Ou Xiaou

Ms. Xiaou was born in 1984 in Yunnan Province (southwest China), an area famous for its high mountains, rich natural resources, poor economic conditions, and many ethnic groups. She has a BA in Chinese language and literature from Sichuan University, China, and an MA in women’s studies from the University of Limerick, Ireland. She is now a young researcher at the Institute of Sociology, Yunnan Academy, China. Her research focuses on gender and development, especially globalization, mobility, women’s rights, and women’s narrative of their life experience. She is also a writer and has published two personal collections. Now she is looking at ways of combining observational and thinking methods of sociology with the narrative methods of literature, focusing especially on gender issues. Two years overseas professional training and three years’ practical research and writing experience have strengthened her belief that faced with injustice and inequality, silence can be a choice, and speaking out can be a choice, too. However, in order to promote change, the only choice is to make women’s voice clearly heard in a variety of ways.