

CURRICULUM VITAE
LEE Kian Cheng
email: kiancheng.lee@api.edu.sg

Education

2012 - 2015	PhD (Social Science), Chiang Mai University, Thailand
2004 - 2005	MTh (Asian Christianity), Trinity Theological College, Singapore
2002 - 2004	MA (Southeast Asian Studies), National University of Singapore
1999 - 2001	MDiv, East Asia School of Theology, Singapore
1997 - 1999	MA (Biblical Studies) Singapore Bible College, Singapore
1992 - 1995	Bachelor of Science (Physics), National University of Singapore

Awards

2022	Outstanding Alumni Award, Chiang Mai University
2020	Excellent Researcher Award, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University
2017	The Thailand Research Fund for New Scholar, Chiang Mai University Very Good Dissertation Award
1992	Certificate of Appreciation, 5 th Singapore Infantry Regiment
1991	Commissioned Officer, Singapore Armed Forces
1990	Best Trainee Award, Singapore Armed Forces Provost Unit

Professional Appointments

2025 – present	Associate Professor, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
2019 – present	Assistant Professor, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
2019 – present	Member, Editorial Committee, Political Science and Public Administration Journal
2018 – present	Associate Editor, ASR: CMU Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities
2018 – present	Affiliate Faculty Member, School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
2017 – present	Associate Senior Pastor, Charis Tabernacle
2016 – present	Lecturer, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
2015 – present	Member, Board of Directors, The Tabernacle Church & Missions
2015 – present	Member, Board of Directors, Asian Pastoral Institute
2012 – present	Pastor, Thai Tabernacle Church
2008 – 2012	Pastor, Charis Tabernacle
2006 – 2008	Associate Pastor, Charis Tabernacle
2003 – 2006	Associate Pastor, Crystal Tabernacle
1999 – present	Senior Lecturer, Asian Pastoral Institute
1999 – 2003	Assistant Pastor, Crystal Tabernacle
1995 – 1999	Staff worker, Crystal Tabernacle
1991 – 1992	Lieutenant, 5 th Singapore Infantry Regiment

Teaching Interests

My teaching portfolios span political economy, social sciences, cross-cultural studies, and pastoral studies.

Modules taught in political economy and social sciences include:

Academic Writing in International Relations
Chinese in Southeast Asia
International Political Economy
Introduction to International Relations
Readings in International Relations
Seminar on Issues in International Relations
Social Science Theories

Modules taught in cross-cultural and pastoral studies include:

Discipleship / Evangelism
Inductive Bible Study
Old Testament
Missions
New Testament
East Asian Studies
Religions of Asia
Southeast Asian Studies
Spiritual Disciplines

Research Interests

Chinese capitalism and economic cultures
Cultural diplomacy
Political economy
PRC transnational entrepreneurs and tourism
Smart City
Religious Studies

Publications

Dissertation

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2015. "Rethinking Chinese Capitalism: Economic Cultures, *Guanxi* and Identities of Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai City." PhD diss., Chiang Mai University.

Refereed Articles

Lee, Kian Cheng 2024. "The Political Economy of Business Trust: An Ethnographic Case Study of Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai." *Political Science and Public Administration Journal* 15(Suppl. 2): 63–92. <https://so05.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/polscicmujournal/article/view/273401>

Lee, Kian Cheng 2024. "Promoting a Positive Shared Future through Transnational Chinese in Thailand: a Case Study of a Self-Styled Sino-Thai Folk Diplomat [通过在泰国的跨国华人促进积极的共享未来：一个自封的中泰民间外交官的案例研究]." *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 20(2): 209-230. <https://doi.org/10.1163/17932548-12341516>

Lee, Kian Cheng 2024. "Hedging Perspectives for Small States and Regimes: A Comparative Study Between Singapore and Hong Kong." *Political Science and Public Administration Journal* 15(1): 23–60.
<https://so05.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/polscicmujournal/article/view/267582>

Arratee Ayuttacorn, Jane M. Ferguson, Ariya Svetamra, Yos Santasombat & Kian Cheng Lee. 2023. "Turbaned Northern Thai-ness: selective transnationalism, situational ethnicity and local cultural intimacy among Chiang Mai Punjabis." *Identities* (0):1-20. DOI: 10.1080/1070289X.2023.2182962.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2020. "Neglected Agents: Elucidating Chinese Social Actors' Role in Thai-Sino Smart City Diplomacy." *International Journal of China Studies* 11(1): 1-20.
<https://icsum.org.my/ijcs/international-journal-of-china-studies-vol-11-no-1-june-2020/>

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2020. "Re-envisioning Citizen Diplomacy: A Case Study of a Multifaceted, Transnational, People's Republic of China "Ethnopreneur." *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 48(2): 127-147. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1868102620907240>

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2019. "Negotiating Diplomacy: Forging Thai-Sino Relations Through Interactive Business Workshops." *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 15(1): 89-105.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2015. "Re-conceptualizing *Guanxi*: A Case Study of a Transnational Thai-Yunnanese Businesswoman in Thailand's Chiang Mai Province." *Thammasat Review* 18(1): 143-162.

