

China and Inner Asia Roundtable Session

(115) Medicine, Material Culture, and Daily Life in Middle Period China

📅 3/23/2018 ⌚ 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM 📍 Location: Roosevelt Room 3, Exhibit Level

Sponsored By Society for Song, Yuan, and Conquest Dynasty Studies

Our roundtable examines the intersection of medicine, market, and material culture in Middle Period China. Rapid developments in Song era markets deeply impacted cultures of health, most obviously in the price, circulation, and knowledge of drug materials. Drug prices played a role in the popular perceptions of efficacy. New forms of medical knowledge influenced the Song state's attempt to monopolize the import of medicinals, such as luxury aromatics from the Indian Ocean. Local drug markets merged with temple fairs, and the marketplace became an integral part of local healing practice. Meanwhile, physicians and literati variously embraced and pointedly rejected the norms of the marketplace, seeking health in the materiality of everyday life, rustic foods, and easy-to-get drug materials.

How did professional physicians and amateurs respond to market factors and the changing conditions of daily lives? How does our attention to material culture illuminate medicine and healing culture during the Song and the Song-Yuan-Ming transition? What does our attention to the materiality of healing cultures illuminate about China's Middle Period?

Each panelist will use a case study to discuss these questions. Margaret Ng examines the increasing use of frankincense in medicine for women in relation to state monopoly of imports. Hsiao-wen Cheng studies the Song differentiation between the two kinds of *zhu* (atractylodes rhizome)--*cangzhu* and *baizhu*--and the new attention drawn to the former. TJ Hinrichs explores thirteenth century valorizations of rustic foods and lifestyles as means to health, focusing on Lin Hong's *Pure Offerings of Mountain Dwellers* (*Shanjia qingong*) and *Pure Matters of Mountain Dwellers* (*Shanjia qingshi*). Kai-hsiang Hsu investigates the development of a drug market in front of a Daoist temple, Yuju Guan, in Chengdu. Brigid Vance analyzes the recipes and advice for promoting healthy sleep and dreaming from the Song to the Ming included in *An Explication of the Profundities in the Forest of Dreams* (*Menglin xuanjie*).

We will precirculate our materials to all those committed to attending the panel. Each panelist will present ten minutes only, leaving ample time for discussion.

Organizer(s)



Hsiao-wen Cheng

University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

Chair(s)

MN

Margaret Ng

College of Wooster, Ohio

Discussant(s)

HC

Hsiao-wen Cheng

University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

TH

Tj Hinrichs

Cornell University, New York

KH

Kai-hsiang Hsu

Academia Sinica, Taiwan

MN

Margaret Ng

College of Wooster, Ohio

BV

Brigid Vance

Lawrence University, Wisconsin