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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

Philosophisch-historische Fakultät
Departement für Kunst- und
Kulturwissenschaften
Institut für Religionswissenschaft



PANDEMICS IN LOCAL AND HISTORICAL COSMOLOGIES From the earliest documents to COVID-19

May 20-21, 2022

International Multidisciplinary Conference, Organised by:

Centre for Oriental Studies and Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore – University of Tartu;

Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités – École pratique des hautes études;

Institut für Religionswissenschaft – Universität Bern;

Abteilung für Mongolistik und Tibetstudien Institut für Orient und Asienwissenschaften (IOA) – Universität Bonn.

Join online: <https://ut-ee.zoom.us/j/5390938250?pwd=RE1TTzdmWE0rY0c0bldlSS9BSU5Wdz09>

MAY 20, FRIDAY

(Tartu, Ülikooli 16, room 214)

10:00 – 10:15 – Opening of the Conference

10:15 – 12:15

Panel 1

(Chairing: Ülo Valk, University of Tartu)

1. **Alina Oprelianska** (University of Tartu) "God is Dead: Luciferase, God's Gene, and COVID-19 Vaccines in the Antichrist Advent Belief Narratives"
2. **Dmytro Yesypenko** (University of Alberta) "Voiceless Subaltern, Vampires and 'Religious Plague' in Ivan Franko's Epidemic Narratives"
3. **Anastasiya Fiadotava** (Estonian Literary Museum) "Internet Folklore at the Times of Global Pandemic: COVID-19 in Belarusian Online Humor"

4. **Anastasiya Astapova** (University of Tartu) “From COVID-19 to the War in Ukraine: Conspiratorial Thinking among Russian-speakers in Estonia”

12:15 – 14:00 - Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Panel 2

(Chairing: Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz, University of Bern)

5. **Ines Stolpe** (University of Bonn) “Resilience as Potentiality in Mongolia”
6. **Joanna Dolińska-Streltsov** (University of Warsaw) “Public Discourse Concerning COVID-19 Pandemic in Mongolia in the Years 2020-2021: From the Early Pandemic Perseverance Through the Political Upheavals up to the Successful Vaccination Diplomacy”
7. **Anna D. Tsendina** (National Research University Higher School of Economics) “Folk Medical Books of the Mongols (dom-un sudur) XVII – early XX century”
8. **Ayur Zhanaev** (Warsaw University) “Causes of Plagues According to Buddhist Texts for the Buryat laity (19th and beg. 20th c.)”

16:00 – 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 – 17:45

Panel 3

(Chairing: Alevtina Solovyeva, University of Tartu)

9. **Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz** (University of Bern) “Subduer of the troops of demons' (bdud kyi dpung rnam `joms mdzod ma): disease in the gCod tradition of Tibetan Buddhism”
10. **Wan De Jia** (University of Cambridge) “Mountains and Virus: an Observation on the Local Anti-epidemic in a Tibetan Village During COVID-19 in the 2020”
11. **Kikee D Bhutia** (University of Tartu) “Reinvention of Religion and Ritual Amidst COVID-19 in Sikkim”

MAY 21, SATURDAY

(Tartu, Ülikooli 16, room 214)

10:00 – 12:00

Panel 4

(Chairing: Alina Oprelianska, University of Tartu)

12. **Monalisha Medhi, Pallabi Borah** (Gauhati University) “Traditional Healing Practice during Covid-19”

13. **Pallabi Borah** (Gauhati University) “Social Memory and Social History: Revisiting the Kala-azar Epidemic in Colonial Northeast India”
14. **Conghui Wang** (University of Tartu) “A Brief Analytical Narrative of Epidemic Anthropomorphic Figures in Early Ancient China: From Plague Ghosts to Plague Gods”
15. **Kevin Kind** (Johns Hopkins University) “Protecting the Musulman Children: The Xiang Army, Smallpox, and the Origins of Mass Vaccination in Late Qing Turpan, 1881-1911”

12:00 – 13:45 – Lunch

13:45 – 15:45

Panel 5

(Chairing: Grégory Delaplace, École pratique des hautes études)

16. **Christos Lynteris** (University of St Andrews) “The Staggering Rat and the Yunnan Plague Narrative”
17. **Elizaveta Volchkova** (National Research University Higher School of Economics) “Popular Perception of the Plague Epidemic in Guangzhou, China in 1894”
18. **Olga Mazo, Aglaya Starostina** (National Research University Higher School of Economics) “Origins of Xu Xun, a Chinese Medieval Protector from Epidemics”
19. **Aglaya Starostina** (National Research University Higher School of Economics) “The Evolution of the ‘Bat Soup’ Rumour on the Internet”

15:45 – Conclusive Discussions and Closing of the Conference

Organising Committee:

Alevtina Solovyeva

Alina Oprelianska

Grégory Delaplace

Ines Stolpe

Isabelle Charleux

Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz

Ülo Valk