Lee, Kian Cheng and Bian Hin Chua. 2007. "Bhikkhu Spirituality and Thai Christianity." *Journal of Asian Evangelical Theology* 15(1): 98-129.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2006. "The Globalization Impact on Singapore Socio-Economic Policies and the Christian Response." *Church & Society in Asia Today* 9(1): 1-20.

Book

Lee, Kian Cheng 2025. *Researching the Belt and Road Initiative: A Cross-civilizational and Interdisciplinary Approach*. Singapore: Springer.

Edited Books

Santasombat, Yos, Kian Cheng LEE, and Decha Tangseefa eds. 2025. *China's BRI in Southeast Asia: Concepts and Methodologies*. Japan: Kyoto University Press & Trans Pacific Press.

Seah, David Jeremiah Hok Heng, Swee Sum Lam, Kian Cheng Lee, and Gabriel Henry Jacob, eds. 2025. *Celebrating God's Goodness*. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Santasombat, Yos and Kian Cheng Lee, eds. 2025. *The Impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia: Evaluating Risks and Benefits*. Singapore: Springer.

Chapters in Book

Lee, Kian Cheng and Haiping Gao. 2025. "Hedging Perspectives for Small States and Regimes: A Comparative Study between Singapore and Hong Kong." In *The Making of Singapore as an Asian Regional Corridor: Historicity, Trade, and Diaspora*, edited by Liu, H., Yow, C. H., & Zhang, H, 101-132. Routledge.

Santasombat, Yos, Kian Cheng LEE, and Decha Tangseefa. 2025. "Introduction." In *China's BRI in Southeast Asia: Concepts and Methodologies*, edited by Yos Santasombat, Kian Cheng Lee, and Decha Tangseefa, 1-22. Japan: Kyoto University Press & Trans Pacific Press.

Santasombat, Yos and Kian Cheng LEE. 2025. "Anthropology of Regionalization, Multi-sited Ethnography, and Voice Approach in BRI Research." In *China's BRI in Southeast Asia: Concepts and Methodologies*, edited by Yos Santasombat, Kian Cheng Lee, and Decha Tangseefa, 23-50. Japan: Kyoto University Press & Trans Pacific Press.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2025. "Remaking Identities: Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Everyday Life Practice and Performance." In *Transnational Southeast Asia: Communities, Contestations and Cultures*, edited by Ho, H.M.Y. and Chan, Yk, 159-178. Springer: Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3608-2_10

Lee, Kian Cheng and Jodi Choo May Eng. 2025. "The Visioning." In *Celebrating God's Goodness*, edited by David Jeremiah Seah Hok Heng, Swee Sum Lam, Kian Cheng Lee, and Gabriel Henry Jacob, 1-24. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Lau, Gideon Chee Wah, Swee Hong Tay and Kian Cheng Lee. 2025. "The Missions." In *Celebrating God's Goodness*, edited by David Jeremiah Seah Hok Heng, Swee Sum Lam, Kian Cheng Lee, and Gabriel Henry Jacob, 153-184. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Santasombat, Yos and Kian Cheng Lee. 2025. "Introduction." In *The Impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia: Evaluating Risks and Benefits*, edited by Yos Santasombat and Kian Cheng Lee, 1-26. Singapore: Springer.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2022. "Re-conceptualizing Chinese in Bangkok: Embeddedness, Mobilities and Folk Diplomacies." In *Transnational Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia*, edited by Yos Santasombat, 49-80. Singapore: Springer.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2022. "Epilogue." In *Transnational Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia*, edited by Yos Santasombat, 153-162. Singapore: Springer.

Poocharoen, Ora-orn, Poon Thiengburanathum and Kian Cheng Lee. 2020. "The smart city as a complex system: the ebbs and flows of humans and materials." In *Smart Cities in Asia:*

Governing Development in the Era of Hyper-Connectivity, edited by Yu-min Joo and Teck Boon Tan, 162-179. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2018. "Negotiating the Rise and Vice of People's Republic of China Transnational Entrepreneurs: Multiple Strategies by Thai Yunnanese Small and Medium Enterprises in Chiang Mai." In *The Sociology of Chinese Capitalism in Southeast Asia*, edited by Yos Santasombat, 291-313. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.

Santasombat, Yos and Kian Cheng Lee. 2017. "Introduction." In *Chinese Capitalism in Southeast Asia: Cultures and Practices*, edited by Yos Santasombat, 1-33. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2017. "Political Economy of *Guanxi*: Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai City." In *Chinese Capitalism in Southeast Asia: Cultures and Practices*, edited by Yos Santasombat, 155-179. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.

