

## Dr Volker Scheid – Bio

Volker Scheid grew up in a family engaged in the cultivation of medicinal herbs. Following an apprenticeship as a gardener, he came to England to study phytotherapy and Chinese medicine, which he has practised for 25 years. He soon became aware of the many problems associated with practising so-called traditional medicines in a (post)modern society, leading him to engage with anthropology, science studies, and history. A PhD in medical anthropology in Cambridge was followed by a Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. The former focused on exploring the diversity of Chinese medicine in modern China, the latter on its historical transformation from the twelfth century to the present. The results of these research projects have been published as *Chinese Medicine in Contemporary China* (Duke UP 2002) and *Currents of Tradition: Chinese Medicine 1626-2006* (Eastland Press 2007), as well as numerous articles in both academic and clinically oriented journals. He is currently senior research fellow at the School of Integrated Health, University of Westminster, funded by a Department of Health fellowship. His research focuses on developing new strategies of integrating East Asian medicines into western health care. In this role he is taking the strategic lead in developing EAST*medicine* (East Asian Sciences and Traditions in Medicine) a new research centre at the University of Westminster. He is the president of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicines (IASTAM), and was recently awarded a visiting professorship by the Zhejiang University of Chinese Medicine in Hangzhou, China. He continues to practice in London, and to lecture on Chinese medicine in the UK, Germany, and the US.