

CHINA RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

A monthly series from East View that highlights Chinese research and resources on key topics.

Chinese Authors at the Forefront of Literary Criticism

Contributions to Literature

There should be no doubt as to the importance of Chinese writers. In 2000, Gao Xingjian (*Soul Mountain*) won the Nobel Prize in Literature for the “universal validity, bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity” of his work. In 2012, Mo Yan (*Red Sorghum*) won for his “hallucinatory realism.” In 2002, Yu Hua (*Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*) won the James Joyce Award. In 2014, Yan Lianke (*Lenin’s Kisses*) won the Franz Kafka Prize. In 2015, Liu Cixin (*The Three-Body Problem*) won the Hugo Award. In both 2019 and 2021, Can Xue (*Love in the New Millennium*) was long-listed for the International Booker Prize. **These authors’ contributions to satire, mytho- or hallucinatory realism, science fiction, and comedy cannot be ignored.**

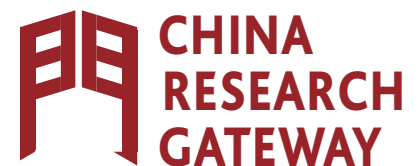


From CRG’s China Core Newspapers: Peng Su, “Yan Lianke’s writing is fighting with readers,” *Southern People Weekly*, 2008 (21).

Literary scholars should have a complete picture of these authors and what they have to say about imagination, memory, identity, and history. Chinese authors contain multitudes. The politics of Liu Cixin differ from those of Guo Xiaolu (*A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary For Lovers*), which differ from those of Mo Yan. Accordingly, their works vary from widely accepted and published within China, to explicitly banned. **People benefit from access to their publications, including those which are only accessible outside of China, as well as those that, until now, have only been accessible inside of China.**

Accessing Chinese Literary Criticism

East View has pioneered a program, China Research Gateway, to bring the full spectrum of publications from China to North American researchers without filter or delay. **China Research Gateway (CRG) contains numerous journal, newspaper, and magazine articles written by important Chinese authors.** In CRG, there are almost 60 journal articles and 40 magazine articles by Can Xue, who defies all norms of narrative in *Frontiers*. There are over 320 journal articles and over 170 magazine articles by Mo Yan. There are 31 journal articles by Guo Xiaolu, who writes not only original fiction, but also film and literary criticism (she is also an award-winning filmmaker). Yan Lianke, who many critics claim to be the best living Chinese author, has authored over 70 journal articles, over 70



magazine articles, and a conference proceeding in CRG. His conference proceeding addresses how to build unexpected and inclusive narratives. CRG contains over 20 journal articles, over 100 magazine articles, and a conference proceeding by Liu Cixin. In his conference proceeding, he addresses the preciousness of crises. Zhang Yueran (*Cocoon*) has written 10 journal articles, a newspaper article, and a magazine article in CRG. Her newspaper article confronts author anonymity. Sheng Keyi (*Northern Girls*), whose work *Death Fugue* is banned in China, has authored 10 journal articles, 7 magazine articles, and a conference proceeding in CRG. In her conference proceeding, she argues that fiction should have the power to offend.



From CRG's *China Core Newspapers*: Peng Su, "Yan Lianke's writing is fighting with readers," *Southern People Weekly*, 2008 (21).

Literature as a Vital Part of Life

The importance of the works of Chinese authors lies not just in academic research, but also in personal consumption and cultural development. Visiting scholars, international students, and others who enjoy reading Chinese literature, benefit from access to original works direct from China. Speaking to *The New Yorker*, Yan Lianke said, "in an ideal world, I want to write for my countrymen, but I know that's not possible and likely won't be possible in my lifetime." With CRG, North American libraries have the opportunity to serve Chinese scholars in North America on a personal, as well as professional, level. As the US celebrates Thanksgiving this week, EVIS is grateful to libraries for not only enriching research, but also improving the quality of our lives.

See the below links for further reading on Chinese literature.

- **Yan Lianke's Forbidden Satires of China – The New Yorker** <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/10/15/yan-liankes-forbidden-satires-of-china>
- **Starvation and Suffering Also Get You High – The Paris Review** <https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2018/11/19/starvation-and-suffering-also-get-you-high/>
- **'Is this what the west is really like?' How it felt to leave China for Britain – The Guardian** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/10/xiaolu-guo-why-i-moved-from-beijing-to-london>
- **Chinese Writer, Tackling Tiananmen, Wields 'Power to Offend' – The New York Times** <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/11/world/asia/sheng-keyi-death-fugue-tiananmen-chinese-writer.html>
- **Liu Cixin's War of the Worlds – The New Yorker** <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/06/24/liu-cixins-war-of-the-worlds>



China Research Gateway (CRG) presents the full spectrum of Chinese research, with exhaustive representation of STEM, social science, and humanities disciplines. Featuring an unparalleled breadth of sources, including scholarly journals, monographs, statistical publications, government documents, newspapers, dissertations, conference proceedings, patents, and many other content types, CRG offers a centralized means for discovery and access to this rich trove of research, specifically tailored to serve the needs of North American scholars and institutions.