

# CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 19:30 – 21:00

**Understanding How China Thinks:  
From Yin-Yang Thought to Dialectical  
Materialism to Youth Culture Today**

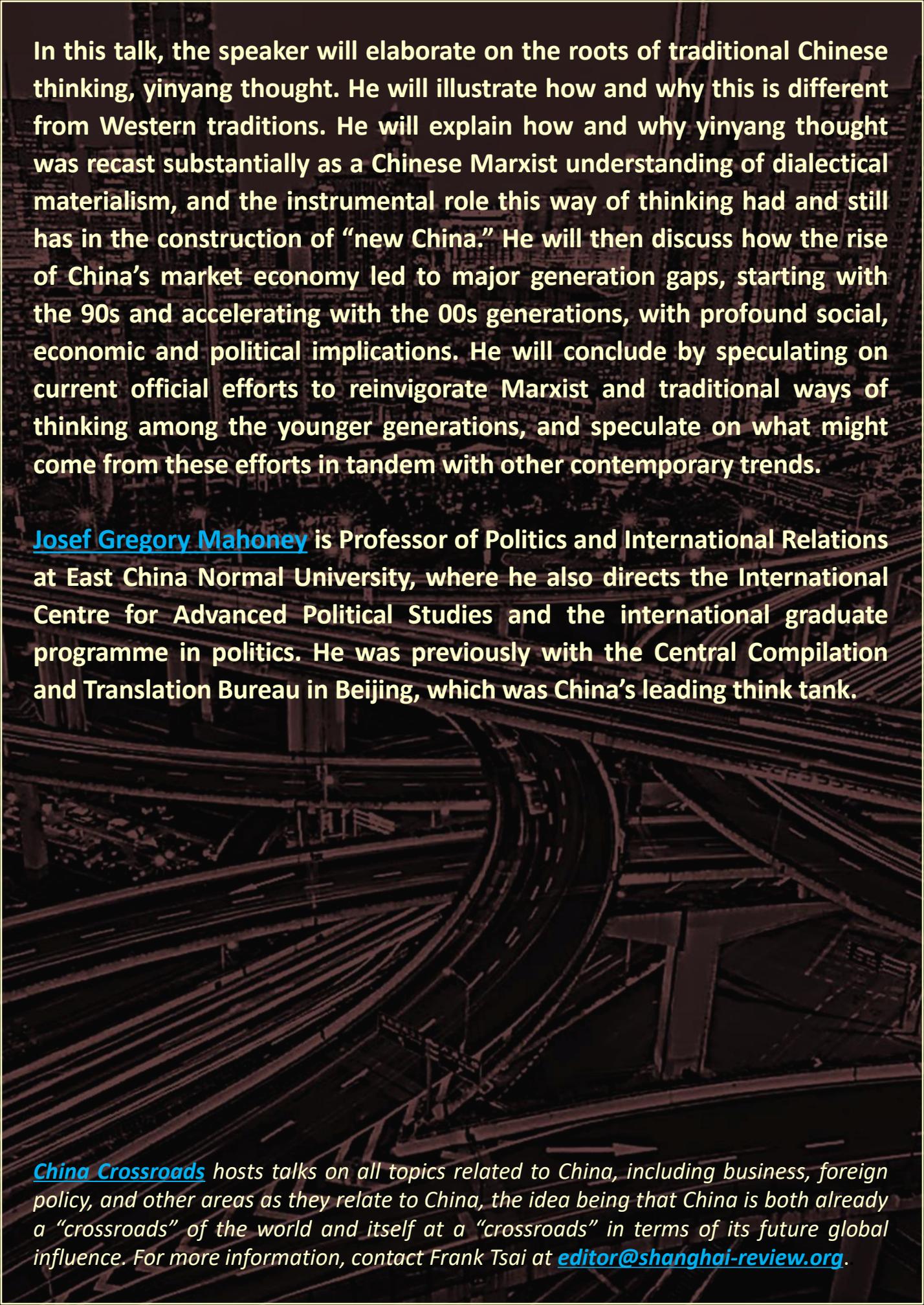
**Josef Gregory Mahoney**

**Professor of Politics and International Relations  
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In this talk, the speaker will elaborate on the roots of traditional Chinese thinking, yinyang thought. He will illustrate how and why this is different from Western traditions. He will explain how and why yinyang thought was recast substantially as a Chinese Marxist understanding of dialectical materialism, and the instrumental role this way of thinking had and still has in the construction of “new China.” He will then discuss how the rise of China’s market economy led to major generation gaps, starting with the 90s and accelerating with the 00s generations, with profound social, economic and political implications. He will conclude by speculating on current official efforts to reinvigorate Marxist and traditional ways of thinking among the younger generations, and speculate on what might come from these efforts in tandem with other contemporary trends.

[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, which was 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](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).