

## **History and Oral tradition of Altain Uriankhais**

The object of this dissertation thesis is the Western Mongolian ethnic subgroup of Altain Uriankhais and its subject is their oral tradition as a source of history. The objective of the work is a structured description of the living oral tradition concerning the history of Altain Uriankhais based on my own fieldwork. The processing of the recorded oral tradition includes a partial transcription and translation of the recordings and an attempt to systematically describe the content of the oral tradition, its formal features and the meaning for the tradition bearers. As a main criterium to describe the content of the oral tradition I chose personalities of the local history, secondarily genealogies and the issue of migrations. On the example of partial case studies, I assess the information provided by the oral tradition in comparison with preserved archive sources.

### **Keywords:**

Altain Uriankhais, Oirats, oral tradition, oral history, Mongolian studies