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Life on a strip : essayism and emigration in contemporary chinese literature

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Citation

Krenz, J. (2018, May 15). *Life on a strip : essayism and emigration in contemporary chinese literature*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/62213>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Date: 2018-05-15

Propositions

to go with Joanna Krenz's PhD thesis

Life on a Strip: Essayism and Emigration in Contemporary Chinese Literature

Leiden, 2018

1. The “essayistic spirit” of modern times is a *deus ex machina* produced by helpless scholars, but the machina itself is exciting and the spirit emerges when it switches from the “Einsteinian” paradigm to the “quantum” paradigm.
2. Texts are objective in their subjectivity.
3. Although a Newtonian paradigm of literature should allow for it, at a quantum level, a literary work cannot be un-read to the zero moment.
4. Form exists through permanent negotiation and redefinition.
5. In the eyes of most Chinese people, sinologists are useless. Traditional Chinese culture is too complicated for non-natives to understand, and contemporary culture is not worth exploring at all.
6. Literary research requires taking the entire world as our field of study.
7. Western humanities display too much empathy and too little sensibility.
8. Humans are genetically and psychologically translational creatures.
9. It is likely that literature and physical matter are both made of information.
10. There is no essential conflict between freedom and truth.
11. If only everything had one dimension more than it does.