



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Asian Studies Centre Seminar Series

The **University of Cambridge Department of East Asian Studies** is pleased to announce the following lecture in its series of East Asian seminars.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please note that this talk is not in the faculty.

Time: 5:00pm, Monday 12th March 2012

Venue: Room 102, Classics Building



Chinese Medicine in East Africa

Professor Elisabeth Hsu, University of Oxford

Monday, 12th March 2012, Room 102, Classics Building, 5:00pm

Initially, this research was meant to explore the 'Africanisation' of an East Asian medicine, with the aim to bring into focus the then neglected East-South technology transfer. However, as the set up of private health care delivery in day clinics of Chinese petty entrepreneurs was found to be much appreciated by the locals, the focus shifted to how a T/CAM (traditional/complementary and alternative medicine) inserts itself into neoliberal health fields. Chinese medicine appears to cater quite well to an emergent urbanite 'middle class' affected by postcolonial disorders - from 'pressure' to 'sugar' - through the amplification of its 'Otherness'. Based on nine one-month long field trips to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda between 2001-8, I have discovered that the interplay of patients, practitioners and their paraphernalia highlighted cross-cultural communications thriving on ambiguity, misunderstandings and, sometimes, outright deception, thereby calling into question some basic assumptions we make about medicine, culture, human understanding and social relations.

Elisabeth Hsu is Professor of Anthropology at ISCA, University of Oxford, and Fellow of Green Templeton College. She has convened the master's courses in medical anthropology since 2001 and founded a post-doctoral anthropology research group at Oxford on Eastern Medicines and Religions (ArgO-EMR) in 2006. Before moving to Oxford, she spent 16 years in Cambridge, pursuing her studies in the fields of General Linguistics, Social Anthropology, and the History of Science Technology and Medicine in China. Her recent publications include the co-edited volumes *Wind, Life, Health* (JRAI, 2007) and *Plants, Health and Healing* (Berghahn, 2010), as well as *Pulse Diagnosis in Early Chinese Medicine: the Telling Touch* (CUP, 2010), published as the last volume within the Oriental Publications of this Faculty.

For further information contact:

Dr Adam Chau

Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China

Department of East Asian Studies

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Email: ayc25@cam.ac.uk