

Workshop Venue:
Villa an der Schwabach
Hindenburgstraße 46A
91054 Erlangen

The casting of lots to explore the unknown and to make decisions ranks among the oldest cultural techniques in different civilizations. Evidence for this can be found not only in Biblical narratives such as the partitioning of the Promised Land between the twelve tribes of Israel or the election of the apostle Matthias, but also by Chinese canonical sources such as the *Yijing* 易經 or from artefacts of temple oracles in China.

This workshop brings together scholars from different disciplines to discuss current research on the many different forms of casting lots and to make an intercultural comparison between Europe and East Asia. It will focus on specific techniques of questioning lots and related mechanisms of randomization such as geomancy or bibliomancy as well as their social context and their use for divination, decision-making, and reducing contingency. In addition, the workshop will address the blurred boundaries between prediction and gambling as well as attempts of manipulating and calculating probabilities.

If you would like to attend,
please **register** by **September 9, 2019** on our website
<http://www.ikgf.uni-erlangen.de/events/>

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**International Consortium
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*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*

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**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM
for Research in the Humanities**

*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.
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WORKSHOP

September 24-25, 2019

**Divination and Decision-Making
by Lot and Randomization
in East Asia and Europe**



**FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG**



Conveners:

Klaus Herbers, Michael Lackner, Matthias Heiduk



Fortune sticks and temple oracle (Mazu Temple, Taipei)

Tuesday, September 24

10:15 am	Welcome Address and Introduction Klaus Herbers, Michael Lackner (Directors IKGF, FAU Erlangen)
10:30 am	Session 1 (Chair: Klaus Herbers) 1) The Book of Changes and Temple Oracles Michael Lackner (IKGF, FAU Erlangen) 2) Latin Books of Fate in Medieval Europe: The Case of Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ms Ashmole 304 Allegra Iafrate (Scripta, Paris Sciences et Lettres)
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Session 2 (Chair: Klaus Herbers) 1) Gambling and Manipulating the Afterlife: The Lottery for Poor Souls Matthias Heiduk (IKGF, FAU Erlangen) 2) Detours and Short-Cuts in Random Selection Procedure: Counting-Out and Drawing Lots in Chinese Divination and Gambling Stéphanie Homola (Institute for Near Eastern and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, FAU Erlangen)
3:00 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 pm	Session 3 (Chair: Michael Lackner) 1) Western European Books of Fate and Bibliomancy Marco Heiles (Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg) 2) Gaming and Divining in East Asian Buddhism Esther-Maria Guggenmos (IKGF, FAU Erlangen)
5:00 pm	Coffee Break
5:30 pm	Session 4 (Chair: Michael Lackner) 1) Lots and Law: Juridical Usages of Randomization in Medieval Europe Klaus Herbers (IKGF, FAU Erlangen) 2) Decision-Making by Casting Lots in Byzantium Michael Grünbart (Institute for Byzantine Studies, University of Munster)

Wednesday, September 25

9:30 am	Session 5 (Chair: Matthias Heiduk) 1) Elections by Casting Lots in Medieval Italy Christoph Dartmann (Medieval History, University of Hamburg) 2) Reincarnation Lotteries, Books of Fate, and Potluck Soups: Casting Lots in Tibet Rolf Scheuermann (IKGF, FAU Erlangen)
11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:30 am	Session 6 (Chair: Matthias Heiduk) 1) Natural Divination in Medieval Treatises on Geomancy Alessandra Beccarisi (History of Medieval Philosophy, University of Lecce) 2) <i>Jueyi</i> 決疑 or The Taming of Chance. Some Comparative Remarks on Necessity and Statistical Stability in China and the West Andrea Bréard (History and Diffusion of Science, University of Paris-Sud/Paris-Saclay)
1:00 pm	Final Discussion (Chair: Klaus Herbers, Michael Lackner)

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