

## *The Personalization of Literature: Chinese Women's Writing in the 1990s*

Hong Jiang

### *Abstract*

The term “personalization,” or “privatization,” has become extremely popular in the 1990s, in critical and media circles and book markets, as well as in public and private conversations. This essay explores, on the one hand, the impact of this intellectual and cultural transformation on women's writing and, on the other hand, the contribution of women writers to this transformation through their personal sensibility to the urban public sphere while they are also exploring an interior female private space. The first part of the essay examines Wang Anyi's sense and vision of Shanghai. The second part studies a newly-emerging trend in women's writing — that is, to make a self-defined private space by experiencing urban space from an entirely sensual vantage point, both erotic and literary. Despite major differences in their writings, each of the three writers I discuss in this essay is preoccupied specifically with the female urban sensibility.

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**Hong Jiang** is Associate Professor of Chinese language and literature at Colorado College. Her most recent work is *Small Well Lane: A Contemporary Chinese Play and Oral History* (University of Michigan, 2002). She is now working on a book on modernity and women's writing in post-Mao China.