



JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL *of* ADVANCED
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



The Hopkins China Forum and



The University of Chicago Alumni Club

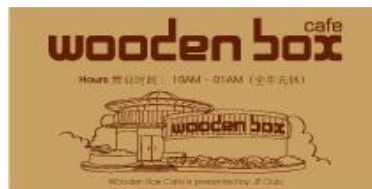
cordially invite you to:

China's Deepening Links to the Middle East and President Xi's Recent Visit

Robert Bianchi

University of Chicago Law School
Fulbright Senior Research Scholar
Shanghai International Studies University

Thursday, February 4th, 2016
19:15pm – 20:30 pm



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

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

China is tightening its links to the Middle East and the Islamic World precisely as these regions are becoming more dangerous and unpredictable than ever. Ambitious plans to build New Silk Roads spanning Eurasia and the Indian Ocean will pour huge investments into dozens of countries plagued by Great Power rivalry, religious and ethnic hostility, and transnational revolution. These are regions that China does not understand and cannot control, but they will affect Pacific Asian destinies for decades to come. China's leaders are eager to undertake a more active role in mediating several Middle Eastern conflicts shaking global markets and spurring arms races around the world. What are the prospects for Chinese mediation in Middle Eastern and Islamic lands and how will China try to reshape the balance of power in these regions and beyond?

[Robert Bianchi](#) is a political scientist and international lawyer with special interests in China and the Islamic World. Currently, he is a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at Shanghai International Studies University where he studies China's deepening connections with Islamic countries and their impact on the changing balance of power in Afro-Eurasia. He earned his B.A., M.A., Ph.D. and J.D. degrees from the University of Chicago where he taught in the Political Science Department and Law School. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, the American University in Cairo, the [Hopkins-Nanjing Center](#), Qatar University, and the National University of Singapore. He is also the author of [Islamic Globalization: Pilgrimage, Capitalism, Democracy, and Diplomacy](#) (2013), [Guests of God: Pilgrimage and Politics in the Islamic World](#) (2004), [Unruly Corporatism: Associational Life in Twentieth-Century Egypt](#) (1989), and [Interest Groups and Political Development in Turkey](#) (1984).

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