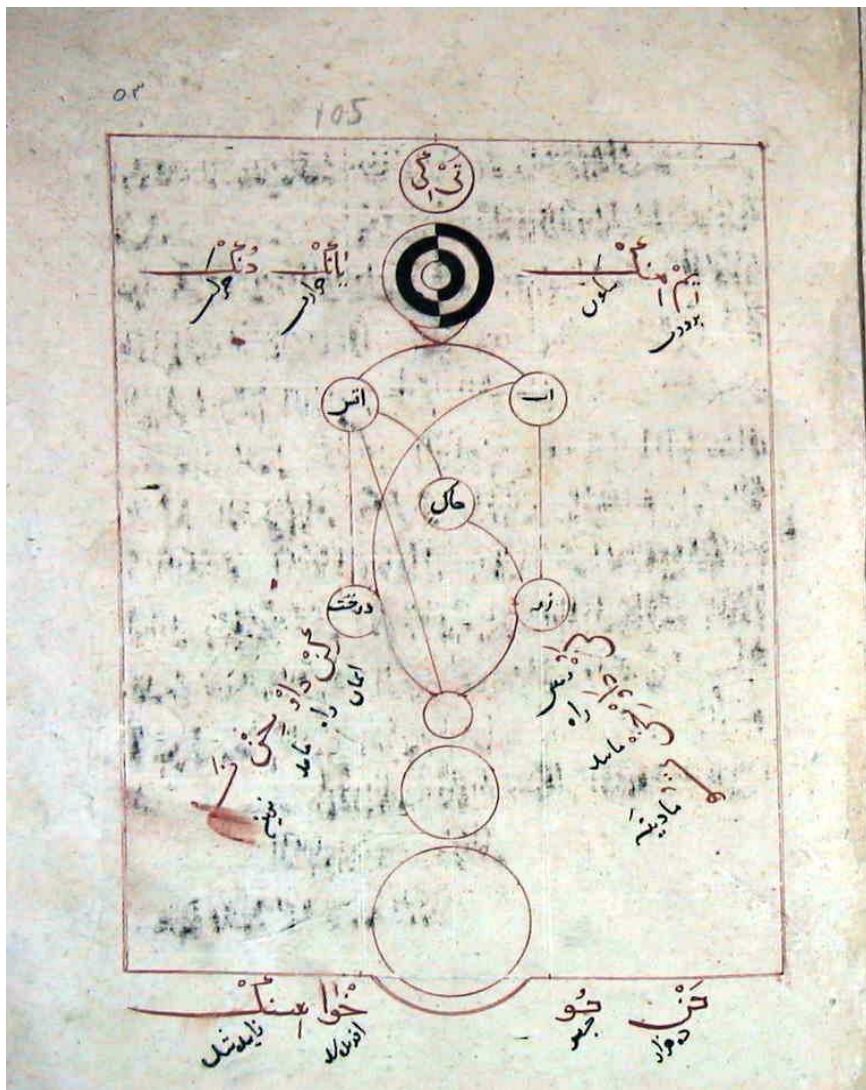


# EAST ASIAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINARS

Department of the History of Art & Archaeology, SOAS  
convened by Dr Lukas Nickel, [ln2@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ln2@soas.ac.uk)

**Vivienne Lo**, UCL, China Centre for Health and Humanity

## Imagining Chinese Medicine: Medical illustration from Han tombs to contemporary Comics



This presentation examines the powerful role of visual culture in the expression of cultural assumptions about the body, healthcare and related practices. It comes at the end of a long term Wellcome Trust funded project that has brought together forty scholars from seven different countries around the world in the study of more than 1,400 images (<http://wellcomeimages.org/search> on 'Vivienne Lo'). During the lecture we will look at some of the results of the project and the analyses they permit. I will begin with my own study of medical artefacts and illustrations from the Han dynasty during the period of the formation of a classical tradition. Medical images were deployed at different times in different ways, and for a number of identifiable purposes. They allow us to analyse the text image relationship, their role in

performative contexts or as decorative embellishment and curiosity. A key focus will be the transmission and adaption of illustrations and the reception of Chinese medical illustrations in neighbouring empires, to central Asia, in European medical contexts and into cyberspace.

Friday, 21 March 2014, at 3 pm, in room B111, Brunei Gallery, SOAS.

**All welcome.**