

Siège:

Centre d'études mongoles et sibériennes

54 boulevard Raspail

75006 Paris



Lettre d'information des études mongoles et sibériennes n°101

19 août 2026

Chères et chers collègues,

La Société des études mongoles et sibériennes vous envoie périodiquement les actualités de la recherche sur les études mongoles et sibériennes (événements, publications, nouveaux membres, soutenances de thèse et d'HDR...). Ces actualités ne sont absolument pas exhaustives et dépendent de ce que nous recevons, donc n'hésitez pas à nous faire parvenir les informations que vous souhaitez diffuser à l'adresse suivante : isacharleux@orange.fr

Nous vous invitons également à consulter périodiquement le Site des Études mongoles et sibériennes : <https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr/>.

Les précédentes lettres d'informations sont accessibles ici :
<https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr/lettre-sems/>

N'hésitez pas à nous envoyer votre cotisation pour soutenir la Société des études mongoles et sibériennes, qui a notamment pour objectif de publier la collection « Nord-Asie », d'aider les jeunes chercheurs et d'organiser des manifestations sur la Mongolie et la Sibérie.

Bien cordialement,

Isabelle Charleux

Séminaires et colloques

Séminaire des études mongoles

Le séminaire des études mongoles aura lieu le jeudi de 14h à 16h aux dates suivantes, en ligne et sur le Campus Condorcet (Campus Condorcet, Bâtiment de recherche Nord (14 cours des Humanités, 93322 Aubervilliers, Métro Front Populaire (Ligne 12) ; RER B La Plaine – Stade de France) :

Jeudi 22 octobre 2026 : Oyungerel Tangad (*titre à venir*)

Jeudi 12 novembre 2026 : Juliette Cleuziou (*titre à venir*)

Jeudi 26 novembre 2026 : Möngönsan (*titre à venir*)

Jeudi 10 décembre 2026 : Sasha Arkhipova (*titre à venir*).

24-25 septembre 2026

Colloque “Between War and Peace: Mongolia and the Making of Eurasian Order,” 3rd Biennial Cambridge Mongolia Forum Marking the 40th Anniversary of MIASU, 24-25 sept 2026.

Programme here: https://www.miasu.socanth.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/CMF26_poster_draft.pdf

2-3 octobre 2026: Mongolia Society Annual Meeting and Conference

The Mongolia Society Annual Meeting and Conference will be held October 2-3, 2026, on the Western Washington University campus, in Bellingham, Washington. The preliminary program is in the attachment.

65th Anniversary Program Schedule Annual Meeting & Panels - October 2-3, 2026 Western Washington University 516 High Street, Bellingham WA 98225:

<https://www.mongoliasociety.org/monsoc-2026-annual-meeting#:~:text=The%20Mongolia%20Society%E2%80%99s%202026%20Annual%20Meeting%20will%20be,in%20Mongolian%20Studies%20for%20more%20than%20fifty%20years.>

15 octobre 2026 : International workshop “New religious trends and Eschatology in the Inner Asia World”

International workshop organised by the Centre de recherches sur les civilisations de l’Asie orientale (CRCAO UMR 8155, CNRS, Collège de France, EPHE-PSL, Université Paris Cité)

Date: Thursday 15 October 2026

Location: Collège de France – Institut des civilisations Adresse : 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 75005 Paris
Salle : Françoise Héritier, and Zoom

Language: English

Organisers: Aurore Dumont (Université Paris Cité, CRCAO) & Isabelle Charleux (CNRS, CRCAO).

Contacts: aurore.dumont@u-paris.fr, isacharleux@orange.fr

Following the collapse of the communist regimes in 1990, a wide range of new religious trends have emerged and gained increasing popularity across Inner Asia – especially the Mongol cultural areas (Mongolia, Mongol-populated regions of China and Russia), as well as Tibetan cultural regions, Kazakhstan, and the Altai. These new trends involve both transformations within “traditional” religions – Buddhism, Islam and shamanism – and the rise of religious movements such as neo-shamanism, prosperity-oriented cults and New Age currents influenced by Russian esotericism (e.g. Agni Yoga). Often grounded in imagined archaic spiritual traditions, these emerging religious movements position themselves in contrast to established “world religions.” They introduce new terminologies, frequently drawing on metaphors of electricity, and promote ritual practices centred harnessing “energy” (*energi*) from natural elements, often combined with eschatological motifs. Their evolving ritual practices, narratives, and doctrinal frameworks (when they are made explicit) draw on a broad array of sources, including Buddhism and its Shambhalist eschatology, early twentieth-century religious movements such as Ak jang (“Burkhanism”) in the Altai, shamanism, local folklore, and other religious motifs. These new religious forms are frequently intertwined with ethno-national agendas and also generate at the same time dynamics of interethnic exchange and transnational convergence.

This international workshop seeks to examine how these new movements reflect local and global transformations, social anxieties, and geopolitical challenges in the contemporary contexts of Inner Asia marked by urbanization, glocal and ethnic dynamics, the expansion of the market economy, as well as heightened uncertainty linked to warfare, environmental degradation and climate change. It also aims to analyse these emerging trends in relation to the opposition they may encounter from institutional Buddhism and some authoritarian states’ prohibitive measures.

