

**Inner Asian and Altaic Studies
Lecture Series 2023-24**



***Why does the history of medicine matter to
the study of the Silk Roads?***

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Abstract:

The study of the Silk Roads can provide us with excellent examples of interactions and exchanges which are not sufficiently known. Much of my own work to date has been on the Tibetan medical manuscripts from Dunhuang. In my recent book, I tried to put these in the greater context of knowledge interactions along the Silk Roads. This context raises some bigger questions about cross-cultural connections and transmissions.



Studying these connections and transmissions is not easy, and often raises various forms of objections. These connections, transmissions—as well as objections—can provide excellent starting points, to be further explored with other disciplines, such as, history of religions, history of art, history of science, technology, cartography, and the myriad ways that these need to be studied together, and collaboratively. In this talk I will raise a few thoughts on how we can try to observe, critique—and attempt to dismantle when needed—what I see as forms of Eurasian “cultural meridians”.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

1:15 pm-2:30 pm EST

Thomas Chan-Soo Kang Room, S050 CGIS-South

Online: register at <https://iaas.fas.harvard.edu/pages/iaas-lecture-series>