

# THE MOST POPULAR POLICEMAN IN CHINA

A crime-busting micro-blogger has wooed followers with his witty responses, Yao Yuan, Yuan Suwen and Ji Shaoting from China Features report.

When Wang Haiding applied to enter police college, he dreamed of becoming a heroic crimebuster like a star in a detective movie. But, like every good story, his has a twist. Wang became a police officer, but his job is mostly micro-blogging. Despite this, he has still become a star, of sorts, as he is probably the most popular policemen in China now. On "Jiangning Gong'an Online", a micro blog hosted by Sina Weibo, China's most popular micro blog platform, netizens post their problems and seek his advice, often in the hope of receiving a witty response from Wang.

A typical query might go like this: A passenger on a bus was tapped on the shoulder and hypnotized into revealing the PIN of his bankcard. Or, a more lurid version: "I woke up to find one of my kidneys was gone."

Wang has his own way of busting such urban myths: "If someone had such powerful mind control skills, he would try to tap Bill Gates on the shoulder, not a nobody on a bus."

Or, "Organ transplants require a lengthy matching process. A kidney dies only hours after removal. You can do nothing with a kidney stolen from a stranger, except stir-fry it."

These waggish responses were posted by Wang on the micro blog belonging to Jiangning district police in Nanjing where he works, adding a human touch to the usually stern online efforts of local governments.

Wang's micro blog now has more than 640,000 followers. It is so popular that Wang regularly has to remind his followers to dial 110 first in case of emergency, before posting him what has happened.

The blog's fame is partially due to Wang's cool Internet language and the images of cuddly dogs that he posts to lighten his crime stories or simply to say: "Good morning!"

But for 29-year-old Wang, "playing cute" is not what his micro blog is really about. "The essence of my work is to build trust between the public and police," Wang says.

Indeed, much of Wang's micro blog deals with everyday questions for the police, such

as, "Why do I look so ugly on my ID card?", misunderstandings about police actions and rumors such as "fake telescopes shoot narcotic needles".

"You can't just declare something is false. People won't believe it. They'll ask why," Wang says. "So instead of making statements, I explain to them why something is false, using previous cases and rational analysis."

Online rumors have become a major concern as the Internet is incredibly popular in China. However, government efforts to prevent people spreading false rumors have been clumsy, and they have failed to gain the public's trust.

Shen Yang, a professor with Tsinghua University and a longtime Internet observer, thinks local governments tend to be conservative in their micro blogs due to a lack of institutional incentives.

"If they succeed, all they get is public approval, but if they make mistakes, the consequences can be disastrous," Shen says.

However, change is underway, as more government micro blogs are switching from being one-way information pipelines to platforms for public interaction.

"They've introduced a more personal style. They voice their opinions on public issues and use vivid Internet language," Shen says.

For Wang, his popularity means he is invited to give lectures in other cities where the authorities wish to copy Jiangning's success.

When the Jiangning micro blog celebrated its third birthday in March, Wang put aside his signature jokes and instead post-



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Wang Haiding doesn't "play cute" to make himself popular. He hopes the popularity of the "Jiangning Gong'an Online" micro blog can set a good example of building trust between the public and police.

ed an emotional letter thanking the public for their support.

It was forwarded over 10,000 times, outnumbering some of his funniest jokes. Many netizens expressed their sincere thanks, although others said they fancied the handsome portrait of Wang attached to

the post.

"There were remarks saying the micro blog has given them a fresh impression of the Chinese police. I was very touched when I read them," Wang says.

Ye Qian contributed to this story

## Volunteer looks to leave a lasting impression

By LIU KUN in Wuhan  
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There are still many remote areas in the country where education facilities are backward and teachers are scarce. In Dashui district in Guizhou province, for instance, which is home to many ethnic groups, including the Miao and Yi, children face the hardships of learning with limited educational resources.

In July 2012, An Yueqi, a graduate from Huazhong Agriculture University, volunteered to work at Dashi Hope primary school in Dashi village.

"I am lucky to do such a beautiful thing in such a beautiful age," says An.

The school is like an isolated island in a tempestuous sea, as it is located deep in the rugged Wu Meng Mountains. The nearest town is 4 kilometers away along a tortuous mountain road.

An knew that the conditions would be poor before she set off. But the toilet was still a surprise, and a scary one at that. It was far from her dorm with grass surrounding it, and she was afraid there might be snakes. To give herself courage, she kept a dog, which accompanied her on all her trips to the outhouse.

The school had more than 100 students when An was there, and more than 40 percent of them were so-called left-behind children who remain in their hometowns while their parents work elsewhere.

"Almost half the students were left-behind children, living poor lives. Although some of their parents can offer them better lives when they come back from the cities, they endure hardships when their parents are gone."

Each weekend, An visited the students' homes with other volunteers. Many of the children left behind by their parents drop out of school because they lack parental guidance. An wanted all her students to finish their studies. In order to persuade two students who had decided to drop out to return to school, she told them that if they decided to leave, their parents would have to pay for what they had received from school for free. Fortunately, the kids believed her.

"Education is the only way to change lives or else there would not be any hope," An says.

"For a whole year, the only thing I focused on was treating the kids well."



Clockwise from top right: An Yueqi talks with a father about his children's academic performance. An visits a student's home to provide extracurricular guidance. She brings donations to left-behind children in Dashi village. She believes that education is the only way to bring them hope.

