

**Series:** Epistemologies of Healing

General Editors: David Parkin and Elisabeth Hsu: both are at ISCA, Oxford

This series in medical anthropology will publish monographs and collected essays on indigenous (so-called traditional) medical knowledge and practice, alternative and complementary medicine, and ethnobiological studies that relate to health and illness. The emphasis of the series is on the way indigenous epistemologies inform healing, against a background of comparison with other practices, and in recognition of the fluidity between them.

#### Volume 1

Conjuring Hope: Magic and Healing in Contemporary Russia Galina Lindquist

#### Volume 2

Precious Pills: Medicine and Social Change among Tibetan Refugees in India Audrey Prost

#### Volume 3

Working with Spirit: Experiencing Izangoma Healing in Contemporary South Africa Jo Thobeka Wreford

#### Volume 4

Dances with Spiders: Crisis, Celebrity and Celebration in Southern Italy Karen Lüdtke

#### Volume 5

'The Land Is Dying': Contingency, Creativity and Conflict in Western Kenya P. Wenzel Geissler and Ruth J. Prince

#### Volume 6

Plants, Health and Healing: On the Interface of Ethnobotany and Medical Anthropology

Edited by Elisabeth Hsu and Stephen Harris

#### Volume 7

Morality, Hope and Grief: Anthropologies of AIDS in Africa Edited by Hansjörg Dilger and Ute Luig

#### Volume 8

Folk Healing and Health Care Practices in Britain and Ireland: Stethoscopes, Wands or Crystals

Edited by Ronnie Moore and Stuart McClean

#### Volume 9

Moral Power: The Magic of Witchcraft Koen Stroeken

#### Volume 10

Medicine Betweeen Science and Religion: Explorations on Tibetan Grounds Edited by Vincanne Adams, Mona Schrempf, and Sienna R. Craig

#### Volume 11

Fortune and the Cursed: The Sliding Scale of Time in Mongolian Divination Katherine Swancutt

# Fortune and the Cursed

# **The Sliding Scale of Time** in Mongolian Divination

Katherine Swancutt



# First published in 2012 by

## Berghahn Books

www.berghahnbooks.com

©2012 Katherine Swancutt

All rights reserved. Except for the quotation of short passages for the purposes of criticism and review, no part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without written permission of the publisher.

# Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Swancutt, Katherine.

Fortune and the cursed : the sliding scale of time in Mongolian divination / Katherine Swancutt.

p; cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-85745-482-9 (hardback : alkaline paper) —

ISBN 978-0-85745-483-6 (ebook) (print)

1. Buriats—Mongolia—Baiandun Sum—Religion. 2. Buriats—
Mongolia—Baiandun Sum—Rites and ceremonies. 3. Buriats—Mongolia—
Baiandun Sum—Social life and customs. 4. Divination—Mongolia—
Baiandun Sum. 5. Divination—China—Inner Mongolia. 6. Blessing and cursing—Mongolia—Baiandun Sum. 7. Blessing and cursing—China—Inner Mongolia. 8. Shamanism—Mongolia. 9. Shamanism—China—Inner Mongolia. 10. Social conflict—Mongolia—Religious aspects. I. Title.

DK759.B8S83 2012 299'.42—dc23

2011051786

### **British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Printed in the United States on acid-free paper.

ISBN: 978-0-85745-482-9 Hardback ISBN: 978-0-85745-483-6 Ebook

