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This book not only documents the practice of divination in today's China but also reflects upon the way diviners understand their work and the historical and contemporary discourses that have propelled changes in Chinese divination. By doing so, I shed new light on the reflective and critical stances of diviners themselves.

### Notes

1. Chapter 1 contains a more detailed account of the legal status of divination-related activities since 1979.
2. For the politics of divinatory perception within Western societies, see Newman (1999).
3. Most anthropologists would like to attribute most expressions of fate to the third line, as they typically maintain that cosmological and divine power are essentially social.
4. Inspired worth refers to spirits possessing an inspired person. It often invokes an inner exploration of mind and is manifested by feelings and passions. See Boltanski and Thévenot (2006: 159–64).
5. In daily English, the words justification and legitimation are often interchangeable. However, here a distinction is needed. 'Justification' refers to whatever is provided as grounds to prove or defend one's claim or conduct. In this regard to seek justification for a statement or action is the fundamental characteristic of a rational being. Legitimation, on the other hand, refers to the process whereby an act, process or ideology becomes desirable, proper or appropriate within a socially constructed system of norms (Suchman 1995: 574). Compared to justification, legitimation thus has a stronger relation to social recognition and to law, customs, and standards. Justification has an open result, but legitimation implies that something becomes acceptable and normative. Following this distinction, the legitimation of divination cannot be complete without the recognition of law and social standards. As I mainly look at discourses that aim at achieving political and social legitimacy, I use the word legitimation most frequently in this book.
6. To avoid the stigmatization related to divination, magic or other religious issues, the survey uses 'unknown phenomena' as a more neutral expression.