

# INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN



Die Abteilungen für „Sinologie“ und „Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft Ostasiens“ des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften freuen sich, Sie zu folgendem Vortrag einladen zu dürfen:



**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Xiaobo LÜ**

Columbia University, USA

## **Social Media, Corruption and Regime Support in China**

Contemporary China is a country of contradictions and puzzles. The biggest puzzle of all is why China is able to engage and maintain economic reforms and transition without giving up the authoritarian control by a single party? And, is it possible and likely for the Communist Party to continue to do that?

Today, China is richer, modern, and stronger than three decades ago when the reforms started. But it lacks effective institutions to address new problems and challenges. At this new crossroad, the challenge is not transitioning to the market economy or grow the economy, rather, it is the how to renew a social contract that has held the society together to work for country's modernization. The grand bargain, struck by Deng Xiaoping and his associates with the Chinese people is that the CCP would work hard to grow the economy and lift people's living standards and the citizens would follow the Party without challenging its authorities. With a successful delivery on this contract, the Party has maintained support and stability. But this old pact no longer works well. The concerns and demands are very different from thirty years ago. This presentation is to make analysis of these changing demands and how the government responds to them by examining how the issue of corruption and emergence of social media affected the regime support and in turn address the broader question of whether Chinese communist leaders will be able to continue the old bargain of economic reforms without political change.

**Xiaobo LU** is Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University and is the founding director of Columbia Global Centers (East Asia) and former director of Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University. He is currently a Fulbright visiting Professor at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Professor Lu teaches courses on Chinese politics, post-communist political economy, comparative political corruption and its control, and comparative politics. He received his PhD degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

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