

DAVID THANG MOE, Ph. D

Yale University

Public Theology | World Christianity | Global Theology |
Missional Formation | Conflict & Reconciliation | Interreligious Dialogue
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ACADEMIC PROFILE

David Moe is an internationally recognized Presbyterian public theologian and a scholar of World Christianity whose work integrates public theology, intercultural missiology, and global Christian formation. Rooted in the Reformed tradition and shaped by ministry among diasporic and multicultural communities, his research and teaching engage Christian formation, nationalism, conflict, reconciliation, congressional public witness, and interreligious engagement. His scholarship seeks to bridge gaps and engage four distinct communities—academia, grassroots church, public society, and political state.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Intercultural and Historical-Theological Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary, USA, 2022
- M.Th., Theology and Ethics, Union Presbyterian Seminary, USA, 2015
- M.Th., Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary, USA, 2013
- M.Div. Sabah Theological Seminary, Malaysia, 2009
- B.A. History, Pakokku University, Myanmar, 2008
- B.Th. Tahan Theological College, Myanmar, 2005

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Yale University

Affiliate Research Scholar, Public Theology & Southeast Asian Studies | 2025–present
Postdoc Associate and Lecturer, Public Theology & Southeast Asian Studies | 2022–2025

Harvard University

Associate Scholar, Asia Center | 2025–present

Columbia University

Visiting Scholar | 2025–present

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research Affiliate | 2025–present

University of Connecticut

Adjunct Professor, Religion and Asian Studies | 2025–present

Boston University

CURA Research Fellow | 2025–2026

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Public Theology
- World Christianity
- Asian Theology

- Missional Formation
- Religion and Nationalism
- Ethnic Conflict and Reconciliation
- Interreligious Engagement and Intercultural Hermeneutics
- Decentralized Resistance and Everyday Politics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University

Student Ratings: **4.7/5** (Outstanding Teaching and Mentorship Record)

- RLST 329/PLSC/142/ER&M 129: *Politics of Religious Nationalism and Decentralized Resistance in Southeast Asia* (Spring 2025)
- RLST 209/PLSC 402: *Religion, Ethnicity, and Nationalism* (Fall 2024)
- RLST 247/PLSC 414: *Religion, Politics, and Identity in Asia* (Spring 2024)
- RLST 246: *Buddhist-Christian Engagement in Southeast Asia* (Fall 2023)
- REL 991: *Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation in Southeast Asia* (Spring 2023)
- HIST 312 J: *Colonialism, Nationalism, and Identity in Myanmar* (Spring 2023)

University of Connecticut

- AAAS 1001: *Pathways to Asian Studies* (~100 students, Fall 2025)

Interdisciplinary teaching in theology, religious studies, and diasporic studies, focusing on religion, conflict, identity, and reconciliation in global and intercultural contexts.

GRADUATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE (TA)

Asbury Theological Seminary (2016-2021)

MS 627: Public Theology for Global Development (Fall 2021)

- *Lived Religion and Pastoral Public Theology*
- *The Bible and Prophetic Public Theology*

MS 501: Missional Formation: The Church in a Global Era (Fall 2019)

- *The Church and Justice in Global Context*
- *Trends, Issues, and Methods in World Christianity*

MS 655: Holistic Mission (Fall 2018)

- *Theo-Ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- *Christ and Culture in the Thought of H. Richard Niebuhr*

MD 930: Doctoral Seminar: Justice, Peace and Reconciliation (Spring 2018)

- *Prophetic Imagination in the Thought of Walter Brueggemann*

MS 627: Public Theology for Global Development (Fall 2017)

- *The Role of Indigenous Religion in Eco-healing*
- *The Political Theology of Karl Barth*
- *The Public Theology of Jürgen Moltmann*

MH 977: Doctoral Seminar: Christian Witness and Other Religions (Fall 2016)

- *The Contours of Evangelical Theology of Religions*
- *The Central Teachings of Buddhism*

MS 708: World Religions and Mission (Fall 2016)

