



**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).

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3:30-5:00pm

Caldwell Lab 133

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