

MAI-ANH LE TRAN, PHD

Associate Professor of Religious Education and Practical Theology
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
maianh.tran@garrett.edu | (847) 866-3863 (office)
2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60202, USA

EDUCATION

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
Doctor of Philosophy, Congregational Studies/Christian Education

Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX
Master of Religion Education (Magna cum laude)

Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX
Bachelor of Science, Christian Education (Summa cum laude)

RESEARCH AREAS

- Religion and education in cultural productions of violence.
- Practical theological understanding of religion and education for global, inter-cultural, inter-religious faith praxis.
- Qualitative research methodologies, particularly narrative and ethnographic inquiry, with attention to critical feminist interpretive approaches.
- Contemporary cultural-religious landscapes and implications for public theology.
- Asian American (women's) studies; Asian feminist theologies; postcolonial feminist theories; immigrant religions.
- Critical pedagogy; transformative learning theories.
- Critical race theory; intersectionality.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|--------------|---|
| 2019-2023 | Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL)
<i>Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean</i> |
| 2017-present | Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL)
<i>Associate Professor of Religious Education and Practical Theology</i> |
| 2008-2017 | Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO)
<i>Associate Professor of Christian Education</i>
<i>Acting Administrator of Contextual Education</i> (Spring 2011) |
| 2003-2008 | Pacific School of Religion, Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA)
<i>Asst. Professor of Religious Education and Asian American Cultures</i> |

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ordained Elder, California-Nevada Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
- Past President and Board Member (2010-2016) for the Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education
- Workshop Director, Leadership Team Member, and Consultant for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
- Executive Committee Member (2020-present) of the International Academy of Practical Theology
- Inaugural Steering Committee Member and one-term Chair of the Association of Asian North American Theological Educators (2010-2020)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & SERVICES

- Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education (REA: APPRRE)
 - 2015-2016 Past President
 - 2014-2015 President
 - 2013-2014 Vice President/Program Chair
 - 2012-2013 Vice-President/Program Chair Elect
 - 2010-2012 Board of Directors, Member-at-Large
 - 2002-2004 Co-Convener, Asian/North American Religious Education Task Force
- International Association of Practical Theology (IAPT)
 - 2012-present, member by nomination
- Association for Practical Theology
 - 2016-2018 Programs Coordinator
- Association of Theological Schools
 - 2021, Accreditation Evaluation Committee member
 - 2016-2020 Faculty Development Advisory Committee member
- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
 - 2015-2017 Accreditation Commission, Public Member
- *Horizons* Book Series, Religious Education Association
 - 2013-present Editorial Board member
- *Encyclopedia of Christian Education* (Rowman & Littlefield)
 - 2012-2014 Consulting Editor
- *Journal of Childhood and Religion*, Sopher Press
 - 2010-2014, Editorial Board member
- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- Curriculum Review Committee, The United Methodist Church & The United Methodist Publishing House
 - 2012-2016, member by appointment
- United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education (UMASCE)
- Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Theologies and Cultures (IASACT)
 - Fall 2007, Scholar Selection Committee member
- Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators (AANATE)
 - 2010-2020, steering committee member
- Partnerships in Transforming Theological Education in Asian, Pacific, and North America (Graduate Theological Union)
 - 2003-2006, steering committee member
- Women's Studies in Religion Program (Graduate Theological Union)
 - 2005-2006, member of first Working Group

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

- Faith as a Way of Life, Yale Divinity School, Theological Education Renewal Award, 2005
- Fund for Theological Education, North American Doctoral Fellow, 2001, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Reset the Heart: Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017.

Articles/Essays

“Leading Change: Administrative Imaginings for A Decolonial Education,” in *Religious Education* (forthcoming).

“Come Join Us, Sweetheart!” in *Black Scholars Matter: Visions, Struggles, and Hopes in Africana Biblical Studies*, edited by Gay Byron and Hugh Page (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022).

Co-authored entry with Harold Horell (Fordham) on “Religious Formation / Educating / Religious Knowledge,” in *International Handbook of Practical Theology*, edited by Wilhelm Gräb, Emmanuel Lartey, Cas Wepener, and Birgit Weyel (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022). <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110618150>.

