The Healing Paradigms Series

Medicine and Magic at the “Rooftop of the World”
International Symposium
Friday, February 3, 1:00-3:30pm
School of Social Work, Room C03

Convener: Valentina Izmirlieva, Director of CRC at GHRCCA (Columbia University)
Panelists:

Paolo Delaini (University of Bologna),
"Ethno-medicine in the Yaghnob Valley: Magical References and Natural Therapy Amongst Central Asian Healing Traditions"

Paolo Ognibene (University of Bologna),
“A Black Dog from Marzič: Legends and Facts about Anzob’s Plague (1898)"

Yuri Stoyanov (SOAS, London)
“From the Pamirs to the Yaghnob Valley: New Perspectives on Central Asia's Mountain Societies’ Ethno-Medicine”

Screening: Legami e riti (Love and Rituality), a short documentary by Paolo Delaini. Produced by the University of Bologna and the Italian Institute for Oriental and African Studies, this film offers an unprecedented look at medico-magical birthing practices.

Dedicated to the medicinal culture of Central Asian mountain societies, the symposium features members of the international research group for the study of the Yaghnobi people at the University of Bologna. Over the past five years, linguists, medical researchers, historians, anthropologists, and pharmacologists affiliated with this research group have conducted expeditions in the Yaghnob Valley, tucked in the mountains of north-western Tajikistan. Their field research has focused on the remarkable medical tradition of the Yaghnobi community, which lives at high altitude, far from hospitals, medical assistance, and Western medical influences. The presenters will share their fascinating discoveries in the context of other mountain societies in Central Asia, while raising important methodological questions about the study and conservation of Central Asian cultures.

The Healing Paradigms Series combines lectures, workshops, symposia, and conferences to explore the interface of health, religion, and politics in Central Asia.

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