



November 2025 VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

# Fall 2025 Newsletter

*Association of Korean Sociologists in America*

## Greetings from the AKSA Presidents

Dear AKSA Members,

As I close out my term as AKSA's president, I am reminded of all that we have accomplished together this past year. This was only possible because of the prodigious contributions of AKSA's board members who put in the work, past leadership who I called upon too many times, and the full membership who participated and contributed in varied ways. I somehow coincidentally found myself serving in this role as AKSA celebrated its 10-year anniversary. To mark and take advantage of this milestone, the Board went to work revamping the website, amending the by-laws, reconfiguring the financial structure of the organization, and of course, planning the winter workshop and annual meeting.

Although not in the public eye, and perhaps not very "fun," I want to share that our treasurer, Jonathan Jarvis with the help of our student representatives, Yeeun Hong and Katelyn Kim, reconfigured AKSA's financial structure. It was an important task that will facilitate incoming and outgoing resources for years to come. Equally important for the organization's structure, the Board reviewed AKSA's by-laws, drafted a set of amendments, and organized the referendum vote necessary to codify the revisions. The central goal of this task was to put the by-laws in line with what AKSA has been doing informally, namely institutionalizing board membership to include the treasurer, general administrator, and student representatives. We are grateful to the membership who participated in that referendum vote. We hope that this also sets us up for years to come. Finally, Yeeun Hong, with only a bit of input from other Board members, was able to redesign the entirety of AKSA's website. We are grateful to her for this aesthetically-sensitive work and hope that you all are enjoying the new website.

Our substantive programming this past year consisted mainly of the winter workshop, the mentorship program, and the 10-Year Anniversary Conference. We are thankful to Professors Irene Ahn, Byeongdon Oh, and Hyunsik Chun who shared their personal experiences of transitioning from graduate student to

faculty. And we are especially grateful to Professor Kelly Chong who led the session and shared valuable insights into the faculty hiring process. This kind of advising is of course an extremely important resource for younger scholars and we tried to expand these opportunities through our mentoring program. I sincerely hope that the mentoring meetings were valuable to those who participated.

The Board of Directors this year had the privilege of organizing our annual meeting during the 10<sup>th</sup> year after AKSA's founding. I want to first thank Jiyoung Yoo (Department of Sociology, University of Illinois Chicago) for helping us overcome the first difficult challenge by securing a room at UIC and for being such a generous and effective host. In regards to the program our thinking was to showcase AKSA members' scholarship across the career trajectory but also mark the decade anniversary in some meaningful way. The annual meeting this past August included roundtables where student members shared their ongoing research projects. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that the sociology of Korea and the Korean diaspora is in good hands based on the roundtable presentations I heard. We also learned about the important projects of early career scholars. I'm grateful to Jina Lee, Donghyun Kang, Hee Eun Kwon, and Andrew Kim for preparing the talks for their panel. These are some of the folks who will in short time rise to leadership positions in AKSA and also in the discipline of sociology at large (indeed, we already roped Andrew Kim into the role of AKSA's General Administrator!).

The formal annual meeting program culminated in the Past Presidents' panel where AKSA's first five presidents shared treasured memories of the organization's founding, the challenges Korean sociologists faced during the early years of AKSA (and continue to face), and their hopes and dreams for the future of the field and for the future of AKSA. I am personally indebted to them for advising me throughout the year on various issues that I was certainly not prepared for. On behalf of AKSA's full membership – past, present, and future – thank you ChangHwan Kim, Hyeyoung Woo, Hyunjoon Park, Chaeyoon Lim, and Minjeong Kim for having the vision, fortitude, and if I may, the care and compassion that must have motivated the decision to organize this community of scholars dedicated to the sociological study of Korea and the Korean diaspora.

Finally, let me close by thanking our Board. As I inadequately expressed to them at the Board of Directors' transition meeting (where we passed on the torch to the new Board), I was crazy lucky to be able to work with Yeeun Hong, Katelyn Kim, Jeehye Kang, Jonathan Jarvis, Angie Chung, and Soo-Yeon Yoon. I have missed working with you all since the annual conference. A very special thanks to Yeeun and Katelyn who tried their darndest to keep us organized and running smoothly (and by us, I really mean me). Many blessings to AKSA and the new incoming Board!

Sincerely,  
Paul Y. Chang  
AKSA President, 2024-2025

Dear AKSA Members,

It is truly an honor to serve such a deeply committed and motivated community dedicated to supporting the growth of sociologists studying Korea and the Korean diaspora. I first joined AKSA's Executive Board in 2021 as General Administrator and now have the privilege of serving as the 2025-2026 President. As someone who has benefited from AKSA since my graduate student days, organizing and planning AKSA's 10-Year anniversary conference in Chicago was a meaningful experience. Listening to AKSA's first five presidents share their memories and pioneering work was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the organization's early history. I am grateful for all these experiences and look forward to continuing to serve on the board in 2025-2026.

Personally, AKSA has been a meaningful professional home – one I return to almost every year. Through this organization, I have met and built lasting relationships with fellow Korean sociologists. It's also where I found my "conference buddies" and "conference roommate," and I hope AKSA will offer the same sense of community and connection for many of you. I hope AKSA continues to serve as a space where we not only share our research but also mentor, support, and learn from one another.

As we transition to a new leadership team, I look forward to working with the incoming Executive Board: continuing members Paul Y. Chang (Past President) and Jonathan Jