

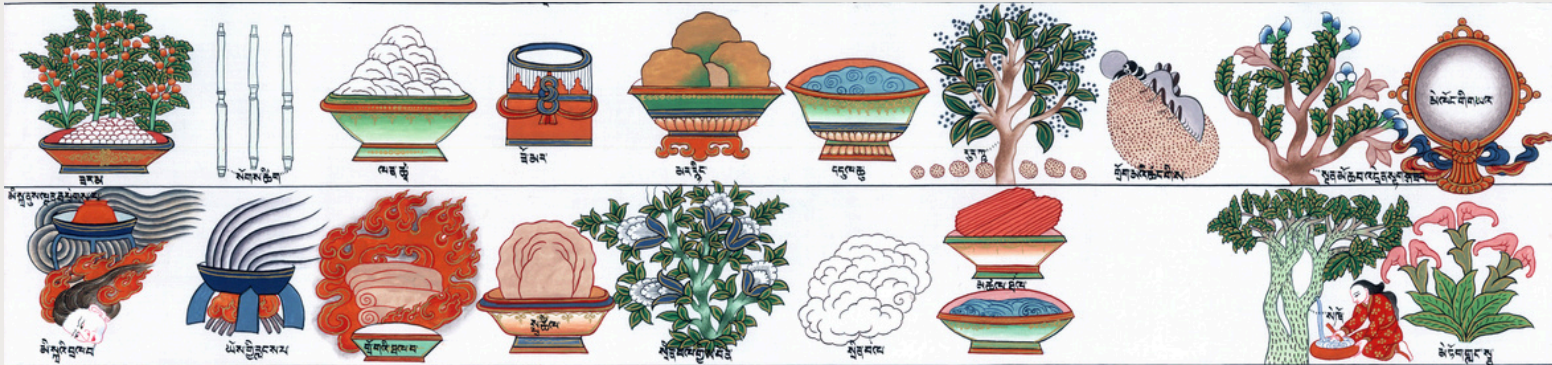
# Reconciling Traditions: Transmission Histories and Lineages of Alchemical and Rakṣā Texts in the Brang ti's Gser bre chen mo

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Université de Naples "L'Orientale", UNIOR

Jeudi 23 janvier 2025

à 18h00 via Zoom (<https://shorturl.at/OHyOZ>)



Fragment of *sde srid Sangs rgyas rgya mtsho's* medical thangka © Dharmapala thangka center

Resumé:

The Brang ti lha rje'i rim brgyud kyi man ngag gser bre chen mo (henceforth gSer bre chen mo) is a very complex and stratified compilation of pith instructions (man ngag) devoted to the knowledge of poisons and epidemics as well as their medicinal treatments, including mercury medicines, animal derived remedies, theriacs, and protective rituals.

This presentation provides an overview of the diverse typologies of texts preserved in the gSer bre chen mo such as the textual cycle on the great purification of mercury composed by O rgyan pa rin chen dpal (1209–1229/30), rakṣā writings dealing with complex protective rituals to counteract poisoning associated to the cult of wrathful deities such as Vajra Bhairava, Jāngulī, and the rNying ma Pad ma dbang chen, and few texts dealing with theriacs and medicinal herpetofauna.

Through this literary excursus, it will be clear that this anthology reflects a complex intellectual and religious history, interrelating teachings transmitted by masters of diverse Indian and Tibetan Buddhist schools and traditions, not only the Sa skya school connected to the Brang ti lineage, but also the bKa' rgyud, Jo nang and rNying ma traditions. Eventually the analysis of these literatures may be instrumental to reflect on the grand narrative of Tibetan learned medicine between the thirteenth and the fourteenth century.

A propos de la conférencière:

Carmen Simioli is an adjunct professor of modern and classical Tibetan at the University of Napoli "L'Orientale" where she completed her PhD in Indological and Tibetological studies. Her project, supported by the Khyentse Foundation, intends to evaluate the role of Buddhist tantric medicine in the development of Tibetan nosology and pharmacology.