



Our annual Yu-Lee Lecture will take place this October 1st at 11am in Oxnam Chapel. We will share in a community meal and Dean's Forum following the lecture in the Refectory.

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The Yu-Lee Lecture honors the legacies of two remarkable female leaders, Yu Gwan-sun and Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, and their commitment to live out their faith and seek justice for all. Hyekyung You embodies these legacies as the granddaughter of Yu Gwan-sun. She is also the President of the Memorial Association for Yu Gwan-sun, President of the New York Branch of the Yu Gwan-sun Research Institute of Baik Suk University, and board member of the Research Institute of Korean Women's Independence Movement.

To join virtually, visit [youtube.com/@WesleyseminaryEdu/streams](https://youtube.com/@WesleyseminaryEdu/streams)



Wesley Theological Seminary  
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## About the Yu Gwan-sun and Mabel Ping-Hua Lee Lecture

The Yu Gwan-sun and Mabel Ping-Hua Lee Lectureship at Wesley Theological Seminary honors the ministry and spirit of two remarkable individuals: Yu Gwan-sun and



Mabel Ping-Hua Lee. These two female leaders, one Korean and the other Chinese American, respectively, modeled in their life and death a commitment to faithful Christian living that encompasses religious, social, and political ideals we at Wesley Theological Seminary strive to embody and inspire.

Yu Gwan-sun was tortured and died for her peaceful protest of Japanese rule in Soedaemun Prison in Seoul on September 28, 1920, at the age of 17. Born December 16, 1902, Yu was second among five children to Christian parents, who instilled in her Christian faith and Confucian values. She attended a Methodist church, committed biblical passages to memory, and later attended Ewha Haktang, the first modern educational institute for women in Korea established by American missionaries. It was while she was a student at Ewha school on March 1, 1919, that she and three friends joined a march to protest Japanese colonial rule. She then organized and joined marches, distributed smuggled copies of the Declaration of Independence, and became the face of the Samil (3.1) Movement for Korean Independence.

Hatoyama, former prime minister of Japan, honored the memory of Yu and other independence activists; and Ban Ki-moon, former United Nations secretary general, likened Yu to Joan of Arc. Yu is a Methodist Christian who in her life and death modeled a commitment to peaceful protest against all forms of oppression and whose courage and spirit well represents the ideals to which Wesley aspires: faithful living, public engagement, and prophetic courage.

Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (born in 1896 in Guangzhou, China) was an immigrant to the United States who, during an era when Naturalization was banned for Chinese immigrants, wrote, organized, and marched for women's suffrage. At age 16, she was already well known among suffragists in New York, and Lee helped lead a march of 10,000 people to Washington Square Park in Manhattan on May 4, 1912—herself on a white horse, bearing a sash that read: "Votes for Women." Lee was also a pastor in the predominantly male (due to immigration policies) congregation of First Chinese Baptist Church of New York City.

When Lee was four, her father immigrated alone to the US to serve as a Christian missionary. In 1905, the rest of the family joined Lee's father in New York City. She graduated from Barnard College and earned a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University, the first Chinese woman to do so. When Lee's father died in 1924, Lee took over the pastorate of First Chinese Baptist Church. Lee died in 1966 after a life spent writing for equality for immigrants, organizing for women's suffrage, and fighting to be heard and respected as a female Christian leader. Lee has received renewed attention by historians for her role in the women's suffrage movement in Cathleen D. Cahill's *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement* (University of North Carolina Press, 2021). And the Chinatown Post Office in New York City was renamed the "Mabel Lee Memorial Post Office" in her honor on July 24, 2018. Lee embodied in her life a Christian dedication to equality for ethnic minorities and women and the dogged spirit to fight for a woman's right to vote in the United States and to lead in Christian communities.

