

Stephan Kloos

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Current and Recent Positions

2023– Deputy Director, Institute for Social Anthropology, ÖAW
2019–2023 Acting Director, Institute for Social Anthropology, ÖAW

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French and Spanish (working proficiency), Hindi (functional), Tibetan (basic spoken and reading)

Areas of Expertise

Sociocultural and medical anthropology · history of medicine · postcolonial theory
Pharmaceutical assemblages · humanitarianism from below · Asian medical industries
Sowa Rigpa (Tibetan, Mongolian and Himalayan medicine) · Ayurveda · TCM
India, Tibet, Mongolia, Himalayas, China, Buryatia

Academic Education

2022 Venia docendi (Habilitation) in Sociocultural Anthropology, U Vienna, Austria
2010 PhD in Medical Anthropology, University of California, San Francisco & Berkeley
2002 Mag.phil. in Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria
2000 ERASMUS Exchange in Medical Anthropology, Brunel University, London, UK

Academic Employment

2014–2019 Research Group Leader, Institute for Social Anthropology, ÖAW
2011–2013 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, Institute for Social Anthropology, ÖAW
2005–2010 Research Fellow, French Institute of Pondicherry
2002–2004 Associated Researcher, Wittgenstein Research Center, ÖAW
2001–2010 Research Fellow, Nomad RSI (international NGO for traditional medicine)

Research Funding (selection, > €2m total)

2021 Eurasia Pacific Uninet Grant – Traditional Mongolian Veterinary Medicine
2013 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant – Reassembling Tibetan Medicine
2008 & 2013 Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Stand-alone Project
2011 EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie International Incoming Fellowship
2007 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2004 Fulbright Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies

Teaching and Mentoring

Regular graduate and undergraduate teaching since 2012 at the Dept of Social & Cultural Anthropology, and the Dept of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, both University of Vienna.

Courses include:

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Fundamental Texts and Theory in Sociocultural Anthropology
- Anthropology of Tibet, the Himalayas, and the Tibetan exile
- Anthropology of Asian Medical Traditions / Tibetan Medicine

Regular supervision and mentoring of MA and PhD students and postdoc researchers since 2014; Marie Skłodowska-Curie co-supervisor, MA examiner (University of Vienna)

Editorial Roles

- 2026– Associate Editor, EASTS: East Asian Science, Technology & Society
- 2016– Associate Editor, Asian Medicine – Journal of the IASTAM
- 2018–2023 Editorial Board Member, J-AIM: Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine

Professional Organizations

- 2015– Executive Council Member, WFCMS Tibetan Medicine Committee
- 2013– Advisory Council Member, IASTAM
- 2012– Founding Member & Co-Organizer, Vienna Dialogues in Medical Anthropology

Grant Evaluation

- 2020–2024 Expert evaluator and rapporteur, European Commission (REA), Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships
- 2018– Project reviewer, US National Science Foundation (NSF) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Peer Review

Regular peer review for leading journals in social anthropology, Asian studies, and STS, including *Current Anthropology*, *Medical Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, *EASTS*, *Asian Medicine*, *CSSH*, and others; also for Amsterdam University Press and Indiana University Press.

Academic Consultancy

- 2025 *WHO Benchmarks for the Training of Traditional Tibetan Medicine*
general advice and authorship of sections in Annex 8
- 2014 *Rubin Museum of Art exhibition “Bodies in Balance”*
interactive section on contemporary Tibetan medicine in India

PublicationsFull list: stephankloos.org/publications**Monographs and Edited Volumes**

- 2025 Blaikie, Kloos & Khalikova (eds.) *Asian Medical Industries: Beyond Tradition, Beyond Medicine, Beyond Asia*. Research Topic, Frontiers in Human Dynamics 7
- 2022 Kloos & Blaikie (eds) *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. London & New York: Routledge, 352 pages
- 2022 Pordié & Kloos (eds) *Healing at the Periphery: Ethnographies of Tibetan Medicine in India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 211 pages
- 2004 *Tibetan Medicine among the Buddhist Dards of Ladakh*. Vienna: Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, Heft 57, 183 pages

