

Prof. Dr. Cristiana Turini (University of
Macerata, Italy)

“Embodying Cultural Diversity: Ritual and
Ethnicity along the Sino-Tibetan Border”

26.01.2023 at 12:00 c. t., via Zoom



Register by scanning the QR-code or visit:

<https://lmu-munich.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcuCvpjMuHtY5qxUh1CNULlc9hYZ34rCD>



After a general introduction to ethnic diversity in China, the talk will mainly focus on the Naxi, a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group and their ritual world with respect to illness and healing. The Naxi have a complex system of highly hybridized religious practices and a very peculiar pictographic script for religious purposes. Naxi reality is inhabited by a great number of different supernatural beings with whom they have to confront daily and many of them can cause illness in a variety of ways. The most common one is soul stealing. Demons, spirits and even deities can steal people's souls with different purposes and if ritual intervention is not immediate or if it is not adequate, death can occur. Particular attention will be paid to ritual specialists and their paraphernalia, as well as to the relations binding the Naxi body to the metaphysical world and turning Naxi illness into a complex cosmological event.