



3 Mai, 10:00-12:00, Universität Zürich, MHIZ, Hirschengraben 82, HIT 10

“Visualizing the Geography of Diseases in China, 1870s-1920s”.

Workshop with Marta Hanson, Associate Professor of East Asian Medicine, Johns Hopkins University. In collaboration with the Völkerkundemuseum.



From John Snow's map of the 1854 London cholera outbreak to the World Health Organization's current attempts to map the global spread of malaria and bird flu, maps have long been used to visualize medical knowledge and regulate responses to infectious diseases. As Marta Hanson, Associate Professor of East Asian Medicine, Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, demonstrates this was just as true in China at the turn of the 20th century as it is today. Drawing on an extensive collection of Chinese disease maps dating back to the twelfth century, this workshop organized in collaboration with the Völkerkundemuseum, will trace the transition in the visualization of the geography of disease in Chinese medical practice. In so doing, Hanson

aims to demonstrate how such maps graphically illustrate the major transformations wrought on East Asian soil by Western biomedicine between 1870 and 1920. Hanson argues that the earliest Chinese disease maps were largely analytical tools for visualising the relationship between space and disease. In the colonial period, however, they were gradually transformed into 'technologies of power that legitimated quarantine measures and other forms of social control over populations'. The result was that by the time of the 1921 plague epidemics, such maps had become tools of British colonial power and a means to convince a wary Chinese public of their place in a newly globalizing world.

Marta Hanson is the author of *Speaking of Epidemics in Chinese Medicine: Disease and the Geographic Imagination in Late Imperial China* (Routledge, 2011). In addition to being an expert on the history of epidemics in China, her research encompasses Chinese arts of memory; and the social, cultural, and intellectual history of late imperial China.



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

Attendees should register their interest by emailing m.honigsbaum@mhiz.uzh.ch