THE 57th ANNUAL EDWARD H. HUME MEMORIAL LECTURE

Surviving Conservation: Herders and Farmers in China’s Northwest

4:00—5:30 PM
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Auditorium, Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

Lecture by You-tien Hsing
Professor of Geography
University of California, Berkeley

Since the early 2000s, the Chinese government has launched a series of “anti-desertification” campaigns in the arid northwest. Based on her field research in the pastoral area of western Inner Mongolia and agricultural area in central Gansu province, Hsing will talk about herders and farmers’ aspirations and strategies of living with conservation programs such as ecological relocation, grazing and farming reduction, and state subsidies in China’s rapidly changing rural economy.

You-tien Hsing’s research and teaching has been focused on the political economy of development in East Asia, especially China. She is interested in the question of power and space. Her first book, Making Capitalism in China: The Taiwan Connection, focuses on the role of culture in inter-regional capital flows. In her second book, The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China, Hsing examines the issue of territorality. She looks at how the transformation of the state and the society shapes and is shaped by land battles in Chinese cities and villages. Her co-edited book, Reclaiming Chinese Society, looks at China’s emerging social activism in the struggles over distribution, recognition, and representation. Hsing’s current project concerns the cultural and environmental politics in Northwestern China. For her research she draws inspiration from ethnographical work: in-depth interviews and participatory observation with a reflexive perspective. She believes that theorizing starts from muddy realities. It is a process of open dialogues and self-reflections, of which the historical and the geographical, the institutional and the emotional are all indispensable parts.

The lecture will be followed by a light reception at the Provost’s House (35 Hillhouse Ave.).