

Negotiating Faith and Identity as a First Generation Chinese-American Christian: *Gathering Narrative Surplus*

This presentation will discuss preliminary findings from a larger oral history project on trans-Pacific Asian American Christian faith, facilitated by Princeton Seminary's Center for Asian American Christianity (<https://caac.ptsem.edu/oral-history-project/>).

Based on a series of semi-structured interviews with first generation Chinese-American Christians, this study seeks to go beyond standard narratives of Chinese churches as cultural enclaves by spotlighting unspoken stories of community engagement, bridge building, and personal formation. By collecting these diverse oral histories, "narrative surplus" is generated for Chinese American Christians to find new ways for understanding their faith and belonging in between Asia and North America.



Speaker: **Dr. Easten Law**

Associate Director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center
at the Princeton Theological Seminary

Easten's research focuses on lived theology, religious pluralism, and public life in the context of contemporary China, the Global East, and the larger Sinophone world. He completed his doctorate in theological and religious studies from Georgetown University in 2020 examining how Chinese Christian faith is experienced, negotiated, and expressed in everyday life across cultural and religious boundaries. Easten also earned an M.Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary, and an M.A. in Intercultural Studies at Wheaton College.

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