

# CHINA CROSSROADS

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## Confucian Morality: Daily Life, Relationships, and Humanism

**Gao Jian**

Secretary General of the Songyun Forum

Shanghai Institute for International Strategic Studies

Shanghai International Studies University

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Whitespace | 700 Yan'an East Road 24F Room H1  
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Confucianism is the primary thought and most important component of Chinese traditional intellectual heritage. In comparison with Western philosophy, Confucianism thinks very highly of the importance of daily life and attaches great importance to interpersonal relationships. Confucius is very apt to lead the students to the discussion of daily life so as to approach the meaning of morality. In this sense, Confucius is more humanistic than any other contemporary thinkers.

[Gao Jian](#) is Secretary General of the Shanghai Academy of Global Governance and Area Studies at Shanghai International Studies University. He is also Director of the Centre of British Studies and Centre of Sino-Britain People-To-People Dialogue, and Director of the Centre for European Studies at Shanghai International Studies University. He is also Director General of the Songyun Forum, an independent internationally-oriented think tank affiliated to Shanghai Institute of International Strategic Studies (SIISS) originating in the 1980s. His academic interests include Comparative Cultural Studies, Chinese and World Intellectual History and International Strategic Studies, particularly focused on Europe and Asia-Pacific. He is also Distinguished Researcher at Tsinghua University's China Forum and Honourable Expert on the Committee of Oriental Think Tanks of Shanghai Oriental Media Group. Professor Gao is a renowned columnist for various media domestic and abroad.

[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).