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The Making of Chinese Poetry of the Nineties

By Lan-Yi Yang

Propositions

1. Scholarship to date on Chinese Poetry of the Nineties exemplifies written history's potential for distortion. [*This thesis*]
2. In contemporary China, not just powerful political authorities but also eloquent poet-critics can drown out the *real* critics. [*This thesis*]
3. In poetry polemics in China, ideology overshadows poetry. [*This thesis*]
4. 21st-Century scholarship on poetry written in 1990s China continues to be shaped by avant-garde authors who first came to the fore as early as the mid-1980s. [*This thesis*]
5. Paradoxically, it is precisely because close reading emphasizes the integrity of a text that it can so fundamentally advance the assessment of this writing's contribution to a wider discourse. [*The field*]
6. For close-reading literary criticism, empathy is key to recognizing the author's steps toward their pitfalls and their triumphs. [*The field*]
7. A critic's argumentative strategy may be most discernible in a close reading, but the effectiveness of their argument can only be assessed in context. PRC critical discourse on contemporary Chinese poetry could do more to establish correlations between the merits of the argument and its effectiveness. [*The field*]
8. PRC critical discourse on Chinese avant-garde poetry would benefit from greater reflective distance. [*The field*]
9. The width of one's horizon is determined by the capacity for thinking reflexively, on-line and off-line. [*Topic of choice*]
10. Living life to the fullest nowadays involves being adventurous in not only physical but also virtual universes. [*Topic of choice*]