



CHINA CROSSROADS

China Crossroads and



The Royal Asiatic Society

cordially invite you to:

Visionaries of Modern Chinese and Japanese Literature: Lu Xun and Natsume Soseki

Damian Flanagan

Writer and Literary Critic

Wednesday, October 17th, 2018

19:00pm – 21:00pm

café sambal authentic malaysian
cuisine & bar

259 Jiashan Lu, Jiashan Market, Block A, No 37, near Jianguo Xi Lu
嘉善路 259 弄 37 号嘉善老市 A 栋, 近建国西路, 地铁九号线嘉善路站

Admission: 100RMB for one drink

19:00 – Doors Open

19:15 – Lecture

20:00 – Q&A

20:30 – Mixer

RSVP to Frank Tsai of China Crossroads at editor@shanghai-review.org.



When you encounter news these days about relations between the two superpowers of East Asia, China and Japan, it is often along fairly depressing lines. Festering resentments about historical events from the first half of the twentieth century are an enduring source of tension. It is easy to forget therefore that on a much more profound cultural and literary level, the relationship between the two nations has been a warmly appreciative one. Nowhere is this more obviously on display than the connection between the two giants of modern Chinese and Japanese literature - Lu Xun (1881-1936) and Natsume Soseki (1867-1916) both of whom occupy iconic positions in their nation's literatures. Lu Xun is best known for his savage satires on the plight of his native China in the early twentieth century – beset with a feudal mindset, internal divisions and left open to exploitation by warlords and foreign colonial powers. Natsume Soseki meanwhile revolutionized Japanese literature with his satirical masterpiece "I am a Cat" (1905-6), which cast a quizzical, feline eye over Japan's own rapidly modernizing and westernizing nation state. What is not commonly understood is how closely these two major literary figures of China and Japan are connected. In this talk, author and critic Damian Flanagan will take you on a thrilling world journey from Baker Street in London to the plains of Manchuria, from a university classroom in Sendai, northern Japan to the streets of Beijing, as we uncover how these two great minds set about revolutionizing world literature.

[Damian Flanagan](#) is a writer and literary critic. He has written several books on Japanese literature, including three books on Natsume Soseki and a biography of Yukio Mishima in Japanese and English. He also writes on culture, literature, property and travel for newspapers around the world, from The Irish Times to Australia's Sun Herald. He is a regular book reviewer for The Japan Times, holds a PhD in Japanese Literature from Kobe University, and won the Japan-US Friendship Commission Prize for the translation of Japanese Literature.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts lectures and panels on all topics related to China, including foreign policy, business, and society, as well as those on other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.