

JUSUNG LEE

Ph.D. Candidate
Yale University
Department of Religious Studies

320 York Street, 4th floor
New Haven, CT 06511
jusung.lee@yale.edu

EDUCATION

2021–Present Ph.D., Religious Studies
Yale University, New Haven, CT
Fields of Study: Asian Religions, Religion & Modernity
Working Dissertation: *Faith and Modernity: Foremost Propagator Kim T'ae-hüp (1899–1989) and Colonial Korean Buddhism (1910–1945)*
Committee: Hwansoo Kim, Eric Greene, Chloë Starr

2024 M.Phil. / M.A. (en route), Religious Studies
Yale University, New Haven, CT

2019 Master of Theological Studies
Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
Concentrations: Buddhist Studies, East Asian Religions

2015 B.A., Buddhist Studies
Dongguk University, Gyeongju, Korea
Summa Cum Laude, Honors Student (2011–2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025 “**Buddhist Localization and the Critique of the ‘Indian Buddhism’ Archetype: Rethinking Sinification in the Interpretations of Kenneth Ch’en and Wu Hung**,” *Maha Bodhi Thought* 43 (Jun): 233–261.

Other Publications

2024 “**The Path to Peace through Letting Go**,” *Modern Buddhism* 385 (Nov). Flushing, NY.

2024 “**The Aesthetics of Sagyōng (寫經, Buddhist Sutra Transcription)**,” *Modern Buddhism* 381 (Apr). Flushing, NY.

2018 “**From a Special Education School to Harvard**,” *Kkulmat Rainbow School Memoir* (Dec). Kkulmat Rainbow School, Seoul, Korea.

2013 “**Why I Study Buddhism**.” *Modern Buddhism* 280 (Oct). Flushing, NY.

2013 **“A Pilgrimage to Temples of Diverse Nations near New York.”** *Modern Buddhism* 278 (Aug). Flushing, NY.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Refereed Research Presentations

Aug 2025 **“Faith and Modernity: Foremost Propagator Kim T’ae-hǔp (1899–1989) and Colonial Korean Buddhism (1910–1945),”** *20th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS)*, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Aug 2025 **“Buddhist Localization and the Critique of the ‘Indian Buddhism’ Archetype,”** *10th RIKS Young Korean Studies Academy*, Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea University, Seoul, Korea

Jul 2025 **“Reconciling Tradition and Modernity,”** *SEAA-SNU Anthropology 2025 Conference*, co-hosted by the Society for East Asian Anthropology (American Anthropological Association) and Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

Apr 2025 **“Redefining Belief: North Korea’s Evolving Concept of Religion and Its Ideological Implications,”** *Reflections on the North: The Spaces and Subjects of the DPRK*, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Feb 2024 **“Unveiling the Dynamics of Modern Korean Buddhism from the Japanese Colonial Period to Democratization,”** *27th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Conference*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Dec 2021 **“Buddhism in Colonial Korea Beyond a Nationalistic Political Perspective,”** *2021 Symposium of Yale Korean Language and Studies*, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Dec 2021 **“Shifts in the Social Engagement of Modern Korean Buddhism,”** *2021 Association of Asian Studies New England Regional Conference*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Invited Talks

Nov 2021 **“Bridging East and West: My Academic Journey from Dongguk to Harvard and Yale,”** *Guest Lecture for Alumni Speaker Series*, Dongguk University, Gyeongju, Korea

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sep–Dec 2025 **Visiting Scholar**
(forthcoming) Academy of Buddhist Studies, Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea

Jun–Aug 2025	RIKS Visiting Scholar Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea University, Seoul, Korea
Jan–May 2013	Researcher Ch’unghyo Temple, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, Yeongcheon, Korea Conducted archival research and compiled data on the history of Arhats in Korea, China, and Japan. Drafted summary reports for academic articles and ongoing research projects.
Mar–Jun 2012	Research Assistant Dongguk University, Gyeongju, Korea Assisted in research on the life and works of Nŭng-hwa Yi. Translated his <i>Paekkyohwet’ong</i> (百教會通, <i>Harmonizing the Hundred Teachings</i>) from classical Chinese into Korean.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND ADVISING

Teaching Fellow

Fall 2024	North Korean and Religion (Prof. Hwansoo Kim) Yale University, New Haven, CT
Spring 2024	Fear, Suffering, Anger, Love: Buddhist Philosophy of Mind (Prof. Sonam Kachru) Yale University, New Haven, CT
Fall 2023	Buddhist Thought: The Foundations (Prof. Eric Greene) Yale University, New Haven, CT
Spring 2023	Religion and Culture in Korea (Prof. Hwansoo Kim) Yale University, New Haven, CT

Advising

2022–Present	Undergraduate Academic Mentor East Asian Languages and Literatures, Yale University, New Haven, CT
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COMMUNITY TEACHING AND ADVISING

Primary Instructor

2017–Present	Ethics and Religion in Korea Kkulmat Rainbow School, Seoul, Korea (a special education school for students with medical conditions)
2011–2015	Advanced Composition in Korean and English Kkulmat Rainbow School, Seoul, Korea

Advising

2017–Present **College Access Mentor**
Kkulmat Rainbow School, Seoul, Korea

SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Aug 2025 **RIKS Academy Fellowship**
Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea University, Seoul, Korea

Jun 2025 **Myogong (妙空) Scholarship**
The Center for Daehaeng-Seon Studies, Anyang, Korea

May 2025 **MacMillan Center International Conference Travel Grant**
The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, New Haven, CT

Oct 2024 **Dongguk University Foundation Founding Philosophy Committee Scholarship**
Don Gwan, Chairman of the Supreme Committee of the Dongguk University Foundation Founding Philosophy Committee

Mar & Oct 2024 **RLST Graduate Student Funding**
Religious Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Apr 2023 **The Light Fellowship Award**
Richard U. Light Fellowship Program, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Spring 2013 **Global Leader Scholarship**
Dongguk University, Gyeongju, Korea
Awarded to top-performing 20 students for international research opportunities

Spring 2013 **Manwoo Scholarship**
Manwoo Scholarship Foundation, New York, NY

2011–2014 **Merit-Based Scholarship: Buddhist Studies Attributed Scholarship A**
Dongguk University, Gyeongju, Korea
Awarded for four consecutive years for academic excellence in Buddhist Studies

HONORS AND AWARDS

Oct 2024 **2024 Dean's Emerging Scholars Research Award**
Yale University, New Haven, CT

LANGUAGE AND REGIONAL STUDY PROGRAMS

Summer 2022 **Sun Academy Nihongo Center**, Tokyo, Japan

Winter 2014 **Translation Institute for Tibetan Buddhist Canon**, Gyeongju, Korea

LANGUAGES

Korean	Native
English	Fluent
French	Academic level reading Fulfilled Yale Language Proficiency Requirement
Japanese	Academic level reading, writing, speaking, and listening Fulfilled Yale Language Proficiency Requirement
Chinese, Classical/Literary	Intermediate reading

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Korean Association for Buddhist Studies (KABS)

Association of Eastern-Asia Buddhism and Culture (AEABC)