“Meditation on Human Response-Ability.” *Religious Education* 116, no. 4 (2021): 321–26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00344087.2021.1959992>.

“From Mỹ Lai to Ferguson: Collaterality, Grievous Deaths, Militarized Orientalism, Benevolence, and Racism,” in *Feminist Praxis Against U.S. Militarism*, edited by Nami Kim and Wonhee Anne Joh (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2020).

Letters 54 and 74, in *American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters*, edited by Andrea L. Weiss and Lisa M. Weinberger (Cincinnati: University of Cincinnati Press, 2019/2021). <https://www.valuesandvoices.com/the-authors/>

“‘Last Night I Dreamed of Peace’: Letters to Women Who Hold Up the Moon,” with Heesung Hwang and Lina Gunawan, in *Asian and Asian American Women in Theology and Religion: Embodying Knowledge*, edited by Kwok Pui-lan (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

“Of Mythologies, Wars, Exodus, Adaptations, Introjections, and Re-Inventions: A Brief Account of a People Called *Việt Mỹ* (Vietnamese Americans),” in *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics*, edited by Uriah Y. Kim and Seung Ai Yang (London, UK: T & T Clark, 2019).

“The Fabric of Our Becoming: Needling toward Revelatory Learning,” with Sophia S. Park, Angela Parker, Adam A. Ghali, Carolyn B. Helsel, and Orlandi, Carlos F.

- Cardoza, "Forum: Quilting as Metaphor for Theological Education," in *Teaching Theology & Religion* 22, no. 2 (April 2019): 143–58. doi:10.1111/teth.12483.
- "When Flesh Becomes Word: Vulnerable Listening and Mimetic Learning in the Zone of Proximal (Inter)Diction," in *Qualitative Research and Intercultural Understanding: Learning, Teaching and Conducting Qualitative Research in Multicultural Settings*, edited by Deborah Court (Taylor & Francis, 2018).
- "'I Shall Not Bow My Head': Ghostly Lessons for Wise Leading," in *Leading Wisdom: Asian and Asian North American Women Leaders*, First edition, edited by Su Yon Pak and Jung Ha Kim (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017).
- "To Set One's Heart in a Violent World." *Religious Education* 110, no. 4 (2015): 358-73.
- "#Occupyimagination." eREACH, July 2015.
- "The Fullness of Life." *Response*, January 2016, 8-13.
- "Communicability, Redeemability, Educability." In *Educating for Redemptive Community: Essays in Honor of Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain*, edited by Denise Janssen, 95-110. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2015.
- With Kim-Cragg, HyeRan. "Turning to the Other." In *Complex Identities in a Shifting World: Practical Theological Perspectives*, edited by Robert Mager Pamela Couture, Pamela McCarroll, Natalie Wigg-Stevenson. Zurich: Lit Verlag GmbH & Co. KG Wien, 2015.
- "Christian Educational Law and Practice," *Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, edited by Mark Lamport and George Thomas Kurian. Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2015.
- "The Future of Asian/North American Theological Education: Architectural Reflections," *Journal of Asian/North American Theological Educators* 1, no. 1 (2015): 8-11.
- "Religion and Education in a Postcolony," *Religious Education* 109, no. 3 (2014): 228-233.
- "When Subjects Matter: The Bodies We Teach By," in *Teaching for a Culturally Diverse and Racially Just World*, edited by Eleazar Fernandez. Eugene: Cascade, 2014.
- "Margaret Ann Crain." *Christian Educators of the 20th Century*, edited by Kevin Lawson. 2014. <http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/>
- "'Diferente Desde Aqui': Twenty-Four Ways of Looking at Religious Education." *Religious Education* 106, no. 2 (2011): 147-161.
- "'Hic Sunt Dracones' ('Here Be Dragons'): Global Cartography, Transnational Pedagogy, Religious Formation, and Learning." *Religious Education* 106, no. 4 (2011): 425-436.
- "Narrating Lives, Narrating Faith: 'Organic Hybridity' for Contemporary Christian Religious Education, *Religious Education Journal* 105, no. 2 (2010): 188 – 203.

