

Adventures in chinese Bureaucracy

Gene Cooper

Professor of Anthropology and East Asian Studies at USC

One of USC's great storytellers, Cooper will share tales of woe and intrigue that document the five years of detours, dead ends and disappointments he endured while seeking approval from Chinese authorities to mount an ethnographic research project in rural China. Upon receiving approval, Cooper bears the humiliations and hardships of carrying out the research under the watchful eye of the local Foreign Affairs Officer and Bureau of Public Security. Anyone conducting business with China or contemplating travel to the communist state will find his talk a humorous, if poignant, lesson in the maniacal persistence required to get things done in the People's Republic of China.

A sinologist who specializes in Chinese folk customs, Cooper took second place in the 2005 Beijing Television's popular "Arts of Our Land" competition – a week-long talent show that features non-Chinese people performing Chinese arts. He performed "Kangding Qing Ge" and "Xian Qile Nide Gaitou Lai," accompanying himself on guitar.



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