Conference Presentations

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2025. "Re-Imagining Diaspora Missiology: An Interdisciplinary Reflection of Chinese Transnationalism in Southeast Asia," Seminar on The State of Christianity in the Global South, and Beyond: Africa and Asia organized by Asian Pastoral Institute, Singapore, March 31, 2025.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2025. "Local Knowledge in Creating Sustainable Economy: A Case Study of an Informal Dara-ang Social Enterprise in Nor Lae Village, Chiang Mai, Thailand," Conference on International Security and the Environment: Politics and Power in a Changing World organised by Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, February 26-27, 2025.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2025. "The Political Economy of Business Trust: An Ethnographic Case Study of Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai," The Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, January 27, 2025.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2024. "Remaking Identities: Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Everyday Life Practice and Performance," History Department and Southeast Asian Studies Cluster, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, February 15, 2024.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2023. "Meeting with the Security Council of Thailand to discuss and exchange views on important issues to drive the development of guidelines for the strengthening of academic Think Tank networks," Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, November 21, 2023.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2023. "Hedging Perspectives for Small States and Regimes: A Comparative Study between Singapore and Hong Kong," Conference on Singapore as a Hub and Corridor in Asia organized by The School of Social Sciences, Chinese Heritage Centre and Nanyang Centre for Public Administration, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, February 28 – March 4, 2023.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2023. "Anthropology of Regionalization, Multi-sited Ethnography, and Voice Approach in BRI Research," Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore, January 19-27, 2023.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2022. "The Role of Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia: Past, Present and Future Trends," Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, October 05, 2022.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2022. "International Conference on International Security and the Environment." Presented at Roundtable Discussion focusing on Environmental Global Governance: Interaction between Multifaceted Stakeholders. Jointly organized by Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Institute of Democratization Studies (IDS), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), and School of Social Innovation, Mae Fa Luang University. Held online on April 20, 2022.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2022. "Public Policy for Inclusivity and Sustainability 2022." Presented at the School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, March 22, 2022.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2019. "Transnational PRC Chinese in Bangkok," Thailand Studies Programme Seminar, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, September 11, 2019.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2019. "Untangling the Dragon's Ambition: The Expansion of China's Influences in Southeast Asia," School of International Affairs, Chiang Mai University held at Chiang Mai University, August 27, 2019.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2019. "Transnational Chinese in Bangkok," Transnational Chinese in Southeast Asia, Chiang Mai University and University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 4, 2019.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2019. "Re-envisioning Citizen Diplomacy: Iconic Case Study of a Multifaceted Transnational PRC Chinese Entrepreneur," Heterodoxy in Global Studies, Asia Association for Global Studies (AAGS) 13th International Conference, Chiang Mai University, March 22-23, 2019.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2018. "Rethinking Transnational Chinese Capitalism and Diplomacy: Reflections on Research Projects in Northern Thailand and their Implications for Singapore," Thailand Studies Programme Seminar, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, July 19, 2018.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2017. "Negotiating Transnational Entrepreneurship and Cultural Diplomacy: A Conceptual Paper," 13th International Conference on Thai Studies, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, July 15-18, 2017.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2017. "Smart City and Cultural Diplomacy: Transnational Connectivity in Innovation Services," 3rd International Conference on Public Policy, International Public Policy Association, NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore, June 28-30, 2017.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2017. "Negotiating the Rise and Vice of PRC Transnational Entrepreneurs: Multiple Strategies by Thai Yunnanese SMEs in Chiang Mai," Chinese Capitalism and ASEAN

Economic Community, Thailand Research Fund, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Singapore, March 25-26, 2017.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2017. "Political Economy of Identities: Networking Strategies of Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai," The Asia-Pacific Public Policy Network (AP- PPN) Conference 2017, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, February 10-11, 2017.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2016. "Friend or Foe? Thai Yunnanese Negotiating PRC Chinese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Asia Today," Next Steps for Asian Public Administration: A Comparative Perspective, Korean Society for Public Administration & Chiang Mai University, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, July 14, 2016.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2016. "Political Economy of *Guanxi*: Thai Yunnanese Transnational Entrepreneurs in Chiang Mai City," Chinese Capitalism, ASEAN Economic Community and Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, Thailand Research Fund and Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University and The Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, February 21-22, 2016.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2014. "Re-conceptualizing Guanxi: Multi-Dimensional Capital in Chinese Economic Cultures and Class Mobility," International Graduate Research Conference 2014: Global Issues and Awareness, International Convention Center, The Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand, December 12, 2014.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2010. "A Model for Asian Pentecostal-Charismatic Spiritual Formation: Critical Response to Spiritual Phenomenology in Asian Religious Resurgence," Pre-Session Symposium, Society of Pentecostal Studies Conference, North Central University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 4-6, 2010.

Song Writing

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2011. *I Love to Sing His Story*. Lyric. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2011. *My God*. Lyric. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Lee, Kian Cheng. 2010. *You Are the Great I AM*. Lyric. Singapore: The Tabernacle Church and Missions.

Language Competency

English: advanced (oral, reading, writing)

Chinese: advanced (oral, reading, writing)

Thai: intermediate (oral, reading); basic (writing)