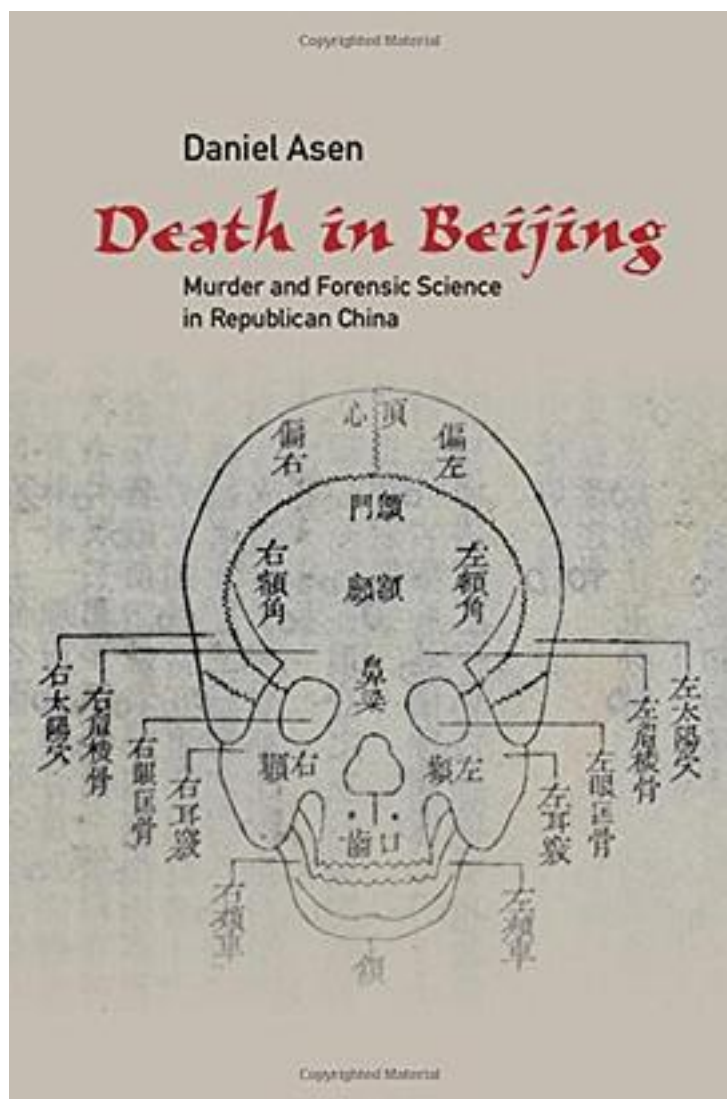


Death in Beijing



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著者:Daniel Asen

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In this innovative and engaging history of homicide investigation in Republican Beijing, Daniel Asen explores the transformation of ideas about death in China in the first half of the twentieth century. In this period, those who died violently or under suspicious circumstances constituted a particularly important population of the dead, subject to new claims by police, legal and medical professionals, and a newspaper industry intent on covering urban fatality in sensational detail. Asen examines the process through which imperial China's old tradition of forensic science came to serve the needs of a changing state and society under these dramatically new circumstances. This is a story of the unexpected outcomes and contingencies of modernity, presenting new perspectives on China's transition from empire to modern nation state, competing visions of science and expertise, and the ways in which the meanings of death and dead bodies changed amid China's modern transformation.

作者介绍:

Daniel Asen is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Rutgers University, Newark. His published research has investigated the social and cultural contexts of science and medicine in late imperial and twentieth-century China, with attention to transnational and global perspectives. His work has been published in *Social History of Medicine* and *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*, as well as within edited volumes on legal history and the history of medicine in China. He is a member of the American Historical Association, the Association for Asian Studies, and the International Society for Chinese Law and History.

目录: Introduction

1. Suspicious deaths and city life in Republican Beijing
 2. On the case with the Beijing procuracy
 3. Disputed forensics and skeletal remains
 4. Publicity, professionals, and the cause of forensic reform
 5. Professional politics of a crime scene
 6. Dissection and its discontents
 7. Legal medicine during the Nanjing decade
- Conclusion: a history of forensic modernity

Glossary

Bibliography

Index

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标签

海外中国研究

医疗史

历史

城市史

科学史

近代史

谋杀

法律史与法律文化

评论

一些论点非常精彩，比如在第一章中讨论到近代国家如何通过控制death-reporting来实现“死亡”定义的近代转变，还有后续章节中不断阐述的法医专业人士与法律部门官员之间依赖又竞争的关系，以及医学知识如何被纳入司法知识体系中。比较可惜的是，虽然比较全面地呈现出近代知识转型的复杂、多元及非线性的特点，该书在总的论点上缺乏新意，没有跳出近年来学界对于近代科学知识建构讨论的总体框架。总之，读后有一点点小失望。

“仵作”和“法医”之间隐藏着一个知识论的断层

法医史

将中国近代法医学的成立和成熟，放在清末民初西学引进的知识背景之下，从而导致与其他同时期著作在论述上的略同质化倾向。从仵作到法医，从《洗冤录》到《法医学纲要》，中国的传统道德、医学、法律、身体及生死观念都由此发生变化。

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书评

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