Selected Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- 2026 *Animal Substances in Contemporary Tibetan Medicine: A Case of Pharmaceutical De-Faunalization?* *Asian Medicine* 21(1): 107-133
- 2022 *The Emergence of a Traditional Mongolian Medicine Industry: Communism, continuity and reassemblage*. in: Kloos & Blaikie (eds) *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. New York & London: Routledge, pp. 280-304
- 2020 (Kloos, Madhavan, Tidwell, Blaikie & Cuomu) *The Transnational Sowa Rigpa Industry in Asia: New Perspectives on an Emerging Economy*. *Social Science & Medicine* 245: 112617
- 2020 *Humanitarianism from Below: Sowa Rigpa and Global Health*. *Medical Anthropology* 39(2): 167-181
- 2017 *The Pharmaceutical Assemblage: Rethinking Sowa Rigpa and the Herbal Pharmaceutical Industry in Asia*. *Current Anthropology* 58(6): 693-717
- 2017 *The Politics of Preservation and Loss: Tibetan Medical Knowledge in Exile*. *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal (EASTS)* 11(2): 135-159
- 2016 *The Recognition of Sowa Rigpa in India: How Tibetan Medicine Became an Indian Medical System*. *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory* 3(2): 19-49
- 2013 *How Tibetan Medicine Became a 'Medical System'*. *East Asian Science, Technology and Society (EASTS)* 7(3): 381-395

Invited Lectures and Conference Papers**Keynote Lectures (selection)**

- 2018 BRICS International Medical Forum, Moscow
- 2016 100 Year Founding Anniversary of Men-Tsee-Khang, Lhasa
- 2016 IASTAM-India, First International Conference on Advances in Asian Medicine, Pune

Invited Lectures (selection)

- 2025 Royal Anthropological Institute, London
- 2025 Palacky University, Dept of Asian Studies, Olomouc, Czech Republic
- 2024 China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Institute for the History of Chinese Medicine and Medical Literature, Beijing

- 2023 Frobenius Institut, Frobenius Kolloquium, Frankfurt a.M.
- 2023 National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute
- 2022 Cambridge University, Mongolia and Inner Asia Research Unit (MIASU), Cambridge, UK
- 2021 University of Oslo, Dept of Community Medicine and Global Health
- 2018 Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography, Moscow
- 2017 Harvard Medical School, WFCMS Annual Conference, Boston
- 2017 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich
- 2016 Oxford University, ArgO-EMR Seminar, Oxford, UK
- 2016 British Academy & Royal Anthropological Institute, Anthropology in Austria Day, London

Conference Papers (selection)

- 2026 AAS, Association for Asian Studies, Vancouver
- 2024 ICTAM-10 International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines, Taipei
- 2020 EASA, European Association for Social Anthropologists, Lisbon
- 2016 IATS, International Association for Tibet Studies, Bergen
- 2013 ICTAM-8 International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines, Sancheong
- 2013 EASA-SMA, Tarragona, Spain

Public and Media Engagement (selection)

Full list: stephankloos.org/press

International Press

- 2017 New York Times – China and India file rival claims over Tibetan medicine (July 27, p. A7)
- 2016 Le Figaro – La médecine traditionnelle tisse des liens planétaires (October 28)
- 2016 The Telegraph – Traditional Tibetan medicine celebrated at forum (October 25)
- 2016 Xinhua / China Daily / People.cn – interviews on Tibetan medicine’s international development

German-Language Press and Broadcast

- 2025 WDR 5 Morgenecho – Live interview on Kashmir (May 8)
- 2025 Austrian Academy of Sciences – commentary on the Kashmir crisis (May 2)
- 2021 Der Standard – Die große Impfungerechtigkeit (March 24)
- 2019 ORF Science – Tibetische Medizin als Wirtschaftsfaktor (September 27)
- 2017 Die Presse – Der teilnehmende Beobachter (February 4, p. 36)