

1-Day Symposium

MERCURY: 'ELIXIR OF LIFE' OR 'POISON'?

PURIFICATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN MEDICAL SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND ASIA



Friday, May 4, 2012

Convener: Dr. Barbara Gerke

9:00-12:30 MERCURIAL MEDICINES IN EUROPE, INDIA & JAPAN

9:00 Tea/Coffee

9:15-10:00 The use of mercury and other toxic substances in western medicine

PROF. ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, senior research fellow in the History of Medicine, Cambridge University

10:00-10:45 The use of mercury compounds as therapies for syphilis in Tokugawa Japan

DANIEL TRAMBAIOLO, Ph.D. Candidate, History of Science, Princeton University, USA

10.45 -11:00 Break

11:00-11:45 *Rasakarpūra*, or the making of a miracle medicine

DR. DAGMAR WUJASTYK, postdoctoral research fellow at the URPP Asia and Europe, University of Zürich

11:45-12:30 The politics of toxicity in Ayurveda

DR. MADHULIKA BANERJEE, Dept. of Political Science, Delhi University, India

14:00-17:30 SOME LEGAL ISSUES, AND MERCURY PURIFICATION IN TIBETAN MEDICINE

14:00-14:45 Legal aspects of the contemporary medical use of aconite and mercury in Germany

PROF. JÜRGEN ASCHOFF (University of Ulm), MD (Neurology & Psychiatry)

14:45-15:30 Understanding ideas of toxicity in mercury formulations in Tibetan medicine

DR. SONAM DOLMA (Tibetan doctor), Men-Tsee-Khang, Dharamsala, India

15:30-16:00 Tea/Coffee

16:00-16:45 'Purified Ash': Specific mercury preparations in Tibetan medicine

DR. BARBARA GERKE, Medical Anthropologist, Zentralasien-Seminar, IAAW, Humboldt University, Berlin

16:45-17:30: On the history of the purification and use of mercury in Tibetan medical writing

DR. OLAF CZAJA, Tibetologist, Leipzig University

Venue: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften

Zentralasien-Seminar, Invalidenstr. 118, Room 315, 3rd Floor

(Please note: Entrance only through Schlegelstr. 26; S-Bahn Nordbahnhof; U6 Naturkundemuseum)

All are welcome! The Symposium will be held in English.