

East Asia by the Book

CEAS Author Talks

A Way of Life:

Things, Thought, and Action in Chinese Medicine

By *Judith Farquhar*

Max Palevsky Professor Emerita of Anthropology and of Social Sciences,
University of Chicago

Traditional Chinese medicine is often viewed as mystical or superstitious, with outcomes requiring naïve faith. Judith Farquhar, drawing on her hard-won knowledge of social, intellectual, and clinical spheres in today's China, here offers a concise and nuanced treatment that addresses enduring and troublesome ontological, epistemological, and ethical questions. In this work, which is based on her 2017 Terry Lectures, "Reality, Reason, and Action In and Beyond Chinese Medicine," she considers how the modern, rationalized, and scientific field of traditional Chinese medicine constructs its very real objects (bodies, symptoms, drugs), how experts think through and sort out pathology and health (yinyang, right qi / wrong qi, stasis, flow), and how contemporary doctors act responsibly to "seek out the root" of bodily disorder. Through this refined investigation, East-West contrasts collapse, and systematic Chinese medicine, no longer a mystery or a pseudo-science, can become a philosophical ally and a rich resource for a more capacious science.

TUESDAY
Nov 10, 2020
5:00PM (CST)

Discussant:

P. Sean Brotherton, Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences, UChicago

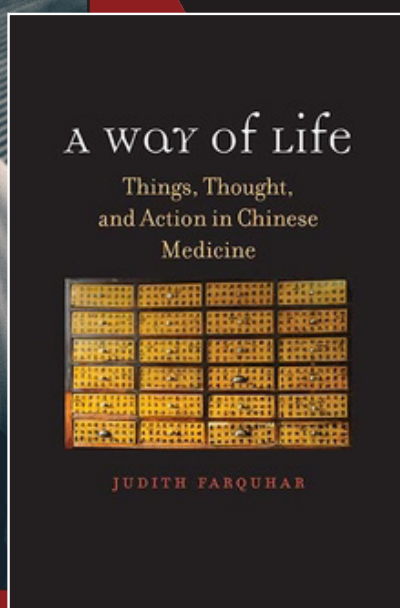


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