

Online Book Launch

5 February 2025

07:00 New York / 20:00 Singapore

Register →



BEYOND THE ACADEMY

Lived Asian Public Theology of Religions



2024 marks the 50th anniversary of public theology, a term coined by Martin E. Marty in his 1974 article. Since then, scholarly discussions on public theology have become more popular in academic circles. Public theology often involves dialogue among academics, but fail to sufficiently incorporate grassroots interreligious voices.

This book launch, however, offers an invitation to move beyond the academy. It provides two reasons for doing so. First, an overtly academic public theology is in crisis today. Although public theology may be flourishing in the academy, its relevance for real life is limited. Call it an "external crisis of public theology." Second, there is the "ecclesial flourishing" especially among grassroots Christian communities across the villages and valleys of Asia who witness to their lived faith in both public and hidden life, without knowledge of public theology. Their voices are largely unheard due to the gap between the academy and the church.

Speakers will discuss this volume's fresh idea of reimagining the paradigm shifts in lived Asian public theology of religions, aiming to bridge the gap between academic and grassroots voices in the dangerous and pluralistic context of military dictatorship, Buddhist nationalism, and ethnic conflict.

Speakers



David Thang Moe is a Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer in Southeast Asian Studies at Yale University. He is a review editor of *International Journal of Public Theology* and a co-chair of Religion in Southeast Asia Unit at American Academy of Religion. He writes and teaches topics related to public theology, religion, conflict and reconciliation, including "Religion, Politics, and Identity in Southeast Asia," which some students have described as "their favorite and most rewarding class at Yale." His next book, "Beyond Buddhist Nationalism: Political Theology of Interreligious and Decentralized Resistance After the Coup" is under review with Oxford University Press.



Andrew Peh is a graduate from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is currently a lecturer teaching at the Trinity Theological College. He is also a diaconal minister with the Methodist Church in Singapore.



Yex Nang Shwe Rong (Nancy) is a doctoral student at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, specializing in Feminist Political Theology in the Myanmar Context. Her research explores the intersections of gender, faith, and power and examines how feminist transformative leadership can catalyze social change and empower marginalized communities amidst a challenging political landscape.



Francis-Vincent Anthony: born in Mumbai (India), Professor Emeritus of Practical Theology at Salesian Pontifical University, Rome, where he has been teaching since 1993. His areas of theoretical and empirical research are inculturation, interculturality, interreligious dialogue, human rights, and public theology. He has authored and edited 15 books, and published over 120 articles/chapters in specialized journals and edited books.