This workshop inaugurates the program “Religions et savoirs en mutation en Asie intérieure” (Religions and Changing Knowledge Inner Asia) of the new “Pôle Études mongoles” (Mongol studies Team) founded in January 2026 at the Centre de recherches sur les civilisations de l’Asie orientale (CRCAO). Three

discussants from three other cultural areas (China, Korea, Tibet) will provide a comparative perspective on these issues.

Program

Introduction - Isabelle Charleux & Aurore Dumont

Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko (Kyoto University): "Mongolian Connections: Visionary Science, Mysticism and the Dispersed Birthing of the New Age"

Isabelle Charleux (CNRS/CRCAO): "No more gods? The cult of natural elements in contemporary Mongolian pilgrimage"

Valeria Gazizova (Heidelberg University): "Art, Healing and Neo-Nomadic Spirituality of the Steppe"

Valentina Punzi (EPHE/CRCAO): "From the bottom of the ocean to the top of a thousand mountains: The reinvention of Zhang Zhung civilization in contemporary Chinese pop-culture"

Alya Solovyeva (University of Tartu, Estonia): "Resilient Eschatology and Cosmological Sovereignty in Contemporary Inner Asia"

Ma Xin (EPHE): "From Anonymous Forces to Ancestral Voices: Naming, Placing, and Calling Spirits in Barga Shamanism".



Call for paper : Wild, Domesticated, and Displayed : Animals and Cultural Heritagization in Ethnic Areas of China"

Nous avons le plaisir de vous transmettre en pièce jointe l'appel à communication de la conférence internationale que nous organisons le 28 mai 2027 à Paris. Celle-ci est intitulée "Wild, Domesticated, and Displayed : Animals and Cultural Heritagization in Ethnic Areas of China".

Date: 28 May 2027

Location: on site in Paris and online (Zoom)

Language: English

Organizers: Valentina Punzi (École pratique des hautes études/CRCAO) & Aurore Dumont (Université Paris Cité/CRCAO)

Through the history of the People's Republic of China, the association between certain animal species and state-identified "ethnic minorities" (shaoshu minzu 少数民族) have been shaped by a combination of emic cultural symbolism, environmental factors, and socio-economic activities. Far from static, these associations have been evolving following the Chinese state's governance and modernization policies across its ethnic borderlands and beyond. Indeed, over time, shifts in political agendas — including economic structures and more recently environmental policies and cultural heritage programs — have contributed to redefining the perception of the symbolic and practical roles that animals play in representing ethnic groups and their cultural practices. Granted a new agency, particular animals have become emblematic of certain ethnicities or territories, thus contributing significantly to the (de)construction of "cultural identities" and heritage narratives in contemporary China. Different types of animals are involved in these symbolic relationships. Some species are displayed as exotic or geographically distinctive, meaning they are strongly associated with particular regions. This is the case, for example, with the snow leopard in Qinghai Province, whose conservation status further contributes to its symbolic value, and with the reindeer in Inner Mongolia, which has historically been central to pastoral economies.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, both traditional and newly emerging processes of meaning-making that connect ethnic groups and animals have been strongly impacted by the Chinese state's cultural heritage policies. Numerous practices involving animals have indeed been inscribed on China's national or provincial list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, producing selectivity in the choice of practices elevated to heritage status (Maags & Svensson 2018). For example, Evenki people and their herds became symbols of "reindeer culture" after the development of summer tourism (Dumont 2016).

In some cases, these human-animal relationships are promoted by the state as part of broader narratives on ecological harmony and cultural authenticity. Most recently, the transition from national diversity to national homogeneity within Xi Jinping's "Second-Generation Ethnic Policies" (Roche & Leibold 2020) highlights new conceptions of "a post-ethnic local culture, in which differences between nationalities are de-emphasised" (White 2024a).

With these animals often becoming cultural markers, heritage discourse, policies, tourism promotion, and popular media often emphasize positive stereotypes of harmonious human–animal relationships. In ethnic tourism, tourists may encounter animals through staged photographs, opportunities to ride or feed them, themed souvenirs and gadgets, and stage performances, and may also consume them through displays in ethnic museums and “traditional” food products. However, these encounters may be rather distant from local people’s lived realities, which often involve economic dependency, environmental pressures, and occasional conflict. Examining these dynamics can reveal how different actors — including local communities, state institutions, conservation organizations, and tourism industries — participate in shaping the meanings and roles attributed to animals.

Following the past and ongoing research on cultural heritage in ethnic minorities areas (Blumenfield 2018, Fraser 2019, Dumont 2023, Milan 2023, Yu 2015, Zheng 2023, Zhu 2018), as well as on the animals-minority groups relationships in China (White 2024b), this workshop seeks to explore what does the heritagization process of a given local culture or area do to human-animal relationships in the ethnic borderlands of China and beyond. Being wild, herded, protected and/or displayed, how are animals used and consumed within the context of heritagization? How have ethnic minorities animal associations and interactions transformed across major political and social changes in contemporary China? How have the lives of humans and animals been (re)shaped within conservation and heritage policies? What kinds of experiences, negotiations, and contestations are being locally produced?