She recalls that in one test, the students cheated while An was out of the room, which she says made her very sad.

"The test was to check what they did not understand, but they just couldn't see that," she says.

However, her devotion eventually won over the kids.

Wang Qingqing, a 12-year-old boy, wrote in one of his essays: "Teacher An is the best teacher I have ever had. She not only teaches us learning skills but also increases our interest in learning. We have made good progress and are very happy."

An says the children express their appreciation of her very simply. "The girls picked me flowers, and there was a boy who left mussels outside my door."

An was born in 1991 and is a typical city girl. Although she's an only child, her family supported her decision to volunteer at the school. In fact, her interest in charity work was fostered by her father. She still remembers her father taking her to donate to flood relief efforts in 1998.

During her volunteer year, An sponsored five children and got in touch with five companies who donated 20 computers and over 200,000 yuan (\$32,246) to two Hope schools. And during her six years with the Benyu volunteer service team at Huazhong Agricultural University, An helped more than 20 hearing-impaired and mute children.

An met Xu Benyu, her hero when she was young, during a welcome activity for fresh-



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

men. "The man who made an appearance in my imagination many times was now standing in front of me," An recalls.

Eleven years ago, Xu Benyu gave up the chance of further postgraduate study and went to teach poor kids in a Guizhou village primary school. Under his auspices, the Benyu service team grows stronger and stronger every year.

There are more than 1,200 volunteers working in remote villages all over China and now in Zimbabwe.

Last December, they received a letter from President Xi Jinping, encouraging them to keep on going, which made An feel even prouder.

"Education is something that lasts a lifetime," she says.

## out and about

CHINA

### Helpful hints for expats

The networking website Expat Blog is packed with all sorts of tips, plus a group of expats in your town to advise on your own special needs abroad. You can also share your own experiences in China by participating in an interview that will be featured on the site and read about the experiences of others — in China and elsewhere. [www.expats-blog.com](http://www.expats-blog.com).

BEIJING

### Polo without the horses

Play the sport of kings in a contemporary way, with all the fun and none of the snobbery. Leave your horse at home and bring your bike to Worker's Gymnasium any Sunday afternoon. If you don't have a bike, some extras are provided on-site. Organizers strongly advise helmets — play can get rough and it's a hard court.

2 pm on Sundays. Worker's Gymnasium West Gate, Xinzhong Jie (Road), Chaoyang district.

### Coffee get-togethers

The International Newcomers Network's Coffee Mornings are purely social events in local cafes that allow you to get to know people who live close by, plus you can pick up a few tips and tricks from those who have been around the neighborhood awhile. There are monthly coffee meets at several locations around the capital, including The Bookworm in Sanlitun.

[www.innbeijing.org](http://www.innbeijing.org).

— MIKE PETERS

HONG KONG

### Hong Kong Book Fair 2014

The Hong Kong Book Fair offers a diverse mix of literature from thick literary tomes to a multitude of manga offerings. Celebrating its 25th year, this year's fair includes a vast variety of publications and more than 300 cultural events led by well-known authors.

10 am-10 pm, July 16-17 and 20-21. 10 am until midnight, July 18, 19. 9 am-5 pm, July 22. Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai. 852-1830-670. [www.hkbookfair.com](http://www.hkbookfair.com).

### Lan Kwai Fong beer fest

More than 100 world-famous beer labels, including a selection of craft brews, will be on offer at participating bars, restaurants and street booths. The Wo On Lane Amphitheatre will feature rock, alternative and R&B music performances by dozens of up-and-coming bands, as well as an interactive stage games with special prizes.

1 pm until midnight, July 19. 1 pm-10 pm, July 20. Lan Kwai Fong, Central. [www.lankwaifong.com](http://www.lankwaifong.com).

### Comedy festival roadshow

The annual Melbourne International Comedy Festival is back for its 14th run. Five of Australia's most talented comedians will be in town for nightly two-hour-long laughs for one week only. It will be hosted by MCF veteran Harley Breen, Ronny Chieng, who has opened for Dave Chappelle, will headline the show, while Joel Creasey will be delivering his thoughts on awful celebrity encounters, along with acts from many newcomers to the scene.

8 pm, July 14-19, 5 pm, July 20. HK\$250 to HK\$350. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central. 852-2525-1032.

— TIMO CHUI

SHANGHAI

### Final showdown

With Germany and Argentina playing in the World Cup final, you won't want to miss it. Zapata's is our top pick of places to watch the game due to the addition of an O'Malley's pop-up bar, huge outdoor screen, terrace seating and lively atmosphere.

3 am, July 14. Zapatas, 5 Hengshan Road, near Dongping Road, Xuhui district. 021-6433-4104.

— MATT HODGES

MISA

Music in the Summer Air is an annual festival of classical music, hosted by Shanghai Symphony Orchestra since 2010. This year's events started on July 4. Outdoor concerts are given every day, in two locations on each side of the Huangpu River. The affordable tickets and educational programs intend to make classical music more accessible to local communities.

7:30 pm, until July 18. Shuanghui Square, 99 Yincheng Road, Shanghai Grassland Music Square, 523 Yan'an Road East. 4008-210-522.

— ZHANG KUN