- Christian–Buddhist Engagement in Southeast Asia

Delivered lectures and led seminar discussions in courses on public theology, World Christianity, intercultural studies, reconciliation, and theology of religions. Mentored M.Div., M.A., and PhD students through theological reflection, contextual reflection, cultural analysis, intercultural learning, and missional formation for public ministry.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- *Beyond the Academy: Lived Asian Public Theology of Religions*, Princeton Theological Monograph Series 257, Wipf & Stock, 2024
(Translations in progress: Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia, Burmese, Chinese, Korean).
(Book launches at the Centre for Faith and Public Life at Cambridge; National University of Singapore, with Yale, Chung Chi College, Salesian Pontifical University)
- *Pyithu-Dukkha Theology: A Paradigm for Doing Dialectical Theology of Divine Suffering and Human Suffering in the Asian-Burmese Context*, Intercultural Studies Monograph Series, Lexington, KY: Emeth, 2017.

Monographs (Forthcoming)

- *Beyond Buddhist Nationalism: Political Theology of Interreligious and Decentralized Resistance after the Coup*. Forthcoming, Oxford University Press (Religion and Global Politics Monograph Series).
- *Beyond Christendom: A Historical and Theological Exploration of Faith Under Regime and Nationalism in Myanmar*. BRILL (Theology and Mission in World Christianity Monograph Series).
- *A Minority Within Minorities: Recovering the Untold Stories of Burmese Americans in Asian American Theology* (with Joseph Cheah. Palgrave Macmillan (Asian Christianity in the Diaspora Monograph Series).
- *Asian Theology in the Context of World Christianity: Issues, Insights, and Interpretations*. Fortress Academic/Lexington).

Co-edited Volume

- *Public Theology for Global Witness*, co-edited with Gregg Okesson, Wilmore, KY: First Fruits, 2023.

Book Projects in Progress

- *Beyond the State: The Arts of Not Being Governed and Everyday Resistance – James C. Scott, A Scholar Beyond Boundaries*. Edited volume.

Yale University Press (Under Review, Yale Agrarian Studies Monograph).

Selected Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024. "Hidden Stories of Burmese American Christianity." *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, 48 (3): 383–398.
- 2023. "Burmese Public Theology of Religions and Reconciliation After the 2021 Buddhist Coup." *International Journal of Public Theology*, 17 (2): 262–286.
- 2023. "Reading Romans 13:1-7 as a Hidden Transcript of Public Theology." *International Journal of Public Theology*, 17 (2): 226-245 (with James C. Scott).
- 2022. "Trends and Issues in Burmese Migrant Christianity." *Journal of the Lutheran Society for Missiology*, Special Issues on Mission and Migration, 2 (61): 217-228.
- 2020. "Contemporary Theology in Asia: Current Challenges and Future Directions." *Irish Theological Quarterly*, 85 (2): 145–168.
- 2020. "Identity and Vocation of Christians in the Theology of Karl Barth." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 48 (1): 48-54.
- 2020. "Is Barth a Liberation Theologian? New Perspectives on Barth in Asia." *The Expository Times* 131/4.: 137-152.
- 2019. "A Cross-cultural and Liberative Hermeneutics of Luke 10: 25-37 in an Asian and Asian-American Perspective." *The Expository Times*, 130 (10): 439-449.
- 2019. "Reaching Out and Receiving In: Reading the Lukan Banquet (Luke 14:12-24) as a Trinitarian Theological Paradigm of Hospitality in a World of Hostility." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 28 (1): 46-70.
- 2019. "Intercultural Theology in the Multicultural Context of World Christianity: Issues, Insights and Interactions." *Currents in Theology and Mission*, 46 (3): 18-23.
- 2019. "Conceptualizing and Contextualizing with and beyond Paul Hiebert's Anthropological Models: Toward a Contextual Trinitarian Missiology in Myanmar." *Missiology: An International Review*, 47 (2): 153-172.
- 2018. "Identity and Otherness: Engaging the Other and Embracing Otherness in a Pluralistic World." *Ecclesiology*, 14 (3): 261-283.
- 2018. "The Church as the Image of the Trinity: Toward A Trinitarian Public Theology of Justice and Peace in Asia." *Asia Journal of Theology*, 32 (2): 22-49.
- 2018. "Reading Moltmann for a Theology of Suffering in Christian and Buddhist Dialectical Dialogue." *International Journal of Orthodox Theology*, 9 (2): 178-224.
- 2017. "Exclusion and Embrace: Breaking Boundaries and Building Bridges Between Christianity and Buddhism." *Exchange*, 46 (2):103-128.
- 2017. "Trends and Issues in Asian Christianity: The Challenge to Intercultural Dialogue." *Journal of Asian Mission*, 18 (1): 71-101.
- 2017. "The Word to the World: Johannine Trinitarian Missiology (John 20:21-22)." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, 26 (1): 68-85.
- 2017. "The Crucified Mind: Kosuke Koyama's Missiology of Theology of The Cross," *Exchange*, 46 (1): 5-28.
- 2017. "Adoniram Judson: A Dialectical Missionary Who Brought the Gospel (not God) and Gave the Bible to Burmese." *Missiology: An International Review*, 45 (3): 265-282.
- 2016. "Postcolonial and Liberation Theologies as Partners in Praxis: The Hermeneutics of Liberation Theology in Asia." *Exchange*, 45/4: 319-341.
- 2015. "Sin and Evil in Christian and Buddhist Perspectives: A Quest for Theodicy." *Asia Journal of Theology*, 29 (1): 22-46.
- 2014, "What Has Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Do with Asian Theology?" *Asia Journal of Theology* 28/2: 175-202.

