

# Carmen Simioli

## Curriculum Vitae and List of Publications

### Education

- **2014:** Ph.D (Dottorato di ricerca, EQF level 8) with full scholarship in East and South Asian Studies (Specialization in Indic and Tibetan Studies), University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR). Title of Thesis: *Tibetan Mercurial Alchemy and Iatrochemistry*, Translation and Analysis of Tibetan Medical and Alchemical Sources (Tenth to Fifteenth century).  
Advisor: Professor Dr. Giacomella Orofino (Chair Professor of Tibetan Language and Literature and Indo-Tibetan Civilizations and Religions), University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR).
- **2010:** M.A. (Laurea Magistrale, EQF level 7) in Languages and Culture of Asia and Africa, (final grade 110/110 magna cum laude and academic mention), University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR). Thesis in Tibetan philology: *Estrarre l’Essenza Luminosa*, Studio Preliminare sull’Alchimia Tibetana. (*Extracting the Luminous Essence*, A Preliminary Study on Tibetan Alchemy).
- **2005:** B.A. (Laurea Triennale, EQF level 6) in Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, University of Naples “L’Orientale” (final grade 110/110 magna cum laude). Thesis in Tibetan literature: *Amor Profano o Intelletto D’amore?* Traduzione e Analisi di sonetti scelti del Sesto Dalai Lama (*Secular Love or Divine Intellect?* Translation and Analysis of Selected Songs Ascribed to the Sixth Dalai Lama).

### Fields of Research

Tibetan Language and philology  
History of Tibetan medicine and alchemy  
Mercury pharmacology  
Buddhist healing and apotropaic rituals

### Current Position

- February 2021-February 2025

Research fellow at the Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies of University of Naples “L’Orientale”. This research grant in Buddhist Studies is funded by Khyentse foundation USA to support her research on the historical interactions of Buddhism and medical traditions in Tibet. Project title: “Historical and philological Investigation of Tibetan Tantric and Medical Sources on Treatments of Epidemic Diseases and Poisons Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.”

Advisor: Professor Dr. Giacomella Orofino (Chair Professor of Tibetan Language and Literature and Indo-Tibetan Civilizations and Religions), University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR).

### Teaching Experience as Professor

- September 2022–current

L’Orientale University of Naples: Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (DAAM) Tibetan language and literature I-II-III (48 hours course)

- October 2021- September 2022

L'Orientale University of Naples: Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (DAAM)

Tibetan language (Beginners Course) and literature I-II (48 hours course)

- September 2019 - September 2020

Ca' Foscari, University of Venice: Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM)

Spring 2020: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

Fall 2019: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

- September 2018 - September 2019

Ca' Foscari, University of Venice: Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM)

Spring 2019: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

Fall 2018: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

- October 2017- September 2018

Ca' Foscari, University of Venice: Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM)

Spring 2018: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

Fall 2017: Classical Tibetan (30 hours course)

### **Teaching Experience as Teaching Assistant**

- **Academic year 2015-2016:** Tibetan Language and Literature taught at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR).
- **March 2014-April 2014:** Monographic course on the history and literature of Tibetan medicine taught at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR).

### **Publications**

#### **Selected Peer-reviewed Articles and Book chapters**

- Simioli **Forthcoming a:** *Descriptions of Skull Injuries Across Medical Systems: A Preliminary Transmission History Through a Comparative Analysis of Terminology, Diagnosis and Surgical Treatments*. Paper to be published as part of the proceedings of the International Workshop on De Gorri's *Definitiones medicae*, special issue of the journal "La Biblioteca di Galeno" (double-blind peer reviewed) Edited by Tommaso Raiola (L'Orientale University) and Florian Steger (Ulm University).
- Simioli **Forthcoming b:** *The Multidimensional Nature of the Mercury Procedures as Described in Ten Million of Quintessential Instructions, The Relics (Man ngag bye ba ring bsrel) of Zur mkhar ba mnyam nyid rdo rje*. Paper to be published as an outcome of the departmental project "Fate and Immortality in Asia: A Cross-Cultural Perspective" (2019–2022), special issue of Serie Orientale Roma (S.O.R., double-blind peer reviewed) edited by Donatella Rossi.
- Simioli **Forthcoming c:** *Aphrodisiacs, Rejuvenating Recipes and Spellbinding Formulas preserved in the Brang ti Great Measure of Gold: The Case of Medicinal Herpetofauna and Their Long enduring History in Tibetan Medico-Alchemical Sources*, in Atti del II Convegno AISTHiM in Serie Orientale Roma (expected publication 2024).

