

Bo kyung Blenda Im, PhD

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2023-** Assistant Professor of Sacred Music and of Divinity, Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School (joint appointment), Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2021-23** Postdoctoral Fellow in Global Korean Diasporas, Korea Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2020-21** Postdoctoral Associate in the Institute of Sacred Music, Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2020** Lecturer in Ethnomusicology, Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, CT (Spring Term)

EDUCATION

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- 2019** PhD in Ethnomusicology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Affiliations: Graduate student, James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies, 2013-2019
Visiting student, International Center for Korean Studies, Seoul National University, 2015-2017
- 2012** MAR in Religion and Music, Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2008** BA in Music History and Communication Studies (Double Major), University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Graduated *summa cum laude*, with College Honors and Highest Departmental Honors

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters and Essays

- 2024** “Black and Asian Stories, Citations, and Epistemic Shifts in American Music Studies,” a Printed Symposium for Guthrie Ramsey’s *Who Hears Here?: On Black Music, Pasts and Present*, for *American Music* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2023): 167-173.
- 2021** “Delay, or, When Breath Precedes Encounter: Aesthet(h)ic(al) Negotiations in Black Gospel’s Afro-Asian Crossings,” in *Ethics and Christian Musicking*, eds. Nathan Myrick and Mark Porter (Abingdon, Oxon, and New York, NY: Routledge, 2021), 51-70.

Book reviews

- 2019** Ari Y. Kelman, *Shout to the Lord: Making Worship Music in Evangelical America*. *Reading Religion* (online book review forum for the American Academy of Religion; <http://readingreligion.org/books/shout-lord>)
- 2015** Nicholas Harkness, *Songs of Seoul: An Ethnography of Voice and Voicing in Christian South Korea*. *MUSICultures* 42, no. 1 (2015): 124-127.
- 2015** Zoe Sherinian, *Tamil Folk Music as Dalit Liberation Theology*. *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 39, no. 2 (2015): 105-106.

Digital and multimedia scholarship reviews

2023 American Religious Sounds Project (<https://religioussounds.osu.edu/>) for *Journal of the American Musicological Society* 72, no. 2 (2023): 543-555.

Works in Progress

Monograph, *Transpacific Modernity and the Forgotten Constant: Race, Music, and Faith in Seoul*.

Journal article, ****title and journal redacted**** (submitted and under review).

Guest co-editor (with Nathan Myrick), “The Power of Timbre in Religion,” *Yale Journal of Music and Religion* 11, no. 1 (2025).

Journal article for *Liturgy* (Melanie Ross, guest editor).

Chapter, “Music in Korea and the Korean Diaspora,” in *The Cambridge History of Christian Sacred Music from 1500 to the Present*, Stephen A. Crist and Markus Rathey, eds.

TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Courses**Assistant Professor, Yale University, New Haven, CT (2023-)**

Critical Themes in Korean Popular Music (EAST 389 | MUSI 382). Undergraduate seminar (Spring 2024).

Contemporary Worship Music: Commerce, Style, and Ethics (REL 947). Graduate seminar (Spring 2024, Fall 2024).

Sacred Sounds: Key Issues in the Ethnomusicology of Religion (REL 900). Graduate seminar (Fall 2023, Fall 2024).

Lecturer, Yale University, New Haven, CT (2020-21)

Popular Music and Christianity in Korea. A new course that traces transnational cultural connections between Korea and the United States through themes of race, ethnicity, and religion. Cross-listed with East Asian Studies, Music, and Religious Studies. Undergraduate seminar (Spring 2020) and graduate seminar (Fall 2020).

Sacred Sounds: Key Issues in the Ethnomusicology of Religion (REL 900). A new course that pairs case studies of religious music-making with current themes in ethnomusicological scholarship. Introduces graduate students to the intellectual history of ethnomusicology (Spring 2020, Spring 2021).

Instructor of Record, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (2013-15)

World Musics and Cultures. Undergraduate world music survey course (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015).

Guest Lectures

Joshua Busman’s “Sacred Music” course, Virtual, University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Music, Pembroke, NC, 2024.

Joshua Busman’s “Church Music” course, Virtual, University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Music, Pembroke, NC, March 2021.

Monique Ingalls’s “Interpreting Gospel Music” course, Virtual, Yale Department of Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT, March 2015.