Selected Book Chapters

- 2025. “Social and Political Context.” In *Compact Atlas of Global Christianity*, et al, Kenneth R. Ross, 296-305. Edinburgh University Press.
- 2024, “What Kind of Public Theology? A Contextual Reimagination in Times of Coup and Nationalism”, ed. Pauline Kollontai and Sue Yore, *Religion in Diverse Societies: Crossing the Boundaries of Prejudice and Distrust*, 114-129. Routledge.
- 2023. “The Expansion of Asian Christianity (up to 1500),” ed. Amos Yong and Mark Lamport, *The Hidden Story of Christianity in Asia*, 3-18. Cascade.
- 2020. “Christianity in Timor-Leste.” In *World Christian Encyclopedia*, ed. Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo, 3rd ed. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Forthcoming

2026. “Beyond the Classroom: A Political Theology of Religions in the Context of Political Violence.” In *Communal Generations: Building Asian American Theological Traditions*, edited by Tat-Siong Benny Liow, ATSI’s 20th an. Asian Christianity in the Diaspora Monograph Series. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

2026. “Lived Public Theology in the Context of Buddhist Nationalism.” In *Beyond the Paradigms: New Contours of World Christianity Studies*, ed. Gina Zurlo and David Hempton. Theology and Mission in World Christianity Series. Brill.

HONORS, AWARDS & RESEARCH GRANTS (Last 10 Years)

- UK Global Talent Endorsement, The British Academy—Endorsed under the UK Global Talent route in recognition of exceptional research, international scholarly contributions, academic leadership, and real-world impact (2026)
- Rice Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer Award, Yale University (2022–2025), \$200,000
- Henry Luce Foundation’s Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative Grant (APARRI) & American Baptist Home Mission Societies, University of California, Berkeley (2025–present), \$12,000
- CURA Fellowship, Boston University (2025–present), \$1,000
- Ph.D. Dissertation Award, CMF International (2018–2022), \$3,000
- Grant, Grace Foundation & Faith, Hope, and Love Foundation (2016–2022), \$52,000

INVITED LECTURES ON THEOLOGY AND PUBLIC WITNESS (2021-2026)

Invited lectures on public theology, World Christianity, Buddhist nationalism, ethnic conflict, prophetic resistance, and peacebuilding at leading global institutions, including:

