medical understanding of the body in Lhasa during his time. Interestingly, similar developments took place in China at around the same period. Jesuits and other Christian missionaries who used anatomical texts and paintings for their own purposes had a stimulating effect on medical knowledge especially during the later Ming and early Qing Dynasties.

These historical developments have given rise to the idea of studying the spread and development of medical knowledge and anatomical paintings in Asia in a broader perspective. Researchers of various disciplines with different language skills – physicians, historians, philologists, and anthropologists – are invited to present their findings on the scope, transfer and perception of medical and anatomical knowledge. The symposium is interdisciplinary in its approach and forms part of a project supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) on the anatomical findings of the Tibetan physician named above (P 26129-G21). Contributions to the understanding of how medical knowledge was transferred and transformed across Asia are most welcome as well as findings regarding points of contact and transmission. Given the fact that Tibetan medicine developed by absorbing a whole range of surrounding influences, contributions on the history of such influences of Greek, Byzantine, Arabic, Islamic, Indian, Central Asian, or other origin will form a central focus of the symposium.

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