“Mediating Cybersecurity Discourse: 
A Comparative Study between China and the United States”

A talk by

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Dr. Junfang Zhang is a Professor at School of Journalism and Communication in Shanghai International Studies University, China. She holds her Ph.D. degree in Communication from Fudan University, China. She completed her work as a post-doctoral fellow at School of International Relations and Public Affairs in SISU. Her research focus is relationship between discourse and power in recent years. She pays special attention to how different speakers use new communication technologies to advance public discussion and civic participation. She aims to explore the structural relations among communications, information markets, individuals, organizations and governments. She has received several research grants on international journalism.

Mediating cybersecurity discourse examines the ensemble of discourse speakers who have shaped the cybersecurity controversy in the media forum of China and the Unites States in the post-9/11 era. This talk focuses on analyzing the content and evolutionary trajectory of the public discourse on cybersecurity in China and the United States. Mass media is a major place of public discussion where discursive contestation and construction are taking place. To understand the dynamics of cybersecurity discourse, this research explores how various actors are influencing and influenced by mass media whose relations with other social institutions changed deeply after 9/11 incident. The whole study is built on a comparative framework to show differences in the public discourse between China and the U.S., and aims to shed light on interpreting these differences in an effort to link public discourse on cybersecurity in mass media forum and broader ideological values.