- “‘Come and Follow Mii...!’ The Power of Wii/We.” *Christians in Education*, 17, no. 3 (Spring 2011): 20-22.
- “Storying this World and God: C. S. Song's Narrative Imagination and Christian Religious Education.” *Theologies And Cultures* 7, no. 2 (December 1, 2010): 73-87.
- “Reading Race Reading Rahab: A ‘Broad’ Asian American Reading of a ‘Broad’ Other,” with Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, in *Postcolonial Interventions: Essays in Honor of R. S. Sugirtharajah*, edited by Tat-siong Benny Liew. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010.
- “Faith Fictions: ‘The Word Between This World and God,’” *Religious Education Journal* 104, no. 4 (2009): 437-451.
- “Ihrem erstarrten Blick folgen (Gen 19,23–29),” in *Gottesdienst interkulturell: Predigen und Gottesdienst feiern im Zwischenraum*, ed. Andrea Bieler (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2008), 96–104.
- “Teaching and Learning in the Bible” in the *Pastor’s Bible Study: A New Interpreter’s Bible Study*, Vol. 6 (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008).
- “Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng.” *Christian Educators of the 20th Century*. Edited by Kevin Lawson. 2008. http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/view.cfm?n=wenh_ng.
- “Lot's Wife, Ruth, and to Thi: Gender and Racial Representation in a Theological Feast of Stories.” In *Ways of Being, Ways of Reading: Asian American Biblical Interpretation*, edited by Mary F. Foskett and Jeffrey K. Kuan. Saint Louis: Chalice Press, 2006.
- “And the Flesh Became Word: A Narrative Study of Identity and Faith Construction in Life Story Interviews with Twelve Vietnamese Immigrant Women.” Dissertation, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2004.
- With Le, Mai Hoang. “Tre Con Va Su Cau Nguyen: Cuoc Hanh Trinh Giua Cha Me Va Con Cai.” Vietnamese translation and adaptation of *Children and Prayer*, by Betty Shannon Cloyd. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1999.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Story and Song: A Postcolonial Interplay between Christian Education and Worship*, by HyeRan Kim-Cragg. *Religious Education*, 2013.
- “An ‘Iron-Chef’ Showdown in Asian North American Religion and Theology.” Review of *Off the Menu: Asian and Asian North American Women’s Religion and Theology*, edited by Rita Nakashima Brock, Jung Ha Kim, Kwok Pui-lan, and Seung Ai Yang. *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 16:4 (2009).
- Review of *A Many-Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation*, by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, S. Steve Kang, and Gary A. Parrett. *Religious Education*, 2006.

SELECTED PAPERS | PRESENTATIONS

Academic

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Podcast Series, *Dialogue on Teaching*, Silhouette Interview, Season 2, Episode 18, March 23, 2023.
https://open.spotify.com/episode/2XrEyAKPKqr2p7vTtvcRA7?si=e8SZ_rh7Tlixheg1oOnN6A

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Podcast Series, *Dialogue on Teaching*, Episode 103, “Resilience After Crisis Teaching?” 2020.
<https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/podcasts/>

The UMC townhall on “Theological Roots of Racism and Colonialism,” with Edgardo Colón-Emeric and Willie James Jennings. 2020.
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/town-hall-theological-roots-of-racism-and-colonialism-9-16-2020>

Williams Institute Lectures, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, “To Set One’s Heart in a Violent World,” and “From My Lai to Ferguson: Militarized Orientalism, Benevolence, and Racism.” March 2019.

“An Activist Approach to Teaching Bible,” in jointly sponsored session on Race, Pedagogy, and Biblical Studies, and Minoritized Biblical Criticism of the Society of Biblical Literature. November 2018.

“Ghostly Lessons for Wise Leading.” In *Pacific Asian/North Asian American Women in Theology and Ministry*. Columbus, OH, 2017.

