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Social Studies in Asian Medicine

Over the last three decades, Asian medicine has become a central feature in most contemporary societies. This series explores the local fabric and global aspirations of these modes of healing. We seek to bring attention to two decisive phenomena in these processes. The first concerns the relations between Asian medicine and biomedical science and objects. The second phenomenon deals with the global and its scales, whether Asian Medicine is located in Asia or elsewhere. This dual approach mingling medical encounters and globalization scales is embedded into politics of healing, such as modes of governance and regulation or the rise of nationalisms that take place within or without processes of therapeutic transnationalism.

With this in mind, we seek to unpack and understand the synchronic transformations that have characterized Asian Medicine since the 1990s, whether it is a matter of digging into the longer historical construction of this key period or its more recent inferences. Works in social sciences ranging from history to anthropology and the social study of science provide the disciplinary backbone of the series.

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'Asian Medicine in the West'- Cibachrome photograph of collage by Chila Kumari Burman. Complied of flyers, brochures, etc. advertising Asian therapeutic substances and techniques, mostly available in London on 31 August 2004. Wellcome Collection.

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