

Special Issue

Ritual Healing in Early East Asia

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue seeks to open new discussions on healing practices from antiquity to the early medieval period in China, Korea, and Japan (up to the tenth century CE), while introducing a transregional perspective to the study of ritual healing. We particularly welcome contributions examining the circulation of medical texts, religious healing techniques, ritual specialists, materia medica, and therapeutic knowledge across political, linguistic, and religious boundaries in early East Asia.

In this Special Issue, original research articles and reviews are welcome. Research areas may include (but are not limited to) the following:

A: incantations, exorcism, or other “magical” aspects of local medical traditions.

B: the transmission of local healing knowledge throughout Early East Asia.

C: ritual healing artifacts: texts, material objects, and iconography.

We hope that we will stimulate new research on early ritual healing practices in East Asia, highlighting forms of knowledge that fall outside major religious canons, and emphasizing esoteric practices, material objects, and the transregional circulation and transformation of healing traditions across the region.

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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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