Advising

Colloquium presentations, Yale Institute of Sacred Music

2024-25 Seven Yale master's degree students for their co-authored capstone presentations (Kumara and Pérez; Martin and Segger; Andrews, Elsbernd, and Hones)

2023-24 Three Yale master's degree students for their co-authored capstone presentation (Brennan, Reese, and Sharis)

2022-23 Two Yale master's degree students for their co-authored capstone presentation (Graviet and Zhao)

2021-22 Two Yale master's degree students for their co-authored capstone presentation (Cunliffe and Yin)

2020-21 One Yale master's degree student for his single-authored capstone presentation (Rodan)

Theses, Yale University

2023-24 Second reader for undergraduate senior thesis, Yale Department of Religious Studies (Chun)

2023-24 Second reader for MAR thesis, Yale Divinity School (Yao)

Pedagogical Training

Teaching Certificate received from the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania (May 2019)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018-19 Booth-Ferris Graduate Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

2017-18 Y.H. Park Fellow in Korean Studies, University of Pennsylvania

2016 Penfield Fellowship Recipient, University of Pennsylvania

2016 Kim Program in Korean Studies Graduate Grant Recipient, University of Pennsylvania

2015-16 Fulbright U.S. Student (IIE) Research Award Recipient to South Korea

2015-16 Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Education Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

2015 Finalist, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council

2013-14 Leonard A. Shapiro Music Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

2007 Eileen Southern Travel Grant Recipient, American Musicological Society

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2019 Student Bursary Award, Christian Congregational Music Conference

2019 Albrecht Graduate Travel Award, University of Pennsylvania

2018 Albrecht Graduate Travel Award, University of Pennsylvania

2015 Student Paper Prize, Association for Korean Music Research

2015 Hurley Cross/Albrecht Graduate Travel Award, University of Pennsylvania

2015 Student Bursary Award, Christian Congregational Music Conference

2015 Graduate Student Prize, Society for Christian Scholarship in Music

2014 Hewitt Pantaleoni Prize, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology

2012 Downes Prize, Yale Divinity School

2012 Edwin Stanley Seder Prize, Yale Institute of Sacred Music

2011 Hugh Porter Scholarship, Yale Institute of Sacred Music

2008 Award for Best Senior Thesis, UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

2008 Undergraduate Nominee for Charles E. and Sue K. Young Award, UCLA Music History Department

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2023** “Elsewhere, Now-Here: K-pop, Transpacific Music Historiography, and the Otherwise Modern,” presented at the Korea Colloquium, James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. September.
- 2022** “‘Sounds like worship’?: Keyboard/producer hybrids and the colonization of timbre in evangelical liturgy,” presented at the Power, Participation, and Access within Congregational Worship Music: Challenges and Possibilities Summer Seminar hosted by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI. August.
- 2022** “Transpacific Circulations, Afro-Asian Collaborations: Heritage, Korean Soul, and Black Gospel Worship,” presented at the Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, CT. March.
- 2022** “Decolonizing Korean Christian Worship: Black Gospel, Religious Aesthetics, and the Suspension of Modernity,” presented at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. March.
- 2022** Public lecture, “Re-Rendering Korean Popular Music Studies,” presented at the Korea Colloquium, Korea Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. February (virtual).
- 2021** “‘Gospel Worship’ and the Suspension of Modernity,” presented at the Department of Music, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. December.
- 2021** Panelist, book launch event for Dr. Nathan Myrick’s *Music and Others: Care, Justice, and Relational Ethics in Christian Music* (Oxford University Press 2021), hosted by Baylor University, Waco, TX. April (virtual).
- 2020** Public lecture, “Contemporary Worship Music and Diasporic Stickiness,” presented at the ISM Fellows’ Lunchtime Talk Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT. November (virtual).

Papers and Roundtables

- 2023** Chair, *Trans-Pacific Sounds: K-pop and South Korea-U.S. Relations*, held at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Ottawa, Canada. October.
- 2023** Roundtable Organizer and Chair, *Between Ephemerality and Stability: Timbre in Christian Congregational Music*, held at the biennial meeting of the Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. August.
- 2023** Chair, *Practicing Asian Congregational Song in Community*, held at the biennial meeting of the Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. August.
- 2023** Roundtable Organizer, *K-pop in the Diaspora, the Diaspora in K-pop*, hosted by the Korea Institute, Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. April (virtual).
- 2022** “*Sound Doctrine*: Naul, Palladū, and the Nostalgic Present,” presented at the joint meeting of the American Musicological Society, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the Society for Music Theory in New Orleans, LA. November.
- 2021** Panel Organizer, *Racial In/Visibility and the Global Gospel Marketplace*, and Paper Presenter, “Transnational Medicine?: Performing Gospel Music and Afro-Asian Brotherhood,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Atlanta, GA. October (virtual).
- 2021** Panel Organizer, *Racial In/Visibility and the Global Gospel Marketplace*, and Paper Presenter, “Transnational Medicine?: Performing Gospel Music and Afro-Asian Brotherhood,” presented at the biennial meeting of the Christian Congregational Music Conference, at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. July and August (virtual).

