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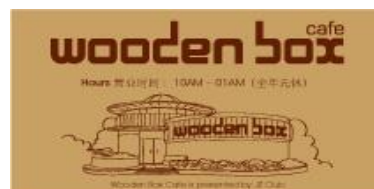
cordially invite you to:

China Today: Society of the Spectacle

Wu Guanjun

Professor of Political Theory
East China Normal University

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017
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/Live Jazz

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum at editor@shanghai-review.org, and note if from RAS.

In last decade China has in an extraordinary way turned itself into an exemplary case of what the French theorist Guy Debord calls the “society of the spectacle,” even though Debord’s original theorization is almost half-forgotten in today’s Anglophone critical inquiry. This talk starts with a radical re-formulation of Debord’s thesis on the “spectacular society” from an insightful angle introduced by the Italian political philosopher Giorgio Agamben. Then it offers a detailed analysis of recent Chinese social-cultural-artistic phenomena from the “Double-Eleven festival” (*shuang shiyi jie*), to the online dating website “Century Matchmaker” (*shiji jiyuan*), to the local fashion brand Vancl, with the aim of revealing the political consequences of China’s “spectacular turn.”

[Wu Guanjun](#) is Professor of Political Theory in the Department of Politics at East China Normal University, one of China’s leading scholars in critical theory and political philosophy, and a key figure in China’s new generation of public intellectuals. He earned his PhD at Monash University, and has made his name in part by introducing and leading high-level Chinese discussions of the works of Slavoj Žižek, Giorgio Agamben and Jacques Lacan. A prolific writer of books, articles and poems, his most recent effort, [The Great Dragon Fantasy: A Lacanian Analysis of Contemporary Chinese Thought](#) (2014), has earned praise from leading scholars in China and abroad. In addition to teaching courses in critical theory and political philosophy at ECNU, he has played a leading role in developing and lecturing in the history of Chinese political thought with the ECNU-partnered New York University-Shanghai program. Prior to joining ECNU, he worked closely with the late, distinguished professor, Deng Zhenglai, as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Fudan University.

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.

About Royal Asiatic Society China: [Royal Asiatic Society China](#) is an independent, Shanghai-based branch of Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland established 1823 in London. RAS aims to serve Shanghai’s expatriate community with a variety of culturally enriching opportunities to increase people’s understanding of Asia and especially China. To receive email announcements of upcoming events, contact Julie Zhu, bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn.