



DAVID KYUMAN KIM

Philosopher and public intellectual exploring love, justice, forgiveness and the moral leadership
needed in a divided world

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- A compelling voice on moral leadership: David Kyuman Kim explores some of today's most urgent human questions—how we lead with humanity, build belonging, overcome division and create cultures grounded in love and justice
 - Nearly two decades as a professor: Former Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at Connecticut College, with appointments or affiliations at Stanford, Brown, Penn, Union Theological Seminary, UC Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union
 - Founder of Being Human: His new public education platform addresses enduring moral questions—beginning with forgiveness—and seeks to rebuild the capacity for reflection, dialogue and moral judgment in an increasingly fractured society
 - Scholar of radical love and multiracial democracy: His work brings together philosophy, political theory, race, democracy and ethics to examine what individuals and institutions owe one another

- From ideas to organizations: Beyond academia, Kim has advised organizations including Vanguard and IBM and currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Global Philanthropy Forum, helping develop a moral framework around philanthropy, responsibility and the common good
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Dr. David Kyuman Kim is a philosopher, political theorist and public intellectual whose work explores the intersection of love, justice, race, democracy and moral responsibility.

For nearly twenty years, he was Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at Connecticut College, where he founded the institution's Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity. He has held appointments and affiliations at Stanford University, Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, Union Theological Seminary, UC Berkeley, the Graduate Theological Union and the Social Science Research Council.

Kim is the author of *Melancholic Freedom: Agency and the Spirit of Politics*, published by Oxford University Press, and co-editor of works including *The Post-Secular in Question* and *Race, Religion, and Late Democracy*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review of Books* and other publications.

Today, he is Founder and Host of *Being Human*, a public education platform created around fundamental questions of moral life: What do we owe each other? Why forgive? How do we love in the face of hate? What does justice require of us? Its first season, launching in 2026, focuses on forgiveness and repair. He also serves as Senior Advisor to the Global Philanthropy Forum.

Through his keynotes and conversations, Kim challenges audiences to reconsider leadership not simply as performance or authority, but as a moral practice grounded in responsibility, belonging, empathy and our obligations to one another.

TEMAS

Dr. Kim tailors each presentation to the needs of his audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Moral Leadership & the Human Side of Leadership
- Radical Love & Leadership
- Being Human in a Divided World
- Forgiveness, Repair & Reconciliation
- Justice, Democracy & Polarization
- Race, Belonging & Community
- Moral Imagination
- Culture, Values & Responsibility
- Philanthropy, Purpose & Legacy
- Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

PROGRAMAS

Three-Sentence Essence

David Kyuman Kim challenges leaders to reconsider some of the most fundamental questions of human life: what we owe one another, how we build belonging, and how love and justice can shape the way we lead. Drawing on philosophy, political theory and decades of scholarship, he brings intellectual depth to urgent questions of leadership, polarization, forgiveness and moral responsibility. His keynotes invite audiences not simply to find better answers, but to ask better questions about what it means to lead—and to be human—in a divided world.

Love, Justice & the Moral Imagination

What would it mean to treat love not simply as an emotion, but as a serious leadership practice?

David Kyuman Kim challenges conventional ideas about power, leadership and organizational culture by exploring the relationship between love and justice. In a world

characterized by polarization, distrust and increasing social fragmentation, he argues that leaders need more than strategy and technical competence—they need the moral imagination to understand their responsibilities toward others.

Drawing on philosophy, political theory, history and contemporary life, Kim explores how compassion, responsibility and human connection can become practical forces for building trust, belonging and stronger communities.

This is not a sentimental argument for kindness. It is an invitation to rethink what courageous and deeply human leadership looks like in an increasingly divided world.

Being Human: Asking Better Questions

We live in an age obsessed with answers. David Kyuman Kim argues that some of our greatest challenges require something different: the ability to ask better questions.

What do we owe one another? What does justice require? How do we remain human when technology, politics and social division increasingly pull us apart?

Based on his Being Human project, Kim introduces moral inquiry as a practical capacity that individuals and organizations can cultivate. Rather than offering simplistic prescriptions, he challenges audiences to examine their assumptions, engage seriously with different perspectives and develop the moral judgment required to navigate difficult decisions.

A provocative exploration of what it means to lead, decide and live well in an age of uncertainty.

Forgiveness, Repair & Moral Culture

Why is forgiveness so difficult—and what happens to individuals, organizations and societies when we lose the capacity to repair broken relationships?

Drawing from the first season of Being Human, Kim examines forgiveness not as weakness or forgetting, but as a demanding moral practice.

He explores what unforgiveness costs us, why forgiving ourselves can be especially difficult, and how leaders and institutions can create cultures capable of accountability,

repair and renewal.

At a time when mistakes can become permanent and disagreement easily becomes estrangement, Kim offers a deeply human framework for thinking about conflict, responsibility and second chances.

Race, Belonging & the Covenant We Keep

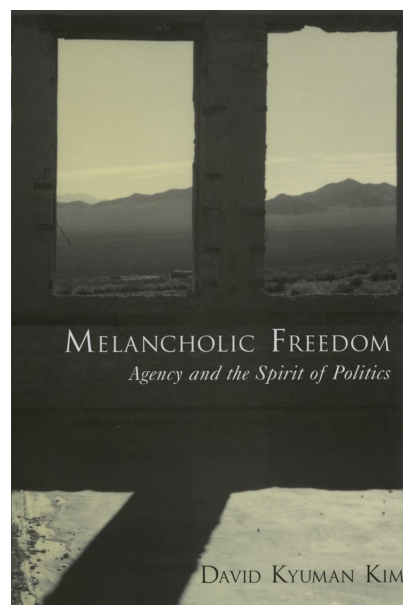
Diversity is ultimately about something deeper than representation: What does it mean to truly belong?

Drawing on decades of scholarship on race, democracy, religion and identity, Kim examines the moral foundations of belonging and the responsibilities individuals and institutions have toward one another.

Moving beyond traditional DEI frameworks, he explores how organizations can build cultures in which differences do not merely coexist but contribute to stronger communities, deeper trust and a shared sense of purpose.

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