

Dr. William Yoo**Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History; Lead Faculty of MDiv Program Columbia Theological Seminary**

Dr. Yoo has previously written about the transnational histories of American Protestant world missions in Korea and Korean American immigrant religious communities as well as the histories of Presbyterianism and Protestant theological education in the United States. His latest book covers the history and legacy of slavery and anti-Black racism in American Presbyterianism. His current research interests include tracing the histories of racial injustice, settler colonialism, and slavery in the United States and examining Indigenous, Black, and Asian American theologies of freedom and resistance.

He is also a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who desires to write, teach, and preach honest narratives of the past integrating Reformed understandings of confession and illumination. His conviction is that deeper engagement with history will aid us in more faithful and effective participation in our present ministries exhibiting God's love, justice, grace, and righteousness. When studying the development of Christianity in the antebellum United States, he is motivated to find both beautiful moments of awe-inspiring faith and ugly episodes where it is difficult to discern the divine presence. He began teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in 2014. He and his spouse, Sarah, a middle school educator in Atlanta Public Schools, reside in Decatur, Georgia with their two teenage children and two cats.

Education

Emory University (ThM, PhD)
Westminster Theological Seminary (MDiv)
University of Pennsylvania (BSE)

Select Publications

"Teaching a History that I Never Learned," *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* 4:1 (March 2023), article

What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022, book

"The Souls of Yellow Folk: Moving from a Racially Segregated Nineteenth-Century Train toward an Inclusive Twenty-First Century Asian American Christian Witness," in *Theologies of the Multitudes for the Multitude: The Legacy of Kwok Pui-lan*, edited by Rita Nakashima Brock and Tat-Siong Benny Liew. Claremont, CA: Claremont Press, 2021, book chapter

"2 Corinthians 2:8-15," "2 Corinthians 12:2-10," and "Ephesians 1:3-14," in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series (Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading with the World, Year B, Volume 3)*, edited by Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby, and Carolyn J. Sharp. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021, essays

“What, then, is the Church?': The Perpetuation of Racial Injustice and the Failure of Repair at Columbia Seminary in the Antebellum United States,” in @ This Point: Theological Investigations in Church and Culture 14:1 (Spring 2020), article

“Revelation 7:9-17,” “Micah 3:5-12 and Joshua 3:7-17,” and “Joshua 24:1-3a and Amos 5:18-24,” in Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series (Commentary 1: Connecting the Reading to Scripture, Year A, Volume 3), edited by Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby, and Carolyn J. Sharp. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2020, essays

The Presbyterian Experience in the United States: A Sourcebook. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017, book

“When Talking isn't Enough: Moving from Conversations about Race to Actions toward Racial Justice,” Presbyterians Today, October/November 2017, article

American Missionaries, Korean Protestants, and the Changing Shape of World Christianity, 1884-1965. New York and London: Routledge, 2017, book

“Moving from ‘Foreign Mission’ to ‘World Mission’ in South Korea and the United States: The Rise of Reverend Kyung-Chik Han and the Uneasy Transitions within the American Presbyterian Missionary Enterprise in Korea after 1945,” Mission Studies 33:3 (November 2016), article