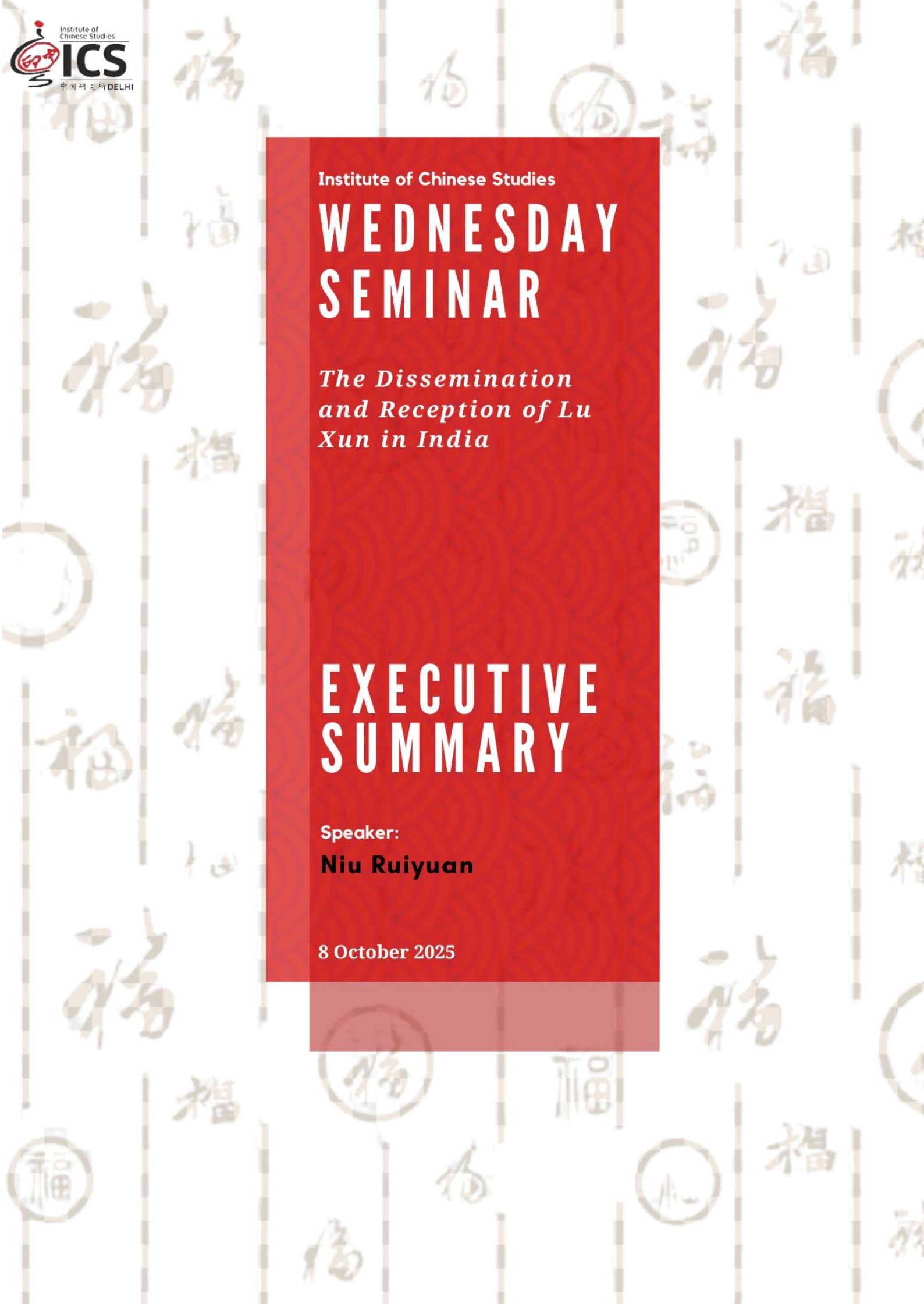




Institute of Chinese Studies

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

*The Dissemination
and Reception of Lu
Xun in India*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speaker:

Niu Ruiyuan

8 October 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speaker: Ms. Niu Ruiyuan, Doctoral Candidate, School of Chinese Language and Literature, Soochow University, Suzhou, China.

Chair: Dr. Usha Chandran, Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

Venue: Zoom Webinar

- The seminar underscored Lu Xun's stature as one of China's most influential cultural figures, instrumental in shaping the nation's modern transformation. His writings, marked by their modernist outlook, realism, and clarity, have left a lasting impact on China's ideological, cultural, and social development, as well as on global literary thought.
- The speaker emphasised the regional imbalance in Lu Xun's global reception, noting that while substantial scholarship on his works exists in Japan, South Korea, Europe, and the United States, India's engagement with his legacy remains comparatively under-explored, despite its cultural ties with China.
- According to Niu Ruiyuan, the dissemination and acceptance of Lu Xun's works in India unfolded in three distinct stages. From 1930 to 1949, Lu Xun's works began to gain attention through initial mentions in Indian publications and were referenced in anti-colonial discourses. Early translations appeared during this period, particularly in Urdu and English, marking the foundation for Lu Xun's cultural entry into India.
- Between 1950 and 1980, the strengthening of diplomatic relations between China and India led to greater literary exchanges and translations. During this time, Indian writers often drew comparisons between Lu Xun and notable Indian literary figures such as Munshi Premchand, enriching cross-cultural literary dialogue.
- From 1981 to the present, there has been an increase in the translation of Lu Xun's works directly from Chinese into Indian languages such as Hindi and Bengali. This stage has also seen an increase in research activities, seminars, and academic engagement, signalling greater developments in Lu Xun studies in India.

- Niu Ruiyuan also addressed limitations in the translation and research landscape. Despite partial translations into Hindi, Urdu, and Bengali, Lu Xun's complete works remain untranslated in Indian languages. Notable scholars such as Tan Chung, Wang Shijing, Manik Bhattacharya and Hemant Adlakha have advanced comparative and cross-cultural studies. However, scholarly output is largely confined to research papers rather than comprehensive books.
- In conclusion, Niu Ruiyuan observed that Indian scholars are increasingly moving away from Western frameworks and exploring Lu Xun's historical value from independent perspectives. This intellectual shift signals strong potential for deeper research, enhanced cross-cultural collaboration, and broader dissemination of Lu Xun's legacy in India.
- The Chair, Usha Chandran, supported the need advocated for increased dialogue and resource-sharing to deepen the understanding of Lu Xun's reception in India, highlighting it as a promising area for research in cross-cultural communication, modernity, and comparative literature.

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