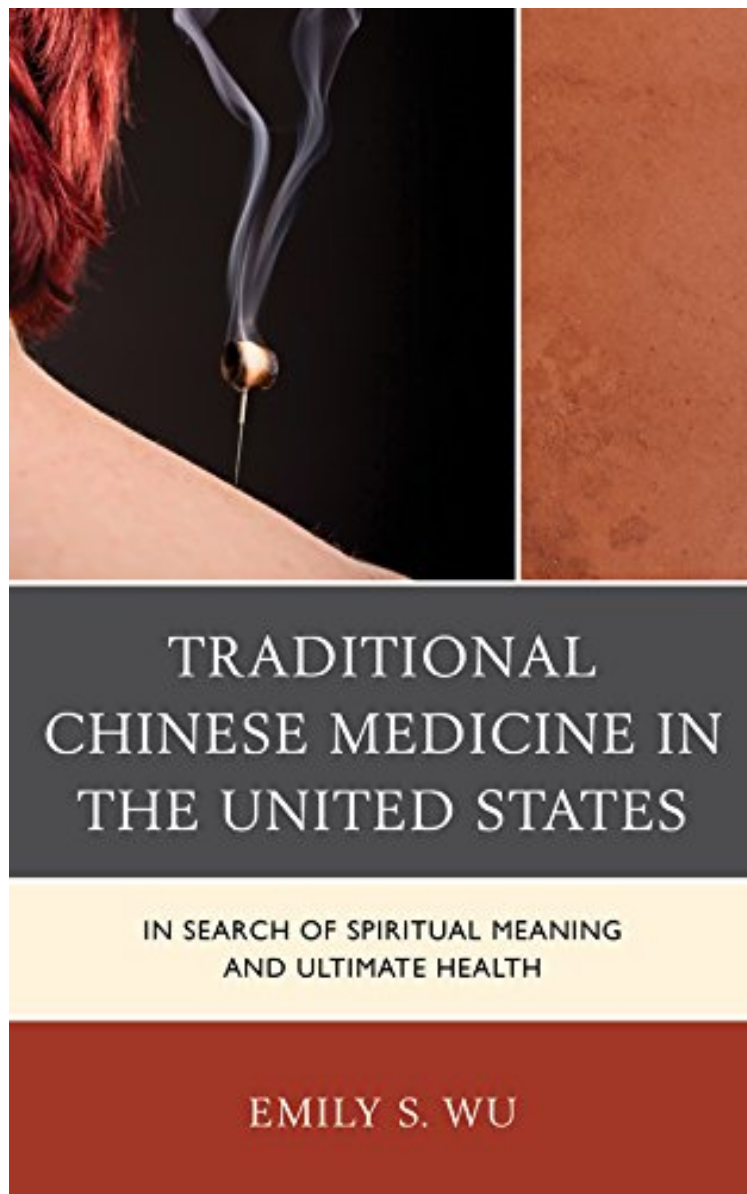


[PDF] Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States: In Search of Spiritual Meaning and Ultimate Health

Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States: In Search of Spiritual Meaning and Ultimate Health

Emily S. Wu

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Emily S. Wu : Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States: In Search of Spiritual Meaning and Ultimate Health before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States: In Search of Spiritual Meaning and Ultimate Health:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read
By Andrew H. Vu
This is a great book for students, practitioners, and anyone interested in acupuncture. This book makes a great contribution to the perception of the medicine in the United States and gives a glimpse of the various methods it is practiced. There is a definite difference in perception and explanation of the medicine between some U.S. trained practitioners and those trained in Asia (eg. "Qi" as some magical energetic force vs "Qi" as a term to explain physiological processes). The survey and interviews are very insightful and reinforces some of the issues I tend to rant about with my colleagues regarding the profession. Highly recommended!

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) originated from the traditional medical system in the Chinese civilization, with influences from the Daoist and Chinese folk traditions in bodily cultivation and longevity techniques. In the past few decades, TCM has become one of the leading alternative medical systems in the United States. This book demonstrates the fluidity of a medical ideological system with a rich history of methodological development and internal theoretical conflicts, continuing to transform in our postmodern world where people and ideas transcend geographic, ethnic, and linguistic limitations. The unique historical trajectories and cultural dynamics of the American society are critical nutrients for the localization of TCM, while the constant traffic of travelers and immigrants foster the globalizing tendency of TCM. The practitioners in this book represent an incredible range of clinical applications, personal styles, theoretical rationalizations, and business models. What really unifies all these practitioners is not their specific practices but the goal of these practices. The shared goal is to strive for health, not just health in terms of the lack of illness but the ultimate health of achieving perfect balance in every aspect of the being of a person physically, mentally, spiritually, and energetically.

Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States is an insightful and captivating ethnography of Chinese medicine practitioners in the San Francisco Bay area, one that reveals their socialization as students and experiences as clinicians into a world where East meets West perhaps more so than in any place in the United States. Religious studies scholar Emily S. Wu has written a masterful cultural interpretive or phenomenological examination of both Asian American and European American practitioners who have sought to adapt the psychic, spiritual, cultural, and environmental insights of an ancient medical tradition to a post-modern society where many people have sought meaningful alternatives or complements to Western biomedicine which all too still remains reductionist in its treatment of illness and the healing of the body politic. Her book makes an important contribution to the study of medical pluralism and complementary and alternative medical systems in American society. (Hans Baer, University of Melbourne)
Emily Wu's *Traditional Chinese Medicine in the United States* makes a key contribution to the growing body of literature on Chinese Medicine in the United States, with a focus on San Francisco. This highly readable work takes us through the world of the city's practitioners, while deftly tracing the history of the medicine in California and the impact of such cultural factors as racial politics, steps taken to establish the medicine's legitimacy, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and new developments like the Community Acupuncture movement. The transmission of the tradition in its different forms and branches, the fluctuating relationships with biomedicine, the fluid understandings of science, and practitioners' different approaches to the spiritual dimension of human existence and self-cultivation practices combine to further enrich Wu's discussion. An excellent addition to the field. (Linda L. Barnes, Boston University)
This book provides a historically, socially, and culturally-contextualized portrayal of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) as a complementary and alternative medical profession in the United States. Through interviewing TCM practitioners, observing in TCM schools and clinics, and referencing on classical Chinese medical and philosophical sources, the author explores the spiritual aspect of TCM and how health is understood and achieved in the TCM clinics.
About the Author
Emily S. Wu is a college instructor in the San Francisco Bay area and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Asian religions and cultures. Her current research primarily focuses on Chinese and Chinese American religious practices and beliefs that intersect with medicine, healing, and understandings of the human body.