

# KARIS H. RYU

Curriculum Vitae  
karis.ryu@yale.edu

## EDUCATION

2023— Ph.D., Religious Studies (American Religious History)  
Graduate Certificate in Ethnicity, Race & Migration  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

Committee: Tisa Wenger, Kathryn Lofton, Sally M. Promey, Mary Lui

2023 M.A., Religion (History of Christianity)  
Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT

Thesis: "Redefining Religion: Ruth Ozeki and the Protestant Secular"

2021 A.B., History (honors), East Asian Studies, *magna cum laude*  
Brown University, Providence, RI

Thesis: "[A New Park, a Lost Town: Redefining the Legacy of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan](#)"

## ACADEMIC WRITING

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"[Continuities Amidst Change: Deforestation and Land Control in Late Choson and Colonial Korea](#)," *Brown Journal of History* vol. 14 (June 2020): 34-46.

### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

"How Disney Roleplay Groups Imagined Other Worlds (and Ours)," in *Disney and Religion: A Small Spiritual World, After All*, edited by Jodi Eichler-Levine (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming 2026).

### Book Reviews

"*Seeds of Mobilization: The Authoritarian Roots of South Korea's Democracy*," written by Joan E. Cho," *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* vol. 33, no. 1 (May 2026): 85-87.

"[Immigration and Apocalypse: How the Book of Revelation Shaped American Immigration by Yui-Jan Lin \(review\)](#)," *American Religion* vol. 6, no. 2 (Spring 2025): 197-199.

### Manuscripts in Progress

"Nonreligiosity," in *The Oxford Handbook of Asian American Religions*, edited by Melissa Borja, Helen Jin Kim, and Justin K.H. Tse (co-authored with Tisa Wenger, chapter under review for an edited volume by Oxford University Press).

## PUBLIC WRITING

"[Sheets of Scattered Sand: Cantonese Protestants and the Secular Dream of the Pacific Rim by Justin K.H. Tse](#)," *Reading Religion* (Atlanta, GA: American Academy of Religion, April

2026).

[“Religion in the Lands That Became America,”](#) *ARC: Religion, Politics, Et Cetera* (St. Louis, MO: John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, July 2025).

[“Reimagining American Immigration: An Interview with Yii-Jan Lin,”](#) *Reflections* (New Haven, CT: Yale Divinity School, Dec 2024).

[“In Review: Chronicles of a Village by Nguyễn Thanh Hiên,”](#) *Vagabond City Literary Journal* (Oct 2024).

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Fiction

[“My Name Is,”](#) *Chaotic Merge Magazine* vol. 6 (New York, NY, Sep 2023): 89-99.

[“You Don’t Want Me,”](#) *ROOTS: Korean Diaspora* (Providence, RI, Mar 2023): 20-22.

### Poetry & Short Prose

[“hye \(혜\),”](#) *The Selkie* (Edinburgh, UK, Jan 2024).

[“Revelation,”](#) *The B’K* vol. 14, no. 2 (Denver, CO, Apr 2023): 12-13. **\*\*Pushcart Prize nominee\*\***

[“Onomatopoeia,”](#) *Zindabad* vol. 4 (London & Oxford, UK, Mar 2023).

[“Samanco Summer,”](#) *The Art of Nostalgia is in the Heart* (San Jose, CA: Sampaguita Press, Nov 2022).

[“Busan Nighttime Feeling,”](#) *Harpy Hybrid Review* (Nov 2022).

[“Teacher says I need to speak up more,”](#) *Connecticut Bards Poetry Review 2022* (Long Island, NY: Local Gems Press, June 2022).

### Narrative & Creative Nonfiction

[“Ne me quitte pas,”](#) *The Account* (Oct 2023). **\*\*Best of the Net nominee\*\***

[“What I didn’t say when I gave your eulogy,”](#) *HerStry* (Milwaukee, WI: HerStry LLC, Aug 2023).

[“wrenched from indigeneity, an impossible dream,”](#) *295 Magazine* vol. V (New Haven, CT: Asian American Cultural Center at Yale, May 2022): 40-43.

[“Four Times I Hid \(And One Time I Didn’t\),”](#) *VISIONS* vol. XXII issue 1 (Providence, RI, Dec 2020): 30-32.

