

Einladung zum

Tibet- und Mongolei-Colloquium

Dienstag, 4. Juni 2019: 18 (c.t.) – 20 Uhr

Neuer Ort: Hauptgebäude, Hörsaal VII (1. OG)

Tshe thar – Seter : Comparing life liberation rituals in Tibet and Mongolia

Maria Coma: PhD Student *INALCO, Paris / Universität Barcelona*

Expanding fortune, strengthening life: Animal liberation practices among pastoralists of North Eastern Tibet



Among the horses, yaks and sheep that graze on the rangelands of the Tibetan plateau, some individuals enjoy a special status by virtue of which their owners refrain from selling and slaughtering them. Often marked by five-coloured silk ribbons hanging from their ears or manes, these *tshe thar* (life liberated)

animals are excluded from market and community networks of reciprocity and become mediators of fortune and merit. Protecting their lives and keeping them in the herds is a way for pastoralists to act upon the health, longevity and prosperity of both humans and animals.

Angelina Vetter: B.A., *Mongolistik Universität Bonn*

„Masters of the Localities“ Consecration of animals among Mongolian and Turkic peoples

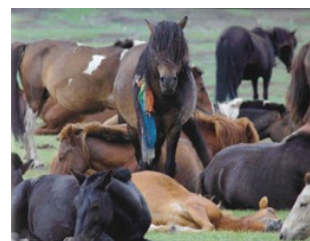


Foto: B.-O. Bold 2012

The ritual of liberating animals is a widespread phenomenon among nomadic pastoralists and city residents, Buddhist or non-Buddhist, across parts of the Asian continent. Mongolians practice *seter* (like *tshe thar*) in Outer and Inner Mongolia as well as in Southern Siberia. Similar to the Tibetan part, the practice manifests itself in a ritualized liberation of one individual for a lifetime. By marking the animal with a *chadag* or ribbons, the owner pledges not to kill or use it in any way. The Mongolia-related part of the talk will explore the modern implementation of *seter*, with some analysis of the past.