



**The Institute for  
Chinese Studies  
presents:**

**You-tien Hsing**  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
**"Combating Desertification in  
Inner Mongolia: A Tale of a Miracle  
Shrub"**

A shrub called Suosuo has championed China's battle against desertification in the new millennium. Suosuo is a tall desert shrub native to western Inner Mongolia. Drought and saline-tolerant, suosuo has been widely planted to stabilize sands and taper sandstorms. In this talk I will tell stories about the ways in which suosuo transforms from being a humble shrub in the drylands to a miraculous solution to one of China's key environmental challenges. I will examine the expected and unexpected actors from the state and non-state sector, who participate in this suosuo-led green mobilization. I will also look at what happens to the environment and society of the drylands when placed under this miracle's rule. This talk is drawn from my forthcoming book *"Conserving China's Northwest Frontier: Nature, Culture, and Future"* (Oxford University Press).

**April 17, 2025**

**3:30-5:00pm**

Pomerene Hall 150

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