



INTERNATIONALES KOLLEG für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung

*Schicksal, Freiheit und Prognose.
Bewältigungsstrategien in Ostasien und Europa*



WORKSHOP

Convenor: **Dr. Sophia Katz**
(Tel-Hai College, Former IKGf Visiting Fellow)

Divination and the Strange in Pre- and Early Modern East Asia and Europe

Records describing events perceived as anomalies (occurrence of monsters, strange births, bodily deformities, gender transformations, demonic possessions, encounters with ghosts and spirits) appear in both East Asian and European written sources. In China, for example, testimonies regarding such strange phenomena were often included in official histories, leading to the development of a special literary genre, known as *zhiguai* 志怪 (records of the strange). Yet, these materials typically have been treated by scholars as amusing anecdotes that gave expression to the literary brilliance of their authors. Consequently, scholarly attention has focused primarily on the literary aspects of these records, and sometimes on the social implications of the described events, while the realms of prediction, divination, and fate have remained in the shadows. This workshop will assess “the strange” in relation to divinatory practices and their corresponding worldviews, and thereby provide new perspectives on the customs and beliefs common in pre- and early modern East Asia and Europe.

October 27-28, 2015
IKGF Seminar Room, Building D1
(Hartmannstraße 14, 91052 Erlangen)

Please register until October 16, 2015 via our website www.ikgf.fau.de



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
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Tuesday, October 27, 2015

9:30 a.m. Welcome Address

Prof. Michael Lackner (Director, IKGF Erlangen)

9:45 a.m. Introduction

Dr. Sophia Katz (Tel-Hai College)

PANEL 1: MONSTERS, PORTENTS AND PRODIGIES IN PRE-MODERN EAST ASIA AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE

10:00 a.m. Mi'am Ci: Exploring the Strange, the Grotesque, and the Wondrous in the Land of Snows

Prof. Donatella Rossi (Sapienza University of Rome)

Discussant: Prof. Fabrizio Pregadio (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

10:35 a.m. The Man-Bird Mountain: Writing, Revelation, and Winged Beings in Early China

Prof. Fabrizio Pregadio (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Discussant: Dr. Burchard J. Mansvelt Beck (Leiden University)

11:10 a.m. Coffee Break

11:25 a.m. Prodigies and Divination in Classical and Medieval Western Europe

Prof. Stefano Rapisarda (University of Catania)

Discussant: Dr. Hans-Christian Lehner (IKGF Erlangen)

12:00 p.m. Historiographical Handling of Monstrous Births in the European High Middle Ages

Dr. Hans-Christian Lehner (IKGF Erlangen)

Discussant: Prof. Stefano Rapisarda (University of Catania)

12:35 p.m. Round Table 1

1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

PANEL 2: DIVINATION, STRANGENESS AND LITERATI IN EAST ASIA

2:30 p.m. Demon Hunters and Performers of Miracles: Common Ground Between the So-called Confucians, Buddhists, and Daoists in Early Medieval China

Dr. Zhao Lu (IKGF Erlangen)

Discussant: Dr. Esther-Maria Guggenmos (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

3:05 p.m. Divination and the Strange in the *Liaozhai zhiyi*

Dr. Sophia Katz (Tel-Hai College)

Discussant: Dr. Vladimir Glomb (Charles University in Prague)

3:40 p.m. Coffee Break

3:55 p.m. Laughing Literati and Fortune-Telling Confucians: Stories about Prognostication in *Ôu yadam*

Dr. Vladimir Glomb (Charles University in Prague)

Discussant: Prof. Donatella Rossi (Sapienza University of Rome)

4:30 p.m. Taming the Demonic: Emergence of a Modern Discourse on the Uncanny in Japan

Prof. Faye Kleeman (University of Colorado)

Discussant: Prof. Tze-ki Hon (State University of New York at Geneseo)

5:05 p.m. Round Table 2

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

PANEL 3: STRANGENESS, PORTENTOLGY, AND DIVINATION IN PRE-MODERN CHINA (I): EARLY TEXTUAL SOURCES AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

9:00 a.m. Danger and Disorder: Reading Anomalies and Strange Events in the *Yijing*

Prof. Tze-ki Hon (State University of New York at Geneseo)

Discussant: Dr. Zhao Lu (IKGF Erlangen)

9:35 a.m. Strange Creatures and Prodigies in the *Shanhajjing* and in Some Chu Bamboo Manuscripts

Dr. Marco Caboara (HKUST Hong Kong), *in absentia*

Discussant: Prof. Terry Kleeman (University of Colorado)

10:10 a.m. Coffee Break

10:25 a.m. Divination and Demonology in Daoist Ritual Treatments of the Dead

Prof. Terry Kleeman (University of Colorado)

Discussant: Prof. Joachim Gentz (University of Edinburgh)

11:00 a.m. Divining by Diving into the Strange: Examples from the *Biographies of Thaumaturge Monks (Shenseng Zhuan, T. 2064)*

Dr. Esther-Maria Guggenmos (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Discussant: Prof. Faye Kleeman (University of Colorado)

11:35 a.m. Round Table 3

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

PANEL 4: STRANGENESS, PORTENTOLGY, AND DIVINATION IN PRE-MODERN CHINA (II): HAN AND LIU-SONG DYNASTIES

1:30 p.m. Uses We Can and Cannot Make of the Portent Treatises

Dr. Burchard J. Mansvelt Beck (Leiden University)

Discussant: Prof. Tiziana Lippello (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

2:05 p.m. "Falling Stones: Five. Six: Fish-Hawks Flying Backwards." Readings of a Strange Record

Prof. Joachim Gentz (University of Edinburgh)

Discussant: Dr. Grégoire Espeset (CRCAO Paris)

2:40 p.m. Coffee Break

2:55 p.m. Portents in Han China and Some Weft (*wei*) Observational Patterns: An Experiment

Dr. Grégoire Espeset (CRCAO Paris)

Discussant: Prof. Joachim Gentz (University of Edinburgh)

3:30 p.m. Why Was Shen Yue So Fond of Auspicious Signs?

Prof. Tiziana Lippello (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Discussant: Dr. Burchard J. Mansvelt Beck (Leiden University)

4:05 p.m. Round Table 4