



CHINA CROSSROADS

China Crossroads and

GoEast!

Chinese Language Training

cordially invite you to:

***From Nationality to Ethnicity:
Performative Politics in China***

Naran Bilik

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology

Director of the Minzu Research Center

Fudan University

Changjiang Scholar

Chinese Ministry of Education

Thursday, June 21st, 2018

19:15pm –20:30 pm

cafésambal authentic malaysian
cuisine & bar

**259 Jiashan Lu, Jiashan Market, Block A, No 37, near Jianguo Xi Lu
嘉善路 259 弄 37 号嘉善老市 A 栋, 近建国西路, 地铁九号线嘉善路站**

Admission: 100MB for one drink

19:00 – Doors Open

19:15 – Lecture

20:00 – Q&A

20:30 – Mixer/Dinner

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of China Crossroads at editor@shanghai-review.org.

This talk will review the conceptual development of “ethnic minorities” in China: from the distinction of the Han and other ethnic groups in ancient times, to the PRC ethnic identification. It will also explore the interchangeability of “minzu” and “ethnic group” in political discourse. This presentation focuses on the conceptual incongruity between ethnic policies in China and the status quo of the ethnic minorities. Professor Naran Bilik argues that the earlier formula of “national in form, socialist in content” as applied in China is infested with political ambiguities and identity conflicts. Currently, the call by the top leadership for building a community of shared future for the Chinese Nation highlights the urgency of narrowing the gap between “Great Tradition” and “Little Tradition” with regard to minzu affairs, and of matching words with deeds, as well as symbolism with iconicity. It will be pointed out, however, that there has always been an uncontrolled incommensurability between the somewhat old minzu and relatively new ethnicity. It will be contended that China currently needs to learn anthropologically how to work out an overlapping consensus through diversity and to find a common thread that binds people and cultures together.

[Naran Bilik](#) is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Fudan University and Changjiang Scholar at the Chinese Ministry of Education. He was the Bernstein Chair of Asian Studies and Anthropology at Carleton College in the U.S. from 2005 to 2009 and Head of the Department of Sociocultural Anthropology of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) from 1996 to 2003. His publications include **[Contemporary Minority Migration, Education, and Ethnicity in China](#)** (2001) and **[China's Minorities on the Move](#)** (2003). He earned his Ph.D. in Literature from China’s Minzu University.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts lectures and panels on all topics related to China, including foreign policy, business, and society, as well as those on other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at **editor@shanghai-review.org**.