

DR. DOMINIQUE HERTZER

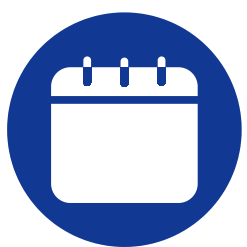
## THE BOOK OF CHANGES (YIJING) IN CHINESE MEDICINE: EXPLORING "PLURALIST RATIONALITIES" OF DIVINATION AND CHINESE MEDICINE



The deep connection between the *Yijing* and Chinese Medicine (CM) dates back to the historical origins of the *Yijing*. In the *Shuogua* (Explaining the Trigrams) commentary, trigrams are linked to specific body parts, and the hexagram and line texts reference the head, neck, arms, back, abdomen, and legs. Focusing on yin and yang transformations, the *Yijing* is foundational to understanding CM – both belonging to traditional Chinese knowledge systems. Historically, a dialectical relationship has existed between medical and divinatory explanation: accurate prognosis stems from precise diagnosis, ideally enabling prevention. From this shared basis, various methods integrating the *Yijing* into CM have developed and persist today. This leads to an intriguing question: why do CM and the *Yijing* remain vital and widely practiced despite a century of modernization and scientification in China? The introduction of Western Medicine (WM) triggered extensive discourse on how both systems might coexist. China has since developed a unique model: the “Integration of Western and Chinese Medicine.” Does this reflect official legitimization, or distinct rationalities? How do these rationalities interact? What does this mean for the *Yijing*’s role in CM?



Dominique Hetzer’s research into the contemporary use of the *Yijing* in CM draws on both clinical practice and academic inquiry. Her sinological PhD at LMU Munich focused on the *Mawangdui Yijing*, a divination text from 162 BC. She then trained in CM in Munich and Tianjin, becoming a *Heilpraktikerin* and opening a practice. Her clinical experience sparked cross-cultural research on mind-body discourses. Her second PhD, at the University of Witten-Herdecke, explored how different cultural ideas about the mind-body relationship influence medical theory and practice.



**Date:**  
**Tuesday - 16 December 2025**



**Time:**  
**6.15 - 7.45 PM**

Location: Big Seminar room,  
Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen

Link for virtual attendance: <https://fau.zoom-x.de/j/62556506187>



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