“The Bodies We Teach By: (En)Gendering Mission for Global Christianities.” In *Association of Professors of Mission*. St. Paul, MN, 2016.

“The Future of Asian/North American Theological Education.” In *Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators*. Princeton, NJ, 2015.

“The Future of Asian/North American Theological Education.” In *Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators*. Princeton, NJ, 2015.

“Faith in the Future.” In *United Methodist Christian Educators Fellowship*. Nashville, TN, 2014.

“Religion and Education in the (Un)Making of Violence.” In *CrossCurrents Research Colloquium*. New York City, 2014.

With HyeRan Kim-Cragg. “‘Turning’ to the Other: Interdenominational, Interethnic, Interreligious, Transnational Activism and a New Ecclesia.” In *International Academy of Practical Theology*. Toronto, Canada, 2013.

With Leah Gunning Francis. "Taking It to the Streets: Practicing Theology at the Intersections of Ferguson and Faith." In *Association of Practical Theology*. Atlanta, GA, 2015.

"Currency of (S)Exchange and Luke's Economy of Reversals," for *Closing the Gap: (Post)Colonial Readings of the New Testament from an Asian Perspective*, eds. Yakhwee Tan and Rohun Park.

"*Hic sunt dracones*: Global Cartography, Transnational Pedagogy, Religious Formation and Learning." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Denver, CO, 2010.

"Storying this World and God: C.S. Song's Narrative Imagination and Christian Religious Education." Chang Jung Christian University, Tainan, Taiwan, November, 2010.

"A Political Story of *Fittonias*: Multimodal Memories of the Future." Asian Pacific Americans and Religion Research Initiative (APARRI). August, 2010.

"Faith Fictions: 'The Word Between This World and God.'" *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Chicago, IL, November, 2008.

"Educating Diaspora: Asian North American Practical Theologians in Conversation." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Boston, MA, November 2007.

"'How Our Lives Become Stories': Narrative Imagination in Five Pedagogical Practices and Research Projects in Progress." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Atlanta, GA, November, 2006.

With Margaret Ann Crain. "Ethnography as a Practice of Peace and Justice." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Toronto, Canada, November, 2005.

"Research Methodologies as Pedagogical Tools." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Denver, CO, November, 2004.

"Empire, Earth, and the Postcolonial Self." TREES, Graduate Theological Union. 2004.

"The Flesh Became Word: (Inter)Changing Subjectivities and Christian Religious Education." *Religious Education Association* (REA:APPRRE). Chicago, IL, November, 2003.

Ecclesial (selected sample)

"Chosen for This Time: Persistent Women of Prophetic Witness." Asian American and Pacific Islander Clergywomen's Association (AAPIC) Biennial Gathering. Virtual, 2021.

"Theologians Explore the Roots of Anti-Asian Racism and What the Church Should Know." General Commission on Religion and Race, The United Methodist Church, Podcast, *Expanding the Table*, Episode 2.
<https://www.r2hub.org/library/podcast>

- Bible Study Leader for United Methodist Women National Seminar, “Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy.” Chicago, IL, 2015.
- “Spiritual Dispatches from the ‘Nones’ and ‘Dones’”; “Religious Belonging in the Next Christendom”; “Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope.” Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO. 2013, 2017.
- “God 2.0: Media(ing) Faith in a Virtual World” and “Fruitful Practices for Fruitful Congregations.” Livermore UMC, Livermore, CA. 2011.
- “Becoming a Teaching Church.” Vietnamese UMC, Grand Rapids, MI. 2010.
- “Race, Religion, and Repentance: The Purpose and Practices of Christian Congregations.” St. John’s UCC, St. Louis, MO. 2009.
- “Becoming a Teaching Church.” Annual Convocation, Vietnamese UM National Caucus. San Diego, CA. 2005.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2019-2020 | Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
Leadership Team, colloquy on Race Critical Consciousness for
Transformative Theological Education |
| 2017 | Wabash Center–Asian Summer Theological Institute
Leadership team, workshop for Asian North American doctoral students |
| 2016-2017 | Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
Director, workshop for Early-Career Theological Faculty
Consultant, Western Theological Seminary
Consultant, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary |
| 2016 | Association of Theological School
Panelist, consultation for mid-career faculty |
| July 2014 | CrossCurrents-Auburn Seminary Annual Research Colloquium
(New York City) Coolidge Scholar |
| Spring 2014 | Sabbatical research travel to Kirchliche Hochschule, Wuppertal/Bethel,
Germany; Ankara University, Turkey; Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2012-2013 | Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
Leadership team, workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty |
| 2010 | FTE: 2010 Nurturing the Next Generation of Scholars Workshop
(Atlanta, GA) Panelist/mentor |
| 2009 | Engaged Scholars Conference, Hartford Seminary
Three-day consultation on congregational studies and sociology of
religion. |

