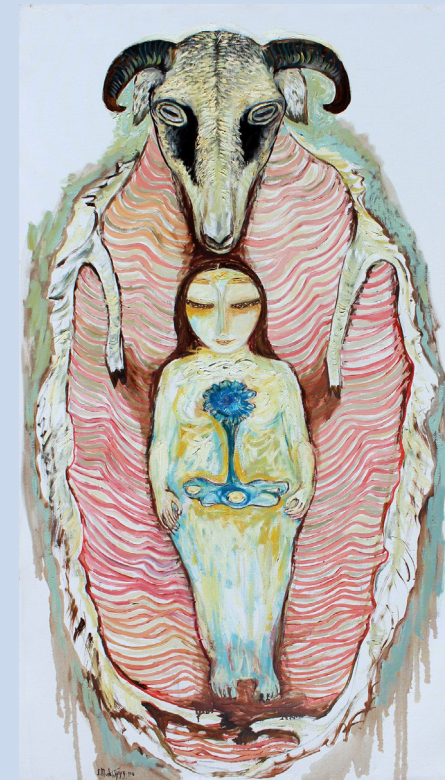




**Yesuu (Yesun-Erdene Bat)** was born in 1988 in Selenge Yruu, a town on the banks of the Selenge River on Mongolia's northern border with Russia. He studied music at the National University in the Mongolian capital Ulanbaatar from 2005 to 2009 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. From 2006-2010 he studied singing and music education at the University of Arts and Culture in Ulanbaatar. He completed this second degree with a bachelor's degree as a singer and music teacher and then worked as a music teacher at the secondary school. From 2011-2013 he worked as a Morin Khuur musician and singer at the Mongolian Cultural Center in Namyangju/South Korea. 2013 he moved to Ingolstadt/Germany. Since then he has made numerous appearances as a soloist on the Morin Khuur and also as a singer and guest musician with various ensembles such as Hosoo & Transmongolia, Sound Affinities Ensemble, Ephyra, Khukh Mongol, Hatan, Sedaa and Egschiglen in Germany and other European countries. Among other things, he played in November 2019 for the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Music Studies at the FRANZ LISZT Weimar University of Music. From 2020-2022 he played regularly with the Ensemble Egschiglen at concerts in France, Portugal, Greece and Germany. He is a founding member of the string quartet „Tengerton“ and a singer and plays Morin Khuur.



J. Munkhtsetseg, Healing, oil on canvas, 150 x 80 cm, 2016.  
(courtesy of J. Munkhtsetseg)

## PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR RELIGION

**International Workshop**  
**November 24 - 25, 2023**

Institute for the Science of Religion  
University of Bern  
Switzerland



МОНГОЛ УЛСААС  
ШВЕЙЦАРЫН ХОЛБООНЫ  
УЛСАД СУУГАА  
ЭЛЧИН САЙДЫН ЯАМ

# PROGRAM

## Friday, November 24

8.30 - 9.00

**Registration and morning coffee**

9.00 - 9.20

**OPENING**

1. DAVAASUREN Gerelmaa (Ambassador of Mongolia to the Swiss Confederation, to the United Nations Office, and other international organisations in Geneva)
2. BEISBART Claus (Vice Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Bern)
3. KOLLMAR-PAULENZ Karénina (Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern)

9.20 - 10.15

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**

TSULTEM Uranchimeg (IUPUI, Indianapolis) - Performativity in Mongolian Buddhist Art.  
Discussion

10.15 - 10.30

**Coffee break**

10.30 - 12.00

**PANEL 1: PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR REPRESENTATIONS**

Chair: Zolboo Sandagjav

1. WISLER Michaela (University of Bern) - Mandalas, Nomadic Tradition, and "Shamanic" Installations: How vernacular religion influences and shows itself in contemporary Mongolian art.
2. BATMUNKH Mungunchimeg (University of Bern) - Vernacular Religion in Everyday Life: The war god Jamsran in Mongolia.
3. FRANKE Edith (University of Marburg) - A Bearded Woman on the Cross: Vernacular religious practices beyond gender normativity.

Discussion

12.00 - 14.00

**Lunch break (Unibe Mensa)**

14.00 - 15.30

**PANEL 2: PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR MATERIALITIES**

Chair: Piotr Sobkowiak

1. WETTSTEIN Marion (Heidelberg University) - No writings, No Images, No Materials. No history of vernacular religion?
2. BIRTALAN Ágnes (Eötvös Loránd University) - Mongolian Scapulimancy Practice Throughout the Centuries (in written sources and oral tradition).
3. SAVOSTINA Yulia (University of Bern) - Felt Fox and Hedgehog's Spines: Vernacular amulets in Mongolia.

Discussion

15.30 - 15.45

**Coffee break**

15.45 - 17.15

**PANEL 3: PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR TEXTS**

Chair: Dorothea Heuschert-Laage

1. SOBKOVIK Ekaterina (University of Bern) - To Beat or Not to Beat: The question of corporeal punishment in the Mongolian Buddhist monastic tradition.
2. BERKWITZ Stephen (Missouri State University) - Discerning the Vernacular in Medieval Sri Lankan Buddhist Histories.
3. SPECIAL GUEST (Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences) - Between Practice and Scripture: An interlingual journey of an incense offering.

Discussion

17.30

**Concert: Yesun-Erdene Bat**

19.00 - 22.00

**Dinner (Restaurant Casa d'Italia)**

## Saturday, November 25

9.00 - 10.30

**PANEL 4: PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR PRACTISES**

Chair: Michaela Wisler

1. STOLPE Ines (University of Bonn) - Belonging Without Believing? Encounters with vernacular religious phenomena.
2. SOLOVYEVA Alevtina (University of Tartu) - Soul Matters: Mongolian Buddhism in contemporary everyday life, social and political challenges.
3. HELLER Amy (University of Bern) - Probings into Vernacular Religion: The example of the Black-Neck Crane Festival, Gangtey, Bhutan.

Discussion

10.30 - 10.45

**Coffee break**

10.45 - 11.45

**PANEL 5: PROBINGS INTO VERNACULAR IMAGES**

Chair: Marion Wettstein

1. KIRSCH Anja (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) - Vernacular Utopia.
2. SOBKOVIK Piotr (University of Bern) - Reflections in the Cracked Mirror: Vernacular religion and the problem of the first-person perspective in the historical study of religion.

Discussion

11.45 - 12.30

**ROUND TABLE "Vernacular Religion" - a concept to overcome thinking in dichotomies in the study of religions?**

Chair: Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz

12.30 - 13.30

**Apéro riche (Ali Baba)**

u<sup>b</sup>

b  
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