## TEACHING

### Courses as Part-Time Acting Instructor

HUMS 2800: What Matters Most (Yale University, 2026)

Courses as Teaching Assistant

**Intermediate Courses**

ENGL 3870/AMST 2271/ER&M 3571: Asian American Study (Yale University, 2026)

**Introductory Courses**

RLST 1270/HUMS 4501/PHIL 1118/SAST 2610: Buddhist Thought: The Foundations (Yale University, 2025)

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

|           |                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026      | John F. Enders Research Grant, <i>Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University</i>                                                             |
| 2026      | Poet & Author Fellowship, <i>Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing</i>                                                                        |
| 2025      | Tin House Scholarship, <i>McCormack Writing Center (formerly Tin House Workshop)</i>                                                                    |
| 2024      | Forum for Theological Educators, <i>Forum for Theological Exploration</i>                                                                               |
| 2024      | Doro Boehme Scholarship, <i>StoryStudio Chicago</i>                                                                                                     |
| 2022      | Mary Cady Tew Prize for exceptional ability in history, <i>Yale Divinity School</i>                                                                     |
| 2022      | Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program, <i>Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan</i>                                          |
| 2021-2022 | RITM Graduate Fellowship, <i>Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration at Yale University</i>                              |
| 2021      | President James Manning Medal for excellence in the study and practice of religion, <i>Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life, Brown University</i> |
| 2021      | Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium for the outstanding undergraduate woman student in the <i>Department of History, Brown University</i>            |
| 2020-2021 | Undergraduate Fellowship, <i>Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University</i>                                                                   |
| 2020-2021 | Royce Fellowship, <i>Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service, Brown University</i>                                                                  |
| 2021      | P3 Scholar, <i>Graduate School Access, Diversity, and Inclusion, Princeton University</i>                                                               |
| 2020      | Diversity and Explorations Program, <i>Harvard Divinity School</i>                                                                                      |
| 2019      | Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, <i>Generation Teach Providence</i>                                                                                    |

**PRESENTATIONS**

Panelist, "Tomorrowlands: Disney and the Future of Religions," Religion and Popular Culture Unit, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, November 21-24, 2026.

Panelist, "Book Panel: Sonia Hazard's *Empire of Print: Evangelical Power in an Age of Mass Media*," Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, November 21-24, 2026.

Co-presenter, "What Is Secular Is the Violence: Transpacific Militarization and the Postsecular Poetics of Religious Memory," *The Intimacies of Kith: Collaborative Poetry Scholarship and Practice Between Asian North America and Southeast Asia*, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, October 2-4, 2026.

"Pedagogies of Citizenship: Race, Popular Culture, and the Public Education of American Secularism," *Futures of American Studies Institute*, Hanover, NH, June 29-July 4, 2026.

"Retelling the Marriage Plot: *Bridgerton's* Asian Heroines," *Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative Conference*, Berkeley, CA, June 9-11, 2026.

"Retelling the Marriage Plot: Racial Representation and Revisionist Fantasy in *Mr. Malcolm's List* (2022)," *Nostalgia: A Religious Studies Graduate Conference*, Brown University Department of Religious Studies, Providence, RI, April 10-11, 2026.

"Constructing the Myth of Asian America: Reproducing and Queering the Racial Canon," *Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference*, Honolulu, HI, April 2-4, 2026.

Workshop Co-lead, "breaking form: a workshop for creative praxis & asian americanist critique," *Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference*, Honolulu, HI, April 2-4, 2026.

Discussant, "Korean History, Theology, and Critique," *Yale Korean Philosophy of Religion and Theology Graduate Conference*, New Haven, CT, February 27, 2026.

"Building the (Im)Possible World: Romance, Repetition, and Race in *Wicked*," *RITM Graduate Research Conference: Critical Knowledge Generations*, New Haven, CT, February 13, 2026.

"'No One Is Going to Save You': Writing in the Failure of Deliverance," *Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative Conference*, Berkeley, CA, June 10-12, 2025.

"Building the (Im)Possible World," *Graduate Conference at the School of Religious Studies at McGill University*, Montreal, QC, May 15-17, 2025.

"Afterchurch: Gender, Sex, and Power in Asian American Christianity," *Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference*, Boston, MA, April 17-19, 2025.

Co-organizer, "Asianist Life Writing: Part II - Family, Community, and the Diasporic Experience," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Columbus, OH, March 13-16, 2025.

Co-organizer and Panelist, "Asianist Life Writing: Part I - Rethinking Archives and Modes of Scholarly Expression," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Columbus, OH, March 13-16, 2025.

Discussant, "Race, Migration, and Religion in the Korean Context," *Yale Korean Philosophy of Religion and Theology Graduate Conference*, New Haven, CT, February 28, 2025.

"'How Did I Let This Happen?': Constructing the Body of Asian American Christianity," North American Religions Unit, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA, November 23-26, 2024.

"Dreaming as Method, Dreaming as Solidarity: Thoughts on Ethnographic Partnership," *Graduate Student Conference*, Northwestern University Department of Religious Studies, Evanston, Illinois, October 25-27, 2024.

"Yoon Dong-ju in Diaspora: A Translation/Reflection/Refraction," *Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative Conference*, Berkeley, CA, June 11-13, 2024.

