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## **Vulnerable yet resilient: representations of migrant workers in contemporary Chinese prose**

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**Vulnerable yet resilient:  
representations of migrant workers in contemporary Chinese prose**

By Shuang Liu

**Propositions**

1. The rural narrative shows that, for Chinese migrant workers, rural identity is both a blessing and a burden.
2. In literary representation of migrant worker couples, economic constraints are now a bigger obstacle to the urban integration of Chinese migrant workers than institutional restrictions of their rights of residence.
3. Among other things, the literary representation of factory work suggests that the exploitation of workers is frequently disguised as a result of seemingly voluntary, independent choices made by the workers themselves.
4. One reason for the limited research on Chinese migrant worker prose abroad is the lack of translations of these literary works.
5. Research on Chinese literature needs much more exchange between the “domestic” and the “international” variety.
6. The pursuit of “concern for the country and the people” (忧国忧民) in Chinese literature embodies both realism and romanticism.
7. Distinguishing literary realism and reality enhances the scientific rigor of literary research.
8. Literary theory serves as a tool for literary research rather than evidence of its profundity.
9. A tricky aspect of life lies in the need to make decisions in a very short amount of time that can have long-lasting implications for one’s future.
10. In consumerist societies, happiness is often commodified, leading to a reliance on material wealth over genuine personal experiences.