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## Innovation in Chinese Medicine

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In the West ideas about Chinese medicine are commonly associated with traditional therapies and ancient practices which have been in place, unchanging, since time immemorial. This volume, edited by Elisabeth Hsu, demonstrates that this is far from the reality. In a series of pioneering case studies, twelve contributors, from a range of disciplines, explore the history of Chinese medicine and the transformations that have taken place during the course of that history from the fourth century BC to the present day. Topics of discussion cover diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, pharmacotherapy, the creation of new genres of medical writing and schools of doctrine. Given the growing interest in Chinese medicine, the volume promises to make a valuable and innovative contribution. Its interdisciplinarity, a hallmark of the field, will ensure a wide readership amongst scholars and practitioners.

ELISABETH HSU is a lecturer in medical anthropology at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford. Her publications include *The Transmission of Chinese Medicine* (1999).

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*Edited by*

**Elisabeth Hsu**

*University of Oxford*



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*In memoriam Lu Gwei-Djen*  
(1904–1991)

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## Series editor's preface

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This book is a collective production, for which credit must be shared amongst a number of scholars, some of whose names do not appear in the contents list. Most of all, thanks are due to Elisabeth Hsu, who has worked over the last five years to edit all the components of this text together to create a coherent whole constituting a major contribution to this field of learning. Without her dedication and thoroughness there would simply be no book at all.

The book has its origin in a workshop meeting that was held at the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge from 8–11 March 1995. One aim of that workshop was to commemorate the life and work of Lu Gwei-djen, who for many years was Joseph Needham's principal collaborator on the *Science and Civilisation in China* project. She was in fact the 'principal evocator' of this immense work through the inspiration she gave, dating from well before the time Needham first visited China. Joseph Needham took part in the workshop, but died a fortnight later. This was therefore, very fittingly, the last scholarly activity to which he contributed in a long and productive life.

The workshop was generously supported by a number of bodies, including the Lu Gwei-djen Memorial Charitable Trust (who also supported the editorial work on this book), the Wellcome Trust, the British Academy, and Robinson College (where Lu Gwei-djen had been an honorary fellow). To these bodies we offer our sincere gratitude for having made this work possible.

As well as those who have contributed their writing to this book, there were others whose participation in the workshop and subsequent advice helped to shape it and to give it direction: Francesca Bray (University of California, Santa Barbara), Judith Farquhar (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), T. J. Hinrichs and Lowell Skar, at that time both US National Science Foundation Fellows at the NRI, Françoise Sabban (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Sidney White (Temple University, Philadelphia), and also Gregory Blue (University of Victoria). We hope they will be pleased to see what they have helped to bring to fruition. No less than three anonymous academic readers contributed advice on the content and structure of the

volume in draft: we hope that the value of their careful checking and criticism will be evident to them from the present appearance of this book.

Throughout the editing of the book, invaluable advice came from a number of scholars whose advice the editor sought on many occasions: David McMullen, Mark Lewis, Geoffrey Lloyd, Michael Loewe, and also Ho Peng-Yoke. Penelope Herbert acted as English style consultant for a volume whose contributors came from a very varied linguistic background. On matters Chinese researchers at the Needham Research Institute helped in many ways; among them are Li Lisha, Guo Shirong, Wang Qianjin, and also Zhao Hongjun and Ma Boying. In the editor's tasks of bibliographic and other background research, much help came from Charles Aylmer of Cambridge University Library and from John Moffett, Librarian of the Needham Research Institute with the assistance of Gao Chuan and Sally Church. As successive secretaries of the Institute, Angela King and Susan Bennett helped manage a complex network of contacts and information flows. Of course none of those who helped in all these varied ways bears responsibility for any errors of commission or omission that may remain uncorrected in the final text.

This book is not in any conventional sense a *Festschrift*. It exists in its own right as a carefully planned and executed collective contribution to a vigorously growing field of learning. But given the field with which it deals, and the occasion which gave rise to the project from which it stems, I hope that it will be taken as a tribute to the life and work of Lu Gwei-djen, whose arrival in Cambridge so long ago led to so much that has increased the understanding and mutual knowledge of China and the West.

*Christopher Cullen*

## Chinese dynasties

Shang dynasty	16th–11th century BC	Sui dynasty	581–618
Zhou dynasty	11th century–221 BC	Tang dynasty	618–907
Western Zhou dynasty	11th century–771	Five dynasties	907–960
Eastern Zhou dynasty	770–256	Later Liang	907–923
Spring and Autumn Period	770–476	Later Tang	923–936
Warring States	475–221	Later Jin	936–946
Qin dynasty	221–207 BC	Later Han	947–950
Han dynasty	206 BC–AD 220	Later Zhou	951–960
Western Han dynasty	206 BC–AD 24	Song dynasty	960–1127
Eastern Han dynasty	25–220	Northern Song dynasty	960–1127
Three Kingdoms	220–280	Southern Song	1127–1279
Wei	220–265	Liao dynasty	916–1125
Shu	221–263	Jin dynasty	1115–1234
Wu	222–280	Yuan dynasty	1271–1368
Western Jin dynasty	265–316	Ming dynasty	1368–1644
Eastern Jin dynasty	317–420	Qing dynasty	1644–1911
Northern and Southern dynasties	420–581	Republic of China	1191–1949
Southern Song	420–479	People's Republic of China	1949–
Southern Qi	479–502		
Liang	502–557		
Chen	557–589		
Northern Wei	386–534		
Eastern Wei	534–550		
Northern Qi	550–577		
Western Wei	535–556		
Northern Zhou	557–581		