

## **Abstract**

### **Moral Implications of Immorality in Contemporary Chinese Society**

Focusing on the issue of immorality that has largely been a focal point in public discourse in Chinese society yet understudied in scholarly research, this lecture first examines two types of immoral behaviour, drawing on cases that widely agreed upon by ordinary people to be morally wrong. Next, it takes a close look at the moral experiences and moral sentiments of immorality among individuals who either were victims of immoral acts or recalled their own feelings of being immoral. Ethnographic evidence shows that immorality tends to be intuitive and emotional in actual social actions but in recollections of moral experiences it is reflected upon with rational reasoning and justification. Immorality is essentially the violation of the social, which may explain why ordinary people use immorality to define and defend the social behaviour in their everyday life. The increasingly intensified public discourse on immorality also reveals the contested areas of the changing value system and moral behaviour in the context of social transformation in China.