CROSSROADS RISK FORUM

Thursday, January 27th 2022, 19:00 – 20:30
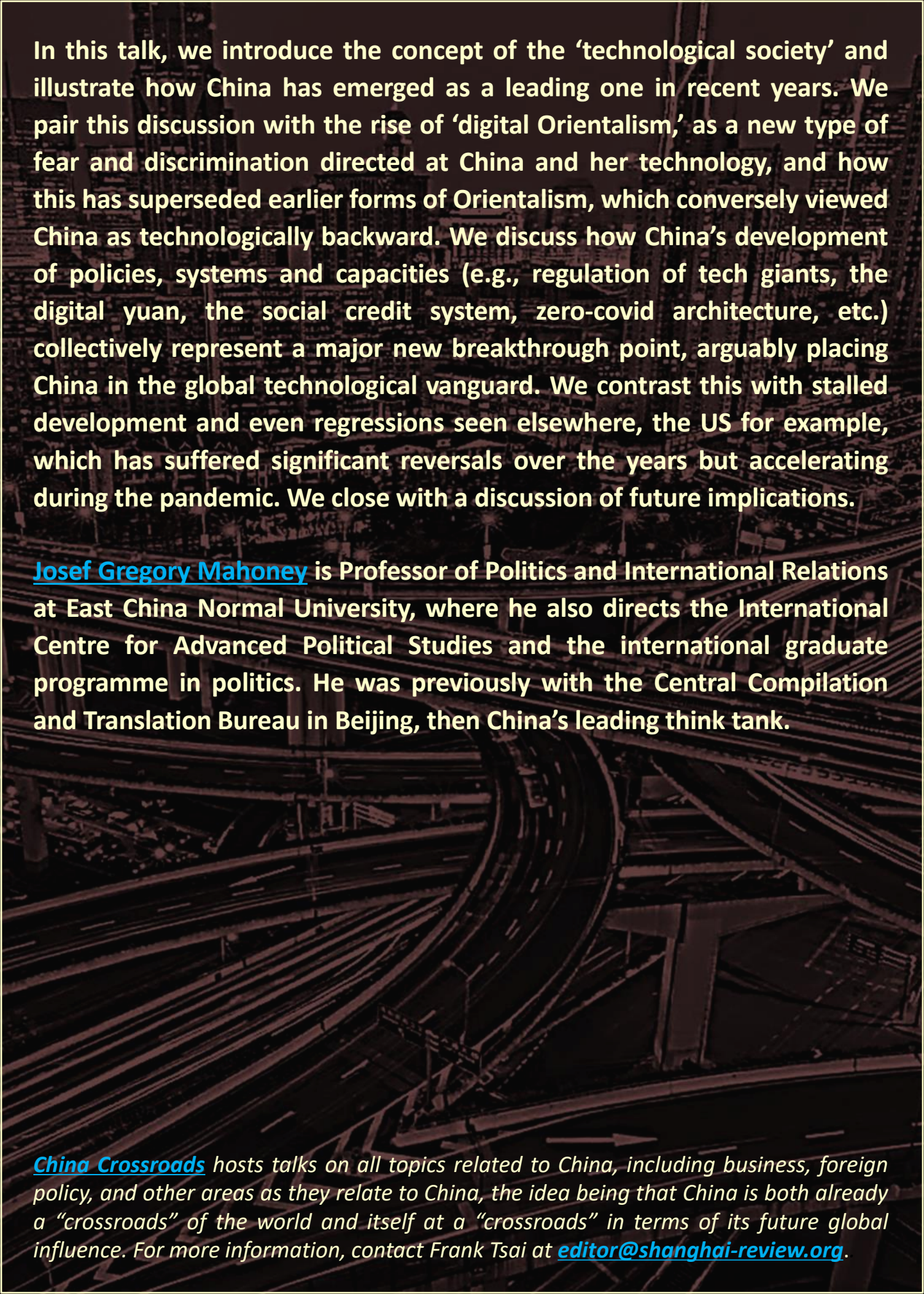
Digital Orientalism: Chinese Technology and Western Misconception

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Professor of International Relations

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WPP Office Building 6th Floor | 399 Hengfeng Road

150rmb including drink ticket | FREE for members

RSVP REQUIRED for access to elevators to 6th floor

In this talk, we introduce the concept of the 'technological society' and illustrate how China has emerged as a leading one in recent years. We pair this discussion with the rise of 'digital Orientalism,' as a new type of fear and discrimination directed at China and her technology, and how this has superseded earlier forms of Orientalism, which conversely viewed China as technologically backward. We discuss how China's development of policies, systems and capacities (e.g., regulation of tech giants, the digital yuan, the social credit system, zero-covid architecture, etc.) collectively represent a major new breakthrough point, arguably placing China in the global technological vanguard. We contrast this with stalled development and even regressions seen elsewhere, the US for example, which has suffered significant reversals over the years but accelerating during the pandemic. We close with a discussion of future implications.

Josef Gregory Mahoney is Professor of Politics and International Relations at East China Normal University, where he also directs the International Centre for Advanced Political Studies and the international graduate programme in politics. He was previously with the Central Compilation and Translation Bureau in Beijing, then China's leading think tank.

China Crossroads hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and 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.