

**Disputed Steps of TCM-Institutionalization:  
A Historic Debate in China and in Japan**  
Panel Organizer, Lena Springer, University of Vienna

The participants of the panel provide examples of the debates about the prospects of Chinese medicine within the modern institutions of the Chinese and the Japanese nation. More than just a phenomenon of nation-building in general, the institutionalization of Chinese medicine and its changing connotations have been a real conundrum for intellectuals and politicians since the Qing dynasty and the Meiji Reforms up to nowadays. The panelists compare to what extent single debates are part of a continuous one.

The panel focuses on two aspects of these disputes.

Firstly, debate in Japan and Chinese intellectuals coming back home from there, have triggered the inner-Chinese debate. Therefore it is necessary to link and compare the two discursive fields. Chinese re-translations of Western terminology that had been translated by Japanese scholars before, are another facet of the Japanese influence on China's perception of its own medical terminology and practice.

Secondly, detailed accounts of specific debates within China illustrate that, from a closer look, the constant debate about the institutionalization of Chinese medicine covers a spectrum of currents. How can we research the modern linkage between intellectual-political discourse and theories on clinical practice of the physicians themselves? In which ways are the two distinct?

**Individual Paper Abstracts**

**"Medical reforms in Japan and their influence in China, 1868-1937".**

Bridie Andrews-Minehan (Bentley College, USA) outlines the reforms in medicine in Japan as they affected both Kampo and acupuncture. Moreover, she explains how the reformers of traditional medicine in Japan and the medical modernizers were used as resources within Chinese medical debates.

**"Textbooks and the nation state:  
creating the institutional standards of Chinese medicine"**

Eric Karchmer (University of North Carolina, USA) will compare the textbooks in Republican China with the ones standardized in Early Communist China and judge in which ways they were written for an audience that is engaged in the dialogue with 'Western medicine'.

**"Sovereignty and the Microscope: Constituting Notifiable Infectious Disease and Containing the Manchurian Plague (1910-11)"**

Sean Lei Hsiang-lin (Tsinghua University, Taiwan) will show how the medical key term chuanran (contagion) had to be changed radically in the efforts to contain the plague. This much celebrated medical event was significant to the debates because it led to the introduction into China, and Chinese medicine as well, of a new disease category chuanranbing (infectious disease) which later arose to be the key project for state

building, and allegedly the most salient weakness for traditional Chinese medicine.

### **"The debate about Kampo Medicine in Japan"**

Pan Guijian (TCM-Academy, Beijing, Department of Basic Theory) outlines the studies and emphasise on the 'Treatise on Cold Damage' (Shanghanlun) by the current who preferred classical formulas (gufangpai) in Japan, and compares this to the similar approach (jingfang) by later currents of thought in China..

### **"Currents of Tradition in Chinese medicine"**

Volker Scheid (Westminster University, UK) introduces the Menghe 孟和 current from Jiangsu, the *huoshen* 火神 current from Sichuan to give a more complex picture of the thought among Chinese medical circles and show that they do not fit into any meta-narrative. Instead they provided answers to Chinese medicine's own questions in the modern context.

### **"How the narrated careers of contemporary practitioners relate to and misfit the historical context of TCM-institutionalization"**

Lena Springer (University of Vienna) gives examples of resurfacing conflicts between adapted theory and the ideas of authentic practice and trans-theoretical formulas. She compares to what extent these arguments keep circumscribed by the intellectual-political project of national institutionalization or run on parallel tracks among medical circles.

### **"Comparison or Unification: Disease Term Selection in Modern Japan and China, Oriental or Western 对照还是统一：近代日中对东西病名的选择"**

Zhu Jianping (TCM-Academy, Beijing, Standardization of Chinese Medical Terms) compares the understanding of Chinese and Western medical terminology in modern Japan and in China.