We welcome case-studies’ contributions which are based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in China and/or on primary Chinese or minority languages written or oral sources. Case studies may focus on a specific geographic area, one or more animal species, one or more ethnic groups. Proposals are expected to deal with one of following themes:

- The shifting role and use of animals within domestic and tourism economies
- Representation of nature and human-animal relationships in ethnic tourism
- Heritage narratives versus lived realities
- Ethnic and animal otherness
- Transformations in the cultural heritagization of animal symbolism from the “ethnic” to the “regional”

Proposals must be sent to Valentina Punzi and Aurore Dumont at: animals.ethnic.heritagization@gmail.com by 30 October 2026 and should include a paper abstract (ca. 300 words) and a biographical note (ca.100 words). Applicants will be notified in December 2026. As we intend to publish the outcome of the workshop as either a special issue or a book, papers will be circulated among participants one month prior to the workshop. The working language will be English.

There is no registration fee for the workshop. One lunch and one dinner will be provided for all participants. Participants are expected to arrange and cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. The organizers will make every effort to secure funding to help offset these costs, but no financial support can be guaranteed at this stage.

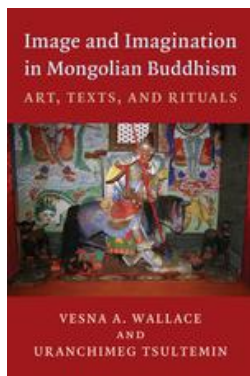
For references, see the attached file.

Publications

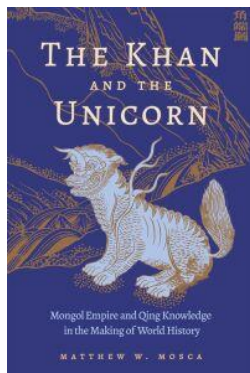
Yong Cho, *The Woven Image. The Making of Mongol Art in the Yuan Empire*, Yale university Press, 2026
(<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300282740/the-woven-image/>)

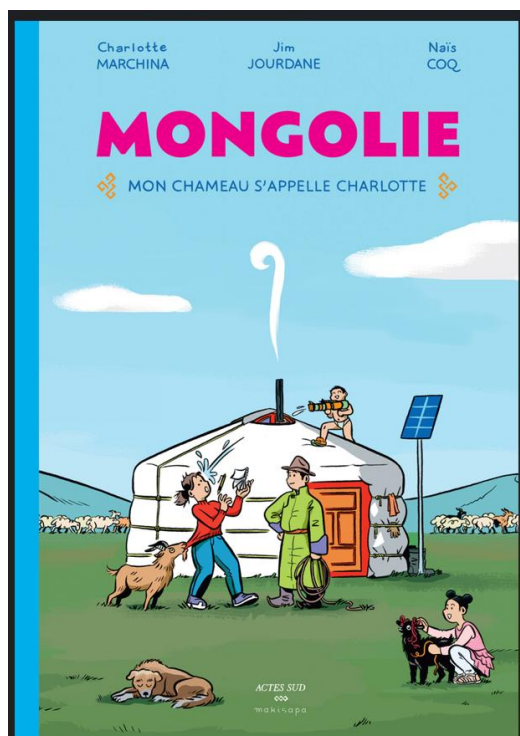


Wallace, Vesna A. & Uranchimeg Tsultemin, *Image and Imagination in Mongolian Buddhism: Art, Texts, and Rituals*, Columbia University press, 2026



Mosca, Matthew W. *The Khan and the Unicorn : Mongol Empire and Qing Knowledge in the Making of World History*, Harvard University Press, 2026.





Cotisation à la SEMS

La Société des Études mongoles et sibériennes

La Société des Études mongoles et sibériennes est une association régie par la loi du 1^{er} juillet 1901 et le décret du 16 août 1901, fondée par Roberte Hamayon en 2013. Elle a son siège au Centre d'études mongoles et sibériennes (54 boulevard Raspail, 75006, Paris). Depuis le 20 décembre 2023, elle est présidée par Anne Dalles Maréchal et Clément Jacquemoud, avec comme secrétaire Isaline Saunier, et trésorier Robin Touban.

La SEMS a pour but de promouvoir la connaissance de la Mongolie et de la Sibérie (Asie septentrionale), rassembler les chercheurs spécialistes de ces régions, contribuer à la diffusion et à la valorisation de leurs travaux par des publications scientifiques et d'ouverture au grand public, par la mise au point d'une base de données électroniques et par des manifestations (conférences, événements culturels).

La SEMS contribue au financement de la collection papier *Nord-Asie*, supplément à la revue *Études mongoles & sibériennes, centrasiatiques & tibétaines*. Elle finance par ailleurs l'hébergement du site des Études mongoles et sibériennes.

Pour devenir membre de la SEMS (**cotisation annuelle 20 €, étudiants 15 €**), veuillez vous adresser à Robin Touban : robin.touban@gmail.com