



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY



# The Hopkins China Forum and



## Young China Watchers

cordially invite you to:

# *Ancient Chinese Thought and Modern American Life*

## Sam Crane

Chair and Professor of Political Science  
Williams College

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
19:15pm – 20:30 pm



The Wooden Box

9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)  
青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 – Doors Open  
19:15 – Lecture  
20:00 – Q&A  
20:30 – Mixer/Drinks/Dinner  
21:30 – Live music at the Wooden Box

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of [Hopkins China Forum](http://Hopkins China Forum) at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).

Westerners in China are confronted by a different cultural tradition that may inform their own values and help teach them how to better conceptualize moral issues in their own societies. How, for example, would Confucius react to same-sex marriage in the United States? Can Zhuangzi contribute to the debate on abortion? Of course the ancient philosophers are not here to instruct us, but we can use key concepts from these venerable thinkers to develop uniquely Confucian and Daoist understandings of a variety of contemporary social and ethical issues. Such questions will be explored by Sam Crane, author of [Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Dao: Ancient Chinese Thought in Modern American Life](#). Come hear him talk about how and why ancient strands of Confucianism and Daoism can be relevant to Americans today.

[Sam Crane](#) is Chair of the Political Science Department at Williams College, where he teaches Chinese Politics and Ancient Chinese Philosophy. He completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and taught at Georgetown University and The Hopkins-Nanjing Center before settling into the political science department at Williams in 1989. In recent years his teaching and writing have focused on early Chinese philosophy. His 2002 book, [Aidan's Way](#), drew on Daoism to reflect upon the life of his profoundly disabled son. Since then, Crane has read widely in classical Chinese thought to produce his most recent book, [Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Dao: Ancient Chinese Thought in Modern American Life](#), which applies concepts from pre-Qin Confucian and Daoist texts to contemporary American social and ethical issues. Follow his views on Chinese thought at his blog, [The Useless Tree](#).

**About Hopkins China Forum:** Hopkins China Forum events are organized by The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Johns Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).

**About Young China Watchers:** Young China Watchers is an informal group of professionals living in and working on China. Through regular roundtables and talks, it provides a chance for dynamic individuals of all nationalities and employment backgrounds to interact, broaden their professional networks, and discuss the most pressing political, economic, and foreign policy issues relevant to China today. Please contact [youngchinawatchers@gmail.com](mailto:youngchinawatchers@gmail.com).