

“Asian American Theology:
Immigration, Providence, and Politics”
Princeton Theological Seminary
March 29-30, 2019

The 2019 Asian American theology conference at Princeton Theological Seminary investigates the intersection of immigration, providence, and political action. When it comes to the connection between faith and politics within Asian American churches, there are two worries. On the one hand, some worry that political activists co-opt churches for purposes alien to faithful gospel witness. On the other hand, others worry that pious Christians focus upon personal intimacy with God to the exclusion of civic engagement in the broader political society. The former valorize political agency at the expense of ecclesial life, the latter valorize ecclesial and spiritual life at the expense of political agency. This conference rejects this false binary. We need not place political activity in competition with Christian faith and ecclesial life.

A fuller description of ecclesial life and its relation to political activity should consider the theological motivations of Asian American Christians. For example, it is common for many immigrants arriving in America to believe prospectively or retrospectively that God has led and directed their individual life as well as the life of their community. This faith in divine guidance at the individual and communal levels is called divine providence. Asian American Christian belief in divine providence helps immigrants make sense of their lives as a whole and also motivates immigrant civic engagement. Reflection upon this nexus of Christian belief, ecclesial life, and political agency is an important task for the flourishing of Asian American churches.

The co-organizers have invited historians, sociologists, political scientists, theologians, community organizers, pastors, and lay Christians to discuss and reflect together upon the intersection of immigration, divine providence, and politics for Asian American Christianity. We have invited stakeholders in the Asian American immigrant church and the broader Asian American community to draw upon their specific expertise, background, and experience to expand our collective imaginations regarding the possibilities for greater political action with, through, and in the church. This conference seeks to: (1) clarify mistaken assumptions surrounding political action from the perspective of Asian American Christians; (2) develop theological resources for reflection upon the experience and praxis of Asian American churches; and (3) empower Asian American Christians for greater participation in church and civic life.

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Theron Room, Library
Princeton Theological Seminary

Friday, March 29, 2019

12:00PM-1:30PM	registration and coffee
1:30PM-2:00PM	words of welcome/introduction
2:00PM-2:45PM	paper by Jane Hong with Q&A afterwards
2:45PM-3:30PM	paper by Russell Jeung with Q&A afterwards
3:30PM-4:00PM	break
4:00PM-4:45PM	paper by Janelle Wong with Q&A afterwards
4:45PM-5:30PM	round table discussion with all speakers

evening banquet

6:00PM-7:00PM	dinner banquet
7:00PM-7:30PM	Daniel Chou moderated conversation
7:30PM-8:00PM	Sam Yoon moderated conversation
8:00PM-8:30PM	round table discussion

Saturday, March 30, 2019

9:00AM-9:45AM	talk by Steven Yamaguchi with Q&A afterwards
9:45AM-10:30AM	talk by Hyepin Im with Q&A afterwards
10:30AM-11:00AM	break
11:00AM-11:45AM	round table discussion with all speakers

12:00PM-1:30PM	lunch and break
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1:30PM-2:30PM	afternoon practicum/workshop
2:30PM-3:00PM	break
3:00PM-3:45PM	paper by Paul Lim with Q&A afterwards
3:45PM-4:30PM	paper by Jonathan Tran with Q&A afterwards
4:30PM-5:15PM	final round table discussion with all speakers

Closing Worship

5:30PM-6:30PM	Miller Chapel
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Co-organizers:

David Chao. B.A. Yale University; M.Div., Regent College; Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Candidate in Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Isaac Kim. B.A., Colgate University; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary. Ph.D. Candidate in Theology and Ethics, Princeton Theological Seminary

Enoch Kuo. B.A., Princeton University; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary. Ph.D. Student in Religion, Ethics, and Politics, Princeton University.

Sun Lee. Ph.D. Student in History and Ecumenics, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Bonnie Lin. B.A., Amherst College; M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary; Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Student in Practical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Shalon Park. Ph.D. Student in History and Ecumenics, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Speaker List:

Daniel Chou, Editor-in-Chief of *Inheritance Magazine*, co-founder of Winnow+Glean; M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary.

Jane Hong, Assistant Professor, History, Occidental College. B.A., Yale University; A.M., Brown University; A.M., Ph.D., Harvard University.

Hyepin Im. President/CEO, Faith and Community Empowerment (FACE). President and Founder, Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD). B.S., University of California, Berkeley; M.B.A., University of Southern California; M.Div., Wesley Theological Seminary.

Russell Jeung. Professor, Asian-American Studies, San Francisco State University. B.A., M.A., Stanford University; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley.

Paul Lim. Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, Vanderbilt University. B.A., Yale University; M.Div., Biblical Theological Seminary; Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Cambridge.

Janelle Wong. Professor of American Studies and core faculty member of the Asian American Studies Program, University of Maryland. B.A., University of California, Los Angeles; M.A., Yale University; Ph.D. Yale University.

Jonathan Tran. Associate Professor of Theology and George W. Baines Chair of Religion, Baylor University. B.A., University of California, Riverside; M.Div., Duke University, The Divinity School; Ph.D., Duke University.

Steven Toshio Yamaguchi. Pastor, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, CA. B.A., Westmont College; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; D.Min., Claremont School of Theology.

Sam Yoon. Executive Director, Korean Americans in Action, Council of Korean Americans. B.A., Princeton University; M.P.A. Harvard Kennedy School.