

Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften  
Zentralasien-Seminar

# Tibet Kolloquium

## Einladung

### **Katharina Anna Sabernig MD/MA**

Medical University Vienna / Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian  
Academy of Sciences.

## **Tibetan Anatomical Knowledge and the Personal Physician of the Fifth Dalai Lama**

Classical medical literature in Tibet includes comprehensive anatomical knowledge. In the focus of Sabernig's presentation is an anatomical text written by DAR MO SMAN RAMS PA BLO BZANG CHOS GRAGS. Mainly thanks to his skills in eye-surgery, this well-known scholar, surgeon and physician became one of the personal doctors of the Fifth Dalai Lama. BLO BZANG CHOS GRAGS is known to have studied human corpses in order to find anatomical structures such as bones, joints, ligaments, or blood and nerve vessels as they were described in classical medical texts. Some of his anatomical findings can be regarded as confirmation of an older commentary. In other cases, mainly with regard to his results of the examination of the skeletal and locomotor system, but also to important internal blood vessels, BLO BZANG CHOS GRAGS appears to have made new contributions or at least substantial emendations of older descriptions. Later he became director of the newly established Medical College at the 'Iron Hill' (lcags po ri) in Lhasa.

The subject is part of Katharina Anna Sabernig's recent research project supported by the Austrian Science Fund (P 26129-G21). The lecture starts with a general overview of the history of anatomical knowledge and its transfer across Asia. It is followed by a description of BLO BZANG CHOS GRAGS' life and the development of Tibetan medicine in the seventeenth century in general. The final part shows examples of his anatomical achievements and discusses biomedical identifications of Tibetan anatomical terminology in modern anatomical publications from Tibet. In this context a newly established database on Tibetan medical terminology hosted by the Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) will be introduced (free access at: <http://crossasia.org/en/service/lab/tibetanterms.html>).

**Mittwoch, 4. November 2015**

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, **Raum 507**

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)