- Simioli **Forthcoming d**: “Theriac Recipes (da rya kan) as Ultimate Cure Againsts Epidemics in Two Medico-Alchemical Works of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries, in Barbarra Gerke, Jan van der Valk and William McGrath (eds.), REVUE D’ÉTUDES TIBÉTAINES, special issue on epidemics.
- **Simioli C.2019 a**, *Knowledge, Imagery, and the Treatment of Communicable Disease in the Vase of the Amṛta of Immortality: A Preliminary Analysis of a Nyingma Medical Corpus*, Knowledge and Context in Tibetan Medicine, Brill, vol. 43, pp.218-260. (ISBN 9789004401495) (ISSN 1568-6183).
- **Simioli, C. 2019 b**, *Tra medicina e magia: paradigma e cura delle malattie epidemiche secondo il Vaso del nettare dell’immortalità (‘Chi med bdud rtsi bum pa)*, Wind Horses Tibetan Himalayan and Mongolian Studies, Serie Minor LXXXVIII, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Napoli, pp. 485-508
- **Simioli, C. 2016**, *The “Brilliant Moon Theriac” (Zla zil dar ya kan): A Preliminary Study of Mercury Processing According to the Vase of Amṛta of Immortality (‘Chi med bdud rtsi bum pa) and its Influence on Tibetan Pharmacological Literature* in REVUE D’ÉTUDES TIBÉTAINES, vol. 37, pp. 391-419 (ISSN 1768-2959).
- **Simioli C. 2015**, *King of Essences. Mercury in the Tibetan Medico-Alchemical Traditions*, in *Elisir Mercuriali e Immortalità Capitoli per una Storia dell’Alchimia nell’Antica Eurasia*, issue of AION (Annali dell’Istituto Orientale di Napoli), 37:35-55. Pisa-Roma: Fabrizio Serra Editore.
- **Simioli C. 2013 (2014)**, *Alchemical Gold and the Pursuit of the Mercurial Elixir: An Analysis of two treatises from the Tibetan Buddhist Canon*, in *Mercury in Ayurveda and Tibetan Medicine*, special issue of Asian Medicine Tradition and Modernity (ASME), vol. 8(1): 41-73. Leiden: Brill.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Simioli C. 2024 (in press)**, *Storia fantastica dell’omino di legno e il bambino di legno: Pinocchio nel paese delle Nevi*, in Giovanni Capecchi (ed.), *Atlante Pinocchio*, Treccani, Roma, p.113–120.

#### Edited Volume

- **(With Orofino G., Drocco A., Galli L., Letizia C.)** *Wind Horses Tibetan Himalayan and Mongolian Studies*, Series Minor, LXXXVIII, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Napoli, pp. 614.

#### Translations

##### English to Italian:

- “Lo yoga tibetano, principi e pratiche” (Tibetan Yoga Principles and Practice) by Ian Baker, Torino: Giulio Einaudi Editore S.p.a, 2019
- “Mountagna” (Mountain) by Veronica della Dora, Torino: Giulio Einaudi Editore S.p.a, Torino, 2019

##### Chinese to English

**Translation of articles by professor Tsering Thar (Minzu University) and included in the volume “Research for Zhang Zhung Civilization”, edited by C. Rambles and V. Punzi, Kathmandu: Vajrabooks publications, 2021**

- New Exploration of Ancient Zhang Zhung Civilization (with Valentina Punzi; pp.3-46)
- A new Investigation into the Geographical Location of Zhang Zhung (pp.47-63)
- A New Inquiry into the Origins of Tibetan Scripts (pp. 127-148)
- The Bonpo religion in the Tibetan Kingdom and the *Srid pa’i spyid mdo* (pp. 149-175)
- The Formation and Development of the Bon Canon (pp. 257-82)

#### Reviews

- **Simioli, C. 2022**, *Taming the Poisonous: Mercury, Toxicity, and Safety in Tibetan Medical Practice*, written by Barbara Gerke, *Asian Medicine*, 17(1), 248-250. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15734218-12341514>