December 2007	Association of Theological Schools, Consultation for Asians/Asian North Americans: Effective Theological Education for Asian/Asian North American Seminarians (Dallas, TX) Presentation on inter-generational issues
August 2006	Indonesia Christian Church/GKI (Java, Indonesia) Three-week lectures and workshops on narrative theology and on youth cultures offered in churches and seminaries in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya in Indonesia.
June/July 2006	Institute for Advanced Study of Asian Cultures and Theologies Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University (Hong Kong) Six-week research/writing institute; one of five representatives from the Graduate Theological Union
March 2006	Union College of California, Vietnamese Theological College (Westminster, CA) Visiting professor, "Introduction to Christian Education," Sihanoukville, Cambodia
October 2005	Association of Theological Schools, Racial/Ethnic Women and White Women Building Alliances in Theological Education (Pittsburgh, PA)
July 2005	Research Center for Biographical Studies in Contemporary Religion, Bielefeld University (Germany) Two-week Summer Academy on "Research Strategies in Faith Development and Biographical Study of Contemporary Religion"
May 2005	Candler School of Theology, Emory University Youth Theological Initiative (Atlanta, GA) Research Fellow
December 2004	Perkins School of Youth Ministry (Dallas, TX) Research Fellow
January 2003	Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL) Adjunct Instructor, "Theological Education in the Parish"
October 2002	Christian Educators Fellowship (Norfolk, VA) Workshop Leader, "Faith and Human Development"
Spring 2000	Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth, TX) Adjunct Instructor, "Church Work with Children"

SELECTED COURSES

- Introduction to Theological Education
- PhD Teaching Seminar
- Teaching for Biblical Faith
- Methods of Research in Congregations
- T/Racing Religion in US-America
- Playing with God
- Waging Peace: Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope
- Religion and Education in the Public Sphere
- Ministry and Public Witness in a Changing World
- Reimagining Church: API Congregations, Culture, and Community
- Woman, Interrupted: Feminist Theories, Theologies, and Pedagogies
- *Rukunegara* and *Doi Moi*: Religion and Politics in Malaysia and Vietnam
- South Pacific Immersion
- India Travel Seminar
- Frameworks for Critical Engagement: Issues in Ministry (intro to PT)
- Theological Education in the Parish
- Framing Youth: Faith, Identity, and the Adolescent
- Church Work with Children
- Curriculum Development Practicum
- Interdisciplinary Studies (PhD)
- Church and Ministry: Re-visioning Critical Perspectives (DMin)
- Minister as Ethnographer (DMin)
- Teaching from the Margins: Decolonizing Bible Studies (DMin)

SELECTED CHURCH & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Gateway District, Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC. 2014-2016.
- Family of Faith UMC; Vietnamese American Community Association; United Community Resources, St. Louis, MO. 2014-2017.
- Pan-Asian Progressive Ministry and Chinese Community UMC. Berkeley and Oakland, CA. 2003-2008.
- Indochinese UM National Caucus, Vietnamese UM National Caucus, Vietnamese United Methodist Women.
- General Board of Discipleship, UMC, summer ethnic internship.
- Fort Worth District Committee on Religion and Race Committee, Central Texas Conference, UMC.