

## Workshop Venue:

IKGF Seminar Room, Building D1  
(Hartmannstraße 14, 91052 Erlangen)

Tackling ideas of uncertainty and not-knowing has produced a variety of ways of modeling and reasoning material and intellectual cultures in Asian cultures throughout history. This project focuses on the varied methods and rationalities, as well as material tools actors employed when planning and predicting nature, matters of state, and their own lives. From weather forecasts to earthquake predictions, from one's daily tasks to the future course of society and state, material means and visual representations were used with the aim of facilitating the decision process by making the unknown and uncertain easier to grasp.

The project invites comparisons of rationalities of knowing and not-knowing that informed diverse historical cultures of Asia. What are the similarities and differences between the ways actors materialized and visualized what was yet to be known and what one had experienced or accepted as fact? Are factual knowledge

and divinatory results irrevocably bound by the processes from which they are produced? How do people legitimize the process of divination and the acquisition of factual data? Does standardization impact validity? What role does the visual play as an explanatory tool and for the validation of practice?

This project is a collaboration between the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities "Fate, Freedom, and Prognostication - Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe" (Director: Prof. Michael Lackner) at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Department III, Artefacts, Action, and Knowledge, Director: Prof. Dagmar Schäfer).

### Conveners:

Michael Lackner (IKGF)

Dagmar Schäfer (MPIWG)

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### International Consortium for Research in the Humanities (IKGF)

*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.  
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*

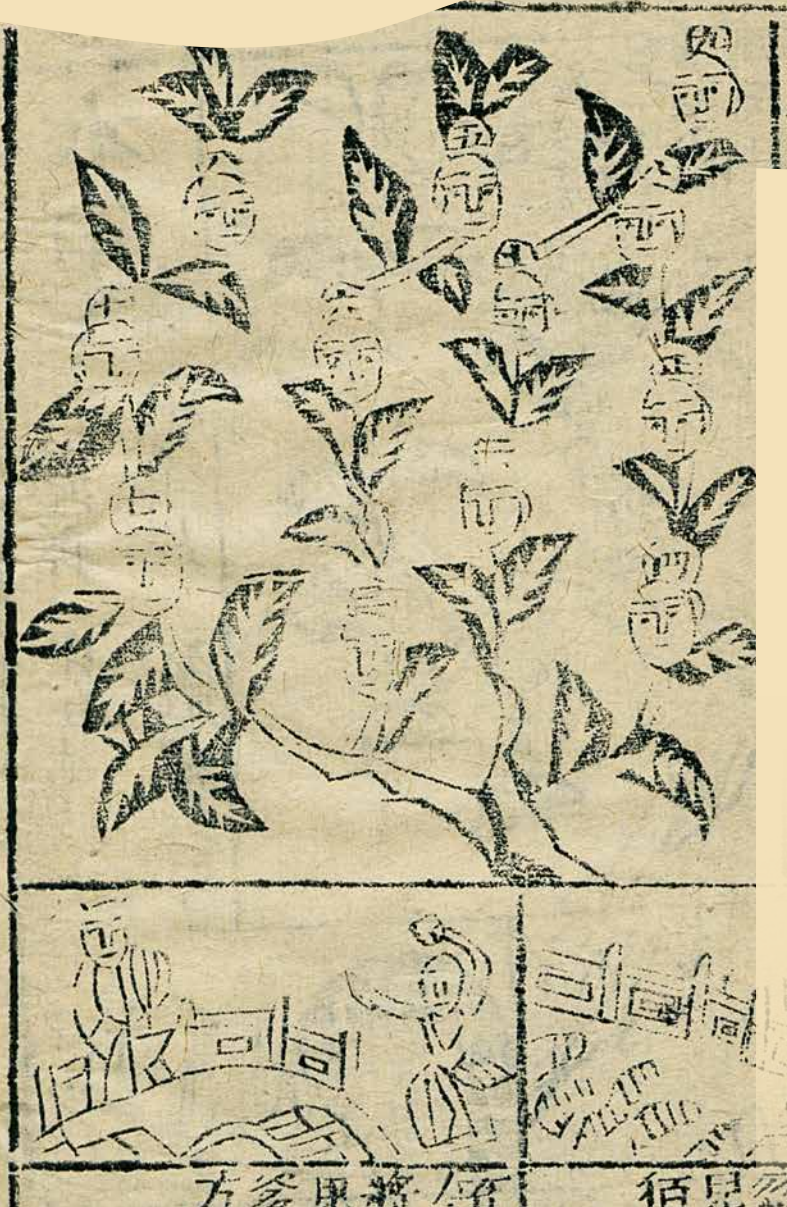


May 3-4, 2017 WORKSHOP

# Accounting for Uncertainty: Prediction and Planning in Asia's History



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG



## Wednesday, May 3, 2017

- 9:30 a.m. **Complexity theory**  
David Bello (Washington & Lee University/MPIWG)
- 10:30 a.m. **Formation of expertise & evaluation systems (I)**  
Anna Andreeva (Universität Heidelberg/IKGF)
- 11:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 12:00 p.m. **Formation of expertise & evaluation systems (II)**  
Stéphanie Homola (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/MPIWG)
- 1:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 2:00 p.m. **Safety (安全 vs 安心) & risk society**  
Kerry Smith (Brown University/MPIWG)
- 3:00 p.m. **Evidence (zheng 證)**  
Daniel Burton-Rose (North Carolina State University/IKGF)
- 4:00 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:30 p.m. **Propitious signs (ruixiang 瑞相) & sympathetic responses (ganying 感應)**  
Chen Jinhua (British Columbia University/IKGF)
- 5:30 p.m. *End*

## Thursday, May 4, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. **Zhu Xi 朱熹 & divination**  
Michael Lackner (IKGF/FAU)
- 10:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 10:30 a.m. **Sericulture planning**  
Dagmar Schäfer (MPIWG)
- 11:30 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion**
- 12:30 p.m. *End*