#### Selected Presentations and Invited Lectures

- **17 April 2024** (Lecture), *The Interrelation of Tibetan and Mongolian Medicine*, lecture in the framework of the seminar TIBETAN AND MONGOLIAN CONNECTIONS (17 April–9 May 2024), organised by Bayarma Khabtagaeva (UNIOR), Carmen Simioli (UNIOR) e Giacomella Orofino (UNIOR), held at L'Orientale.
- **26 March 2024** (Paper), *Analisi preliminare delle opera mediche extra-canoniche ascritte al deutero- Nāgārjuna*, presentation in the framework of the THIRD CONFERENCE OF AISTHiM (Associazione Italiana di Studi Tibetani e Himalayani, Italian Association for Tibetan and Himalayan Studies), held at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (25–27 March 2024).
- **6 December 2023** (Lesson), *Of Vultures, Deer, and Bee: Tibetan Religious and Poetic Imagery Associated to Animals*, lesson in the framework of the seminar "CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ACADEMIC DEBATES I - (A005650): ANIMALS, HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN ASIAN STUDIES, organised by Dr. Rosina Pastore (GHENT UNIVERSITY).
- **14 November 2023** (Invited lecture), *Two Tibetan Alchemical Teachings of the Fifteenth Century*, Lecture Series on Buddhism (First Semester), held at L'Orientale and organised by Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo (UNIOR), DAAM Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (UNIOR), DSAAM Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (UNIVE), and the Italian Doctorate in Religious Studies (DREST).
- **4 October 2023** (Invited lecture), "A Preliminary Analysis of Core Textual Sources on Alchemical Recipes and Alexipharmics Preserved in the *Brang ti lha rje'i rim brgyud kyi man ngag gser bre chen mo*", Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series, held at Harvard University, MA.
- **8 May 2023** (Invited lecture). "Tibetan Alchemy: Definition, Categories, Traditions and Literary Genres (Italian title: "L'alchimia tibetana: definizione, categorie, tradizioni e generi letterati. Seminar organised by Fabrizio Ferrari in the framework of the course "Ayurveda and Medical Traditions of Indian Subcontinent" (Italian version: Ayurveda e le tradizioni mediche del subcontinente indiano), University of Padua.
- **22 September 2022. Paper.** *Deumar Tenzin Phuntshog* (De'u dmar bstan 'dzin Phun Tshogs, 1672 b.): *The Great Authoritativeness Achieved by His Medical and Pharmacological Works in The History of Tibetan Medicine*, presented at the International Workshop "Jean de Gorris (1505–1577) and his *Definitiones medicae* Historical and Philological Perspectives, held at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR) 21–22 September 2022.
- **7 September 2022. Paper.** "The Multidimensional Nature of the Mercury Procedures as Expressed in *Ten Millions of Quintessential Instructions, The Relics* (Man ngag bye ba ring bsrel) of Zur mkhar ba mnyam nyid rdo rje", presented at the workshop "Fate and Immortality in Asia: A Cross-Cultural Perspective" (Progetto Medio RM11916B45F8FE71, Macroarea E, Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Delibera del S.A. 300/19 del 26/11/2019, pg. 66), held at La Sapienza University of Rome.
- **6 July 2022.** Paper. *Tibetan Understandings of Severe Skin Diseases as Expressed in the Exegesis of the Tantra of Adamantine Wrathful Bliss* (Rdo rje bde khros kyi rgyud), presented at Sixteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) held at Charles University of Prague.
- **15 March 2022. Paper.** "Modelli buddhisti nelle tradizioni medico alchemiche tibetane: il caso della Grande Misura d'oro del lignaggio Brang ti", delivered online as part of the departmental project "Modelli e dinamiche di trasmissione del Buddhismo in Asia" 2022–2024.
- **7 July 2021.** Paper: "Lucertole, salamandre ed altre sostanze animali nelle ricette di elisir di lunga vita e ringiovanimento della medicina tibetana medievale": note preliminari sui rimedi ascritti a Caraka preservati nel gSer Bre chen mo del lignaggio medico Brang ti (XIV secolo)" presented at the Second Conference of AISTHiM (Associazione Italiana di Studi Tibetani e Himalayani, Italian Association for Tibetan and Himalayan Studies), organised by the University of Rome "La Sapienza", the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR) and the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO).
- **19 May 2021** Lecture: "Between Buddhism and Medicine: Tracing the History of Theriac Recipes (*dar ka kan*) in Tibetan Medical and Alchemical Literature of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Invited lecture as part of Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series at Northwestern University organized by Sarah Jacoby and sponsored by the Khyentse Foundation.
- **4 May 2021.** Lecture: "Elisir e pratiche di lunga vita in Tibet: la ricerca del farmaco universal e del perfezionamento del corpo nella letteratura medica e religiosa tra il XIII e il XV secolo" (Online lecture) as part of the seminars on Asian Religions of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, organised by Francesca Tarocco, Giovanni Bulian and Silvia Rivadossi.
- **12 July 2019.** Paper: "Medicinal and Magical Uses of Bezoars in Tibetan Premodern Medicine" (Paper proposal for the Panel n. 20 "Tibetan Materialities: Exploring Materials, Techniques, and Knowledge Transmission across Disciplines") presented at the Fifteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) held at the National Institute of Asian Languages and Civilizations (INALCO) in Paris.
- **12 -15 September 2017.** Paper: "Diagnosi e divinazione delle malattie epidemiche": Studio preliminare dei capitoli diagnostici del Vaso del nettare dell'immortalità ("Chi med bdud rtsi bum pa, CBB), paper for the Founding Conference of AISTH (Associazione Italiana di Studi Tibetani e Himalayani, Italian Association for Tibetan and Himalayan Studies), organised by the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR) and the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO).

