The Medical Anthropology Forum presents

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'Traditional' and Christian charismatic healers: notes from field research among the Angami Naga of Northeast India

The talk draws on case-studies of both women and men ‘healers’ among the Angami Naga, whom I have interviewed over the past three decades. There are broadly two kinds of separately named healer. Shamans depend on tutelary spirits. Other healers such as herbalists and masseurs may sometimes use but do not rely on tutelary spirits and draw instead on their own non-divinational skills. I will conclude that in spite of the conversion of most Angami to Christianity, the roles of traditional healers have more than survived. An increasing number of these two types of healers have become Christian and are obliged to adapt their practices accordingly. Further distinguished by name and identity are Christian charismatic healers whom some observers regard as in fact similar to traditional shamans by virtue of their being possessed by the Holy Spirit and having undergone a spiritual journey of ‘calling’.

All are cordially invited

Tuesday, October 29
CATS, Room 010.01.05

17:15–18:45