Poetry on the Mainland: Talk about Work

Eleanor Goodman
Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

Date and Time: March 21, 2016 (Monday); 5:30-6:45pm
Venue: Room 730, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Work is multifaceted and complex
topic: What do we mean when we
say ‘work”? What constitutes work?
Who gets to do what kind of work?
How should different workers be
dealt with and compensated? What
about the disparity of wealth that
stems from ideas about the value of
different kinds of work? This talk
will explore the poetry of three
contemporary mainland Chinese
poets who fruitfully address these and other questions about work from a variety of angles:
Wang Xiaoni as an empathetic witness; Xu Lizhi as a manual laborer; and Zang Di as an
intellectual observer.

Eleanor Goodman is a Research Associate at the Harvard Fairbank Center. Her book
of translations, Something Crosses My Mind: Selected Poems of Wang Xiaoni (Zephyr
Press, 2014) was awarded the 2015 Lucien Stryk Prize. The book was also shortlisted for
the International Griffin Prize. A collection of her own poetry, Nine Dragon Island, which
was shortlisted for the Drunken Boat First Book Prize, will be published this year.

ALL ARE WELCOME!