

International Symposium

***Women as Visionaries, Healers and Poisoners –
Autonomous Female Religious Specialists in Tibet, the Himalayas and Inner Asia***

Central Asian Seminar, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin

Berlin, 3rd - 5th May 2013

Convener: Toni Huber (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Organisers: Mona Schrempf (University of Westminster, London) and Nicola Schneider (CRCAO, Paris)

Venue: Humboldt Graduate School, Festsaal, Luisenstrasse 56, 10115 Berlin

Invited Commentators and Chairs: Sondra Hausner (University of Oxford), Ute Luig (Prof.emer., Free University Berlin), Michael Oppitz (Prof.emer., University of Zurich)

General Structure: 25 min. talk, 15 min. discussion after each paper; joint panel commentary and discussions

FRIDAY 03.05.2013

13:30 *Registration / Tea & Coffee*

14:10 *Welcome* – Toni Huber and Mona Schrempf

REGIONAL OVERVIEWS AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

14:20 Hanna Havnevik (University of Oslo) – A comparative analysis of Tibetan and Mongol female religious specialists

15:00 Katherine Swancutt (University of Oxford) – Bridging the divine through hidden emotions: a comparison of Nuosu visionaries and Buryat shamans

15:40 *Coffee Break*

15:50 Toni Huber (Humboldt University Berlin) – Farmers, housewives and laborers: ordinary lay women as local ritual specialists in the eastern Himalayas

16:30 Françoise Pommaret (CNRS Paris/ Royal University of Bhutan) – An overview on female religious practitioners in Bhutan

17:10 *Commentary and joint discussion*: Sondra Hausner (University of Oxford)
Chair: Mona Schrempf

18:00 *Dinner*

SATURDAY 04.05.2013

LIFE NARRATIVES AND SOCIO-RELIGIOUS ROLES

09:30 Ágnes Birtalan (University ELTE Budapest) — The Darkhad shamaness' language usage in life-narratives

10:10 Mona Schrempf (University of Westminster/London) – How Drolma became a Jomo – the life story of a female ritual healer in eastern Bhutan

10:50 *Coffee Break*

11:00 Nicola Schneider (Centre de Recherche sur les Civilisations de l'Asie Orientale, CRCAO, Paris) – Betwixt and between: on the social and religious status of a khandroma, Khandro Chöchen

11:40 *Commentary and joint discussion*: Hanna Havnevik (University of Oslo)
Chair: Ute Luig (Prof.emer., Free University Berlin)

12:30 *Lunch*

RELIGIOUS WOMEN AND SOCIAL CHANGE

- 14:00 Sarah Jacoby (Northwestern University, USA) – Revitalizing religion through dakinis' power according to Khandro Rinpoche (b.1954) of Eastern Tibet
- 14:40 Krisztina Teleki (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest) – Buddhist female practitioners in Mongolia once and today
- 15:20 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 Marie-Dominique Even (Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques, Paris) – Private home rituals in today's Ulan Bataar : a growing role of female Buddhist specialists ?
- 16:10 Jill Sudbury (University of Oxford) – The Legacies of the Samding Dorje Phagmo and Ani Palmo - female religious autonomy in Tibet and Ladakh compared
- 16:50 *Coffee Break*
- 17:00 Mingkyi Cuomu (University of Oxford): Medical healing, gender and spirituality: reflections on personal experiences
- 17:40 *Commentary*: Ute Luig (Prof. emer., Free University Berlin)
Chair: Toni Huber (Humboldt University Berlin)
- 18:15 *Accounting for travel reimbursements*
- 18:45 *Dinner*

SUNDAY 05.05.2013

CONTESTED GENDER AND SOCIAL ROLES: FEMALE HEALERS AND POISONERS

- 09:30 Anna Balikci (Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim) — Engendering Heros: The Sikkimese Naljorma as a Producer of Shamans
- 10:10 Martin Gaenzle (University of Vienna) — Female ritualists in Rai tradition: observations among the Puma of east Nepal
- 10:50 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 Anne de Sales (CNRS, Laboratoire d'ethnologie et de sociologie comparative, Paris) — Female shamans reluctantly: transformation of the shamanic institution in the hills of Nepal
- 11:40 Giovanni da Col (University of Cambridge/ University of Bergen) — The gender of the poisoner: containership, analogic kinship and female poisoning lineages (*dug rgyud*) among Dechen Tibetans
- 12:20 *Commentary* : Michael Oppitz (Prof. emer., University of Zurich)
Chair : Nicola Schneider (CRCAO, Paris)
- Round Table Discussion*
- 13:00 *Lunch*