



KONFUZIUS-INSTITUT LEIPZIG

莱比锡孔子学院

Der Ort für chinesische Sprache und Kultur

Webinar

MO, 09. November 2020, 18.00 Uhr

„Worlds of Health: Barefoot Doctors in the PRC and Practices of Worldmaking“



M.A. Emily Mae Graf (Freie Universität Berlin)



The term “barefoot doctor” (chijiao yisheng) gained currency in 1968 during the Cultural Revolution, after Mao Zedong’s Directive had insisted that medical work needed to focus on the countryside. This involved great change for the health sector of the PRC. Instead of focusing on fully trained doctors in urban areas, doctors were increasingly “sent down” to the countryside to train individuals in basic hygiene and primary medical care, offering classes for part-time health workers, so-called “barefoot doctors”. By the early 1970s, barefoot doctors added up to over one million and the basic health care coverage in rural areas increased drastically. The image of the barefoot doctor became key in visualizing the revolution of health care in the PRC.

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