

## Report on Narrating China and the Health Humanities, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

Vivienne Lo

Narrating China and the Health Humanities was a huge success and an event that celebrated ten years of the China Health and Humanities project, both Centre and MA programme. We had some 80 attendees who came in person, and fifty online. The Provost opened the event with a presentation on the importance of UCL's connections with China. This was followed by presentations by scholars from Global Health and Digital Anthropology who have been major contributors to the Centre. We launched Wang Xingyuan's new book on *Smartphones* in urban China, and the event reunited her with colleagues in the delegation from Peking University whom she had worked with during her ethnographic research. There were many highlights of the day, with Theresia Hofer, our first PhD student to graduate, giving a presentation in sign language about Tibetan sign language and political resistance in China, aided by a Tibetan signer and translator. The day progressed with six more presentations from PhD graduates from the Centre speaking variously on mental health, early twentieth century transnational concepts of spiritual science, Buddhist narratives of active healing, and the global impact of Yi Jing divination. The day was multi-dimensional with medieval poetry projects happening in the background and Dolly Yang leading people in medieval Chinese exercises.

The afternoon was devoted to our MA graduates from CHH who came out in great numbers to join us online at lunch time and gossip about what they were doing. In the afternoon, selected graduates came into their own to speak of Environmental Activism, and Arts in China, with last year's dissertation prize winner presenting on Art Therapy and Chinese landscape painting. History of Medicine was well represented with presentations from ancient Chinese horse therapy to European adaptations to ancient Chinese medicines. Michael Stanley-Baker joined us from Singapore to present on his digital mapping tools which allow researchers and scientists alike to chart the historical movement across Asia of *materia medica* beginning in medieval times. The day finished with presentation from our long term and on-going film and the body collaborations with KCL, convened by Professor Chris Berry and featuring a mix of their tutors who taught for us, PhD graduates and MA students. Professor Guo Liping, our main collaborator from Peking University in the Dual Degree programme gave the last keynote. She has been a stalwart of the Centre, teaching narrative medicine for the CHH programme and publishing together with us OA on narrative medicine and film. All-in-all the day was a great celebration and, intellectually, great testimony to the creative interdisciplinary initiatives of the last decade, with great promise for the on-going impact of our graduates. We thank the committee for tea, coffee and lunch!

Vivienne

# Narrating China & the Health Humanities: Telling Futures

3 October 2023

Friday 10 Nov 2023 9:15am – 6pm GMT, in person at UCL and online (Zoom). A day of talks and conversations to celebrate the past ten years of China & Health Humanities at UCL in collaboration with Peking University, and explore future cross-cultural landscapes. All warmly welcome.



Fang Congyi 方从义, Yunshan Tu 云山图 (Cloudy Mountains), c. 1360–70. Ink and colour on paper. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. A Daoist priest, Fang Congyi imagines cosmic energies pulsating through nature, seeing a mythic dragon in the physical form of the rugged mountains.

## 9.30 OPENING THE CONVERSATION

**Dr Michael Spence, UCL's President & Provost**

## From 9:37 TRANSLATION ACTIVITY

**Dr Brandon Yen and Penelope Barrett (UCL)** – online during the day

## 9:45 PANEL 1, Global Health: Talking about Ageing in China

**Convenor: Dr Paul Kadetz (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh)**

**Li Ran:** Transitional and Integrated Aftercare for Elderly Patients after Discharge from Tertiary Hospitals

**Dr Wang Xinyuan:** Celebrating her Book Launch – *Ageing with Smartphones in Urban China* (UCL Press 2023, Open Access)

## 10:30 SIGNING FUTURES IN CHINA

**Dr Theresia Hofer (University of Bristol), Dr Junhui Yang (University of Central Lancashire), and Tom Holroyd, interpreter**

## 11:00 KEYNOTE 1

**Professor Therese Hesketh (KCL):** Health and Well-being in China: The Xi Jinping Decade

## 11:30 ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES

**Led by Dr Dolly Yang and Professor Vivienne Lo**

## 12:00 PANEL 2, Meditating on Asian Minds

**Convenor: Professor Sonu Shamdasani (UCL)**

**Dr Luis Fernando Bernardi Junqueira:** A Science for the Spirit

**Dr Christina Lee:** Buddhist Meditation Memoirs as Narratives of Active Healing

**Dr Zhou Dangwei:** Richard Wilhelm and the Book of Changes

## 12:45 PANEL 3, Digitising Futures

**Convenor: Professor Michael Heinrich (UCL)**

**Dr Michael Stanley-Baker:** Representing Polyglot Asian Medicine:

<https://www.polyglotasianmedicine.com>

**Dr Daniel Vuillermin:** Shaping the Future of YiMovi: Phase 3:

<https://www.yimovi.com>

## 13:30 LUNCH AND CATCHING UP

**Lunch-time conversation with the alumnae/i**

**14:30** PANEL 4, Tapping into the Life Force: A Conversation about Trees, Art, and Literature

**Convenor: Dr Brandon Yen (UCL)**

**Bai Xi:** Traditional Chinese Paintings as a Mode of Art Therapy

**Ouyang Sanyi:** Belonging and Tree Culture in Qiandongnan, China

**15:15** PANEL 5, Food and Environmental Activism in China

**Convenor: Professor Vivienne (UCL)**

**Flavia Cruciani:** Waterways and Activism on the Yangzi

**Wang Haowen:** Comparing Quality of Life and Vegetarian Practices

**16:00** PANEL 6, Discourses on the History of Medicine

**Convenor: Dr Andrew Wear (UCL)**

**Dr Dolly Yang:** Horse Medicine in Ancient China

**Deborah Woolf:** Numerology and Innovation in Ancient China

**Dr Yang Yi:** A Transnational History of Five-Element Acupuncture

**17:00** PANEL 7, Talking with Pictures,

**Convenor: Professor Chris Berry (KCL)**

**Li Hui:** Curable or Incurable? Neurasthenia in Chinese Cinema

**James Serieux:** Dynasty Warriors: Adapting Chinese Heroes for Japanese Gaming

**Wang Nashuyuan:** A Tribute to Pema Tsenden

**Tian Ruifan:** On Pema Tsenden's *Balloon* (2019)

**18:00** KEYNOTE SPEECH

**Professor Guo Liping, Dean of the School of Health Humanities, PKU:** An overview of Narrative Medicine in China

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