

Einladung zum
Mongolei-Colloquium

Donnerstag, 21. Mai 2015

18 (c.t.) – 20 Uhr

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Contemporary Mongolian Vernacular Religion
(Rituals, Performers, Texts)

During the two decades of the activity of the **Hungarian–Mongol Expedition** researching dialects and folk culture among various Mongolian ethnic groups, I had the opportunity to observe the **transformation of the non-institutionalised religious practice** of shamanism and the vernacular religion. According to my understanding “vernacular religion” indicates manifestations of pursuits and objects connected to the practices beyond the institutionalised religion. **Vernacular religious activity does not necessarily involve religious specialists** such as shamans or Lamas, but could be carried out by anybody. I and my team recorded data how various aspects of the vernacular religion find **manifestation in the nomads’ everyday life and festivities**.

One important system of codes is the **system of taboos**, prescriptions called in most of the Mongolian languages *ceer* (*čeger*). Actions governed by the *ceer*-rules are connected with sacrality (mythology, beliefs and religious views).

On the basis of our material I am going to demonstrate the presence of vernacular religion in **different spheres of life**, e. g. building a yurt, eating festive and everyday food, going on a journey, going out with the herd or celebrating any **rites of passage**. Concerning the performer, the most obvious acts governed by a network of *ceer*-system (e. g. drinking a cup of milk brandy, preparing felt, entering into a dwelling place, etc.) are carried out by anybody, but for festive occasions religious specialists or professional performers or persons venerated by the community might be asked to participate and supervise it. Regarding the textual corpus of the vernacular religious manifestations, it is very heterogeneous, as traditional folklore genres, moreover fragments from shamanic or Buddhist sacred texts appear among the texts recited by the performers (both professionals and non-professionals). On the basis of our newly recorded materials a tradition-based, but continuously transforming system of the vernacular religious practice emerges with its varied areas of activities, paraphernalia and texts.

Ort: Universität Bonn, IOA, Abteilung für Mongolistik und Tibetstudien
Regina-Pacis-Weg 7 (Gebäude des Ägyptischen Museums)
Raum: ÜR 2024 /Bibliothek

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