"For Church and State: How American Evangelicalism Constructs, and Leaves Out, Asian American Subjecthood," *Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference*, Seattle, WA, April 25-27, 2024.

"Ruth Ozeki's Sensory and Material World in Racial Modernity," Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society and Buddhism in the West Units, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX, November 18-21, 2023.

Guest Lecture, "Engaging Religion at the Smithsonian APAC," Museums and Religion: The Politics of Preservation and Display (Graduate Seminar at Yale University), New Haven, CT, September 13, 2023.

"Our Heathen Language: Asian American Poetry as Primary Sources in Studies of American Religion," *Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative Conference*, Berkeley, CA, June 20-22, 2023.

"'We Became the Cool Kids': Cultural Belonging at Seoul American High School, 1974-2019," *Blood in Modern Korea and Its Diasporas Workshop*, Colby College, April 15, 2022.

"On Both Sides of the Camera: The Autonomous Photography of Lao Monks in the Buddhist Archive," *School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference*, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Virtual, April 6-7, 2022.

"Spiritual Inheritances and Geographic Futurities: Considering Asian and Native American Ways of Being and Relating," Enacting Inclusive Futures: A Symposium on APIDA/A Communities, *Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Michigan State University*, Virtual, March 18-19, 2022.

"George May's Lost Town: Remembering Yongsan Garrison through Seoul American High School, 1974-2019," *Association for Asian Studies New England Regional Conference*, December 6, 2021.

"The Legacy of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan" in *Meet the Fellows: Spring Edition*, Cogut Institute for the Humanities at Brown University, Providence, RI, January 21, 2021.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

### Yale University

Co-coordinator, Creative Writing Working Group, 2025-2026.

Co-coordinator, Korean Studies Reading Group, 2024-2026.

Member, University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct, 2023-2026.

Member, Department of Religious Studies Graduate Student Committee, 2024-2025.

Member, Divinity School Admissions Committee, 2023.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Life Worth Living Program at Yale**, New Haven, CT

Lead Tutor, 2026

In collaboration with Life Worth Living Program Director Matthew Croasmun, design the teaching role for Yale College course HUMS 2800 ("What Matters Most"). Serve as the lead tutor

of the teaching team for HUMS 2800.

**Story Magazine**, Remote

Reader, 2024-2025

Volunteer reader for short fiction submissions.

**Yale Asian American Cultural Center**, New Haven, CT

Okihiro Library Fellow, 2024

Curated and implemented community engagement events related to Asian American literature in collaboration with other AACC staff. Maintained the AACC Okihiro Library as a community resource.

**Abode Press**, Remote

Intern, 2024

Read manuscripts for the Fiction and Poetry teams of an independent press. Voted on selections to be considered by senior editors.

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

Faculty Assistant, 2023

Set up digital site materials, coordinated speakers, and finalized syllabus for Prof. Sally M. Promey's Fall 2023 course "Museums and Religion: the Politics of Preservation and Display." Prepared and delivered a guest lecture on displays of Asian and Asian American art in American/Western museums.

**Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS)**, New Haven, CT

Instructor, 2022-2023

Developed and taught original seminars on topics including Asian American studies, diaspora, religion and politics, film and media, environmental literature, and settler colonialism to high school students. Facilitated breakout discussions for faculty lectures. Fostered a welcoming community space for a family group of 11-12 students. Supervised students in developing two-week collaborative capstone projects. Spoke on panels addressing life in and after postsecondary education.

**Yale Divinity Library**, New Haven, CT

Digital Project Assistant, 2021-2023

Assisted the Digital Projects and Technology Librarian in organizing Yale Divinity Library's special collections materials. Digitized files in the Church Postcard Collection, blueprints in the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia Records, and nineteenth-century journals from the Dwight L. Moody Papers. Logged metadata for missionary bibles and glass lantern slides in the World Christianity Bible Collection and Missionary Ephemera Collection.

**Generation Teach Providence**, Providence, RI

Teaching Fellow, 2019

Formed interpersonal relationships with Providence public school students, grades 5-8, in a summer program promoting educational equity. Taught an immigration and human rights curriculum. Created and taught a Korean language and culture elective. Completed AmeriCorps service hours.

**U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Public Affairs Office**, Armed Forces Pacific

Intern, 2016-2017

Covered events for the Morning Calm, the most-circulated newspaper in U.S. Armed Forces Korea. Copy-edited all issues of the Morning Calm before publication.

## **LANGUAGES**

Korean: bilingual fluency

Japanese: intermediate reading, writing, speaking

Chinese: basic reading, writing, speaking

Spanish: basic reading

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative (APARRI)

Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)

Circle for Asian American Literary Studies (CAALS)