



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

**University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe**



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# Mercury in Medicine

## Fluid Economies of Knowledge and Trade

**Workshop**  
**Zurich, February 21–22, 2013**

# Program

Thursday, February 21, 2013

- 9:30–9:45 Welcome address: Dr. Dagmar Wujastyk, URPP Asia and Europe, University of Zurich
- 9:45–10:45 Prof. Paul Unschuld, director, Horst-Görtz-Stiftungsinstitut, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany  
**The toxicity of mercury in ancient Chinese pharmaceutical literature**
- 10:45–11:00 tea/coffee break
- 11:00–12:00 Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo, doctoral candidate, Princeton University, USA  
**Mercury drugs in Tokugawa Japan**
- 12:00– 3:00 Dr. Johannes Thomann, lecturer, Oriental studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
**Early Persian medical works on antisyphilitic mercury medicines**
- 13:00–14:00 lunch break
- 14:00–15:00 Dr. Natalia Bachour, research fellow, Oriental studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
**The use of mercury in Arab medicine**
- 15:00–16:00 Dr. Olaf Czaja, research fellow, Indological and Central Asian institute, Universität Leipzig, Germany  
**The history of mercury in Tibetan medicine**
- 16:00–16:15 tea/coffee break
- 16:15–17:15 Dr. Barbara Gerke, research fellow, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany  
**From secrecy to preservation: On the transmission of knowledge of mercury purification methods in Tibet and how the tsothel practice survived the Cultural Revolution**

Friday, February 22, 2013

- 9:30–10:30 Prof. Andrew Cunningham, research fellow, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, UK  
**The networks of inner-European trade in mercury**
- 10:30–11:30 Dr Timothy Dale Walker, associate professor of history, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA  
**Acquisition and circulation of iatrochemical knowledge within the Portuguese colonial empire during the early modern period**
- 11:30–11:45 coffee/tea break
- 11:45–12:45 Dr Dagmar Wujastyk, postdoctoral research fellow, URPP Asia and Europa, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
**Mercury as an antipsyphilitic in ayurvedic medicine**
- 12:45–13:45 lunch break
- 13:45–14:45 Dr Dominik Wujastyk, research fellow, South Asian studies, University of Vienna, Austria  
**What is Indian alchemy about? Riches, healing, transcendence?**
- 14:45–15:45 Prof. em. Jürgen Aschoff, psychiatrist and neurologist, University of Ulm, Germany  
**Modern research on the safety and efficacy of mercury in traditional Asian medicine**
- 15:45–16:00 coffee/tea break
- 16:00–17:00 Ian Baker, journalist/independent scholar  
**Mercury use among contemporary alchemical practitioners in Burma**
- 17:00–18:00 Group discussion

# General Information

<b>Venue</b>	URPP Asia and Europe Room WIE F-07 Wiesenstrasse 7/9 CH-8008 Zurich
<b>Schedule</b>	Thursday, February 21, 2013, 9:30–13:00 / 14:00–17:15 Friday, February 22, 2013, 9:30–12:45 / 13:45–18:00
<b>Organizer</b>	Dr. Dagmar Wujastyk, URPP Asia and Europa
<b>Contact</b>	URPP Asia and Europe Wiesenstrasse 7/9 CH-8008 Zurich Phone: +41 44 634 49 83 Email: <a href="mailto:dagmar.wujastyk@uzh.ch">dagmar.wujastyk@uzh.ch</a> <a href="http://www.asienundeuropa.uzh.ch">www.asienundeuropa.uzh.ch</a>

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