- Harvard University (Transnational Asia Lecture Series)
- Harvard Radcliffe Institute (World Christianity Seminar)
- Harvard Divinity School (Power and Resistance in World Christianity Seminar)
- Yale Divinity School, Yale Center for Faith and Culture
- Yale Law School (Decentralized Resistance Seminar)
- Columbia University (Visiting Scholar Lecture Series)
- MIT (Dialogue in Asia Lecture Series)
- Stanford

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Toronto
- Australian National University
- National University of Singapore
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- University of Hamburg, Germany
- Yonsei, South Korea
- Boston University
- George Washington University
- Whitley College, Australia

INVITED TALKS ON FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE AT CHURCHES (2021-2026)

- Oversees Burmese Christian Fellowship, Boston, MA
- The Asia Pacific Office of the Unified Agency of Presbyterian Church (USA)
- First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT
- First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, MN
- First Presbyterian Church of the Way, Showview, MN
- Centenary Methodist Church of Danville, KY
- Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Menomonee Falls, WI

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES (Last 7 Years)

- 2026. “Resisting the State: Reading Romans 13:1-7 with James Scott and Global Zomia,” Society of Asian Biblical Studies, Jakarta, Indonesia, Jun 23-27
- 2025. “Religion as ‘Weapon of the Weak’: Honoring the Life and Legacy of James C. Scott,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, Nov 22–25
- 2025. “War, Conflict, and Scripture,” Global Network for Public Theology Consultation, Fuller Theological Seminary, Sep 8-11
- 2025. “Burmese American Communities: Unlocking their Hidden Stories and Contributions to Asian American Religions and Theology,” APARRI Conference, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, University of California, June 10-12
- 2025. “Nationalisms Beyond Borders: The Paradox of Burmese American Christians,” World Christianity Conference, Princeton Seminary, Mar 10–14
- 2024. “Social Movements and Social Medias in Myanmar and Its Diaspora,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, Nov 23–26
- 2022. “What Kind of Public Theology?” 6th Consultation of the Global Network for Public Theology, Curitiba, Brazil, Oct 3–6
- 2022. “*Missio Dei as Conversation and Conversion in a Pluralistic World*,” American Society of Missiology, University of Notre Dame, Jun 17–19
- 2021. “Toward Christian–Buddhist Encounter in Southeast Asia,” 3rd World Christianity Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, Mar 3–6
- 2019. “Is Buddhism a Democratic Religion?” 2nd Political Theology Network Conference, Columbia University / Union Theological Seminary, Oct 17–19

- 2019. “Ethnic Identity and World Christianity,” 2nd World Christianity Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, Mar 15–18

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- **Co-Chair**, Religion in Southeast Asia Unit, American Academy of Religion (2024–)
- **Coordinator**, “War, Conflict, and Scripture,” Global Network for Public Theology Consultation, Fuller Theological Seminary (2025)
- **Co-Organizer**, Myanmar Constitutional Workshop, Yale University (2025–)
- **Co-Organizer**, Yale-Myanmar Junior Scholars Mentorship (2024–2025)
- **Co-Founder**, Multicultural Myanmar Studies & Public Engagement, Yale (2022–)

Editorial Positions

- **Book review editor**, *International Journal of Public Theology* (2020–present)
- **Advisory board**, *Independent Journal of Burmese Scholarship* (2024–present)
- **Associate editor**, *Interreligious Studies & Intercultural Theology* (2020–present)
- **Editor for Theology/Ethics**, *Asian American Theological Forum* (2016–present)
- **Associate Editor**, *Missiology: An International Review* (2016–2021)

Peer Reviewer (Selected Journals and Presses)

- *Studies in Church History*, Cambridge University Press
- *Journal of Church and State*, Oxford University Press
- *International Journal of Public Theology*, Brill
- *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Wiley-Blackwell
- *Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology*, Equinox
- *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, University of British Columbia
- *Journal of Asian Ethnicity*, Taylor & Francis
- *Modern Theology*, Wiley-Blackwell
- *Asia Journal of Theology*, ATESEA/BTESSC