- **4 October 2016.** Lecture: "Note sull'alchimia e la farmacologia mercuriale in Tibet. Storiografia, questioni e ricerche" presented at Convegno di studi tibetani: "Aspetti della cultura e della società del Tibet" organised by Ester Bianchi and held at Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze sociali, University of Perugia.
- **20 –26 June 2016.** Paper: "The Paradigm of the Black Disease and Its Cures: A Critical Survey of Selected Sections from the Vase of Amṛta of Immortality ('Chi med bdud rtsi bum pa)", individual paper for the panel 15: Knowledge and Context in the History of Tibetan medicine, 14th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) held at University of Bergen Sydneshaugen School, Norway.
- **7– 12 September 2015.** Paper: "The Brilliant Moon Theriac": A Preliminary Study of Mercury Detoxification prescribed by the "Vase of Amṛta of Immortality" ('Chi med bDud rTsi bum pa) and its Influence on Later Tibetan Pharmacological literature, individual paper, Fourth International Seminar of Young Tibetologists (ISYT) held at University of Leipzig, Germany.
- **24 October 2014.** Paper: "Mercurial Alchemy in Tibet. The Transmission of An Indian Alchemical Practice to Tibet and Its Elaboration in the Zur Medical Lineage, individual paper presented at Fifth SHAC (Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry) Postgraduate Workshop held at 'Bunghuis', University of Amsterdam.
- **23 July 2014.** Lecture: *The Precious Necklace of Instructions to Compose the Black Mercurial Medicine: the Preparation of the Mercury- Sulphide Ash According to the Dranti Medical Tradition*, individual paper for the panel "The Power of Poisons: discourses on toxic substances in South Asian medical traditions," Twenty third European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) Zurich (23th -26th July 2014) held at University of Zurich, Department of Geography and the University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe.

### **Professional Experience and Services**

2013 - present: Serve as translator and interpreter for Tibetan lamas and Tibetan doctors at Istituto Samantabhadra (Dharma institute), Rome (Italy).

2011-2018: Member and Cofounder of "Vidyā- Arts and Cultures of Asia" (ACA). Main duties: Chinese and Tibetan Languages interpreter and translator; Tibetan language teacher; responsible for new media projects and exchange program between Neapolitan middle schools and the Nepalese Orphanage "Children of the Universe" based in Kathmandu.

### **Fieldwork Experiences and Languages Programs**

- Lhasa, Tibet (P.R.C.) from 2006 to 2008: two years course of Tibetan Language (Certificate of Advanced Knowledge of Modern Tibetan) at Tibet University (Xizang Daxue).
- Himachal Pradesh (India) from December 2007 to February 2008:  
Short Research stay, Collected sources at Manuscript Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (Dharamsala).
- Kathmandu and Lumbini (Nepal), 2012- 2013:  
Fieldwork research for the doctoral thesis  
Research affiliate of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute  
Collected manuscripts at Triten Norbutse Monastery

### **Research Grant**

- **Research Grant** (3 years) 2011-2014: Doctoral thesis research Awarded by the Ph.D. School of East and Southeast Asia of the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR).
- **Tise Foundation Grant** to present at IATS conference in Bergen (June 2016).
- **Research grant in Buddhist Studies** (4 years) 2021-2025: research grant founded by the Khyentse foundation Usa.

### **Organization of Conferences and Workshops**

- **17<sup>th</sup> April-9<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Tibetan and Mongolian Connections, Doctoral Seminar organised held at “L’Orientale” ( UNIOR), coorganised with Bayarma Khatbagaeva (UNIOR) and Giacomella Orofino ( UNIOR).
- **13th-15th September 2017:** Member of the Organising Committee of the Founding Conference of AISTHiM (Associazione Italiana di Studi Tibetani, Himalayani e Mongoli, Italian Association for Tibetan and Himalayan Studies), organised by the organised by the University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR) and the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO).

### **Membership of Scientific Societies**

- Founding Member of AISTHiM (Italian Association for Tibetan, Himalayan and Mongolian Studies)
- Ordinary Member of IASTAM (International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicines)
- Ordinary Member of IATS (International Association for Tibetan Studies)
- Ordinary Member of ISYT (International Seminar of Young Tibetologists)
- Ordinary Member of SCHAC (Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry)