

# CHINA CROSSROADS

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, 15:00 – 17:00

## China in Western Maps: How Europe Learned about China and China about Europe through Maps

**Dr. Christian Kober**

Senior Vice President For Asia  
Hoffmann Group

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Delimuses and Magpie Bar | 363 Kangding Road  
150rmb including drink ticket | FREE for members  
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The first “modern” western maps of China appeared in the 16th century. Through the lens of map making, one can see the changing understanding and appreciation of China in the West. Using as a lens the development of China as depicted in Western maps over the centuries, the talk also looks at how maps shape our view of reality, how maps are shaped by our needs and requirements, how maps rely on existing knowledge and therefore through their development depict the history of a place, and lastly why maps cannot be perfect and what that means for our understanding of the world.

[Christian Kober](#) holds a doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Munich. He has lived and studied in Germany, the US, Japan and, since 1998, China. He has worked in a variety of leadership positions in several industries like Wacker Chemicals, Evonik, BASF and Geberit. Currently he is Senior Vice President for Asia at the Hoffmann Group, a German supplier of industrial tools. He is a member of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Association of German Sciences (Stifterverband), the Toennissteiner Kreis, Fulbright Alumni and the Rotary Club of Shanghai.

*[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](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).*