- 2021 Event Organizer, *A Concert with Heritage: Black Gospel from Seoul*, hosted by the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University in New Haven, CT. April (virtual).
- 2020 Session Chair, *On Perspectives, Pronouns, and Harmonization in Christian Song*, annual meeting of the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music at Baylor University, Waco, TX. February.
- 2020 “Global Church?: Worship and Differential Inclusion in Transpacific Evangelicalism,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music at Baylor University, Waco, TX. February.
- 2019 Session Chair, *Christian Perspectives*, annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Bloomington, IN. November.
- 2019 “Affect, Vulnerability, and the Surfacing of the Ecclesial Body: Contemporary Worship Music in Transpacific Modernity,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Bloomington, IN. November.
- 2019 “Affect, Vulnerability, and the Surfacing of the Ecclesial Body: Contemporary Worship Music in Transpacific Modernity,” presented at the biennial meeting of the Christian Congregational Music Conference, at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. July.
- 2018 “‘Gospel Worship’: Negotiating Evangelical Belonging in the Global Racial Order,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO. November.
- 2016 “Dancing in the Son,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Washington, D.C. November.
- 2016 “Dancing in the Son,” presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, at Samjung Hotel, Seoul, South Korea. August.
- 2015 “Something Indescribable: Missionary Descriptions, Sonic Inscriptions of the 1907 Pyongyang Great Revival,” presented at the biennial meeting of the Christian Congregational Music Conference, at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. August.
- 2015 “Amnesia and Anamnesis: Voicing a Modern Christian Subjectivity in South Korea,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music, at Emory University, GA. February.
- 2014 “Amnesia and Anamnesis: Voicing a Modern Christian Subjectivity in South Korea,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Pittsburgh, PA. November.
- 2014 “Amnesia and Anamnesis: Voicing a Modern Christian Subjectivity in South Korea,” presented at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, at the University of Pennsylvania, PA. March.
- 2013 “Naming Rights: Polysemic Mimesis in Korean Popular Music,” presented at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, at the University of Richmond, VA. March.
- 2011 “Water Meets Oil?: ‘Charismatic’ Praise and Worship in Presbyterian Liturgy,” presented at the Christian Congregational Music Conference at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England. September.
- 2011 “Canticum Novum: The Shinsedae Minjung Retells Salvation,” presented at the annual meeting of the Forum on Music and Christian Scholarship, at Wheaton College, IL. March.
- 2011 “Banana Hymns, or Native Worship? Praise and Worship as Korean Contextual Church Music,” presented at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music Colloquium, New Haven, CT. January.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Yale University

Faculty Member, Yale Council on East Asian Studies (2023-).

Member, Japan & Korea Grants Committee (2024-25)

Member, Williams Prize Committee (2023-24)

Walls Task Force, Yale Divinity School (2023-24).

Committee member, *Race, Power, and the Production of Musical Canons* series at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music (2020-21). Organizing member of discussion series led by ISM Director Martin Jean

Panelist, “Race, Power, and the Production of Musical Canons,” October 27

Faculty moderator, “Music: More Beautiful, More Terrible—A Discussion with Prof. Guthrie Ramsey (University of Pennsylvania) on *A Spiritual Vibe, Vol. 1*,” April 5

Faculty moderator, “Canons and Curricula: Confronting Legacies of White Supremacy in Departments of Music—A Discussion with Dr. Loren Kajikawa (George Washington University),” April 26

Ad hoc reviews

Reviewer for Tony Alonso, “Music as Embodied Memory in a Time of Crisis,” *The Yale ISM Review: Exploring Sacred Music, Worship, and the Arts* 6, No. 1 (Spring 2021).

Committees

Program committee, Transpacific East Asia: Transformations and Trajectories in Music and Sound (2023). One of four committee members for hybrid conference organized by Dr. Hannah Hyun Kyong Chang (University of Sheffield)

Advisory board member for *The Cambridge History of Christian Sacred Music from 1500 to the Present* (2021-). One of six advisory board members for comprehensive global music history volume edited by Drs. Stephen Crist (Emory University) and Markus Rathey (Yale University)

Abstract review committee, Christian Congregational Music: Local and Global Perspectives Conference (2020-21)

Professional Service

Secretary and Treasurer, Association for Korean Music Research (2023-)

Member-at-Large, Association for Korean Music Research (2019-21)

Student Member-at-Large, Association for Korean Music Research (2016-19)

Student Representative, Society for Christian Scholarship in Music (2011-15)

Leader, Yale Divinity Korean Association (2010-11)

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion (2018-)

Society for Ethnomusicology (2012-)

Society for Christian Scholarship in Music (2010-)

Phi Beta Kappa Society (2008-)

American Musicological Society (2007-)

LANGUAGES

Korean: Native proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Language examinations: University of Pennsylvania Departmental Language examinations passed in Korean reading (February 2014), French reading (April 2013), and German reading (October 2012).