In this collection, which provides a critical history of Chinese public health during the colonial and post-colonial era, the authors decentre the nation state in order to critically explicate the global genealogies of scientific practices in interaction with local conditions. Special reference is made to outbreaks of disease such as plague, malaria, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The collection is organised into three main themes, in roughly chronological order: indigenous Chinese notions of disease and cleanliness before the 1911 revolution; colonial health and hygiene in Taiwan under Japanese rule; and, campaigns against epidemics.

Vivek Neelakantan

**Terminology and the translational ambiguities of public health**

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