Professional Memberships

- American Academy of Religion (2012–present)
- Society of Asian Biblical Studies (2026–present)
- Global Network for Public Theology (2020–present)
- Political Theology Network (2019–present)
- Association for Asian Studies (2022–present)
- Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies (2022–present)
- Society of Biblical Literature (2018–present)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Undergraduates

- Yale College (2023– now)
- University of Connecticut (2025 –now)
- Simon Human Rights Fellows, Yale Law School (2024–2025)
- University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka (2025– now)

Graduates (PhD and Master’s)

- Harvard Graduate School of Education (2025—2026)
- Fuller Theological Seminary (2025—2026)
- Yale Divinity School (2023—2026)
- Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2023–2025)
- Chiang Mai University, Thailand (2023–2024)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong (2023–2024)

Mentorship includes academic advising, thesis supervision, research guidance, vocational discernment, and pastoral accompaniment, fostering intercultural and public engagement.

PASTORAL EXPERIENCES AT DIASPORIC CHURCHES

- Faith Formation Educator, First Presbyterian Church, New Haven (July 2022—2026)
- Community Leader, Myanmar Christian Church, Maryland (July 2022—now)
- Youth Pastor, Lexington Korean Presbyterian Church, KY (2016– 2018)
- Itinerant Preacher, Cho Zion Baptist Church, KY (2015 –2022)
- Youth Pastor, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, VA (2014 – 2015)
- Volunteer Pastor, Burmese Refugee Christian Community, VA (2013–2015)

Pastoral ministry across Burmese, Korean, and multiethnic congregations, focused on faith formation, educating, intercultural reconciliation, and community leadership.

PASTORAL ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- Advocacy letters to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (March 2026) and President Joe Biden (August 2024) on the persecution of ethnic minority Christians in Myanmar, co-signed by global Christian leaders.
- Policy meetings with U.S. Senators: Chris Murphy, Cory Booker, Richard Blumenthal, and Mitch McConnell (August 2022-August 2024).
- Consultations with former U.S. ambassadors to Myanmar: Derek Mitchell (August 2025) and Scot Marciel (September 2022).

Pastoral and public theological advocacy for religious freedom and minority persecution in Myanmar through policy engagement, diplomatic dialogue, and pastoral witness.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CHURCH-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

- Mar 2026. “Interreligious Solidarity for a New Myanmar.” [*Harvard Political Review*](#).
- Mar 2026. “How the U.S. Can Help Protect Persecuted Christians in Burma.” [*The Presbyterian Outlook*](#).
- Nov 2025. “Global Lessons in Fighting Religious Nationalism.” *The Institute for Islamic-Christian-Jewish Studies’* [*American Unexceptionalism Podcast*](#).
- Mar 2025. Interview with BBC Journalist: “Nixed USAID Scholarship Helped Christian Students Escape War.” [*Christianity Today*](#).
- Feb 2025. “The Forgotten Burmese Revolution.” [*Yale Daily News*](#).
- Oct 2024. “Christians Under Buddhist Nationalism.” [*Christianity Today*](#).
- Feb 2024. “Amplifying the Voices of Myanmar Protesters.” [*Yale Daily News*](#).
- Dec 2023. “A Hidden History of Myanmar.” [*The Yale Campaign for Humanity*](#).
- May 2023. “Impact of Religion and Southeast Asian Courses at Yale.” [*VOA News*](#).

- Jan 2023. “The Evolution of Buddhist Nationalism.” [*Asia News*](#).
- Jun 2021. “Religion, Ethnicity, and Nationalism.” [*Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion*](#), University of Notre Dame.
- Apr 2021, “Is Buddhism a Democratic Religion?” [*Berkley Center*](#), Georgetown.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

- **Co-organizer**, Yale Student Fundraising for Earthquake Victims in Burma (2025 -)
Led student efforts to raise funds and coordinate aid for effected interfaith communities, integrating service with academic understanding of justice.
- **Director, Blessing Hands Initiative** (2019 -)
Provide financial support for 150 students and salaries for 12 educators at a Christian primary school in ethnic minority Khin Phong Village, Myanmar, empowering educators who refuse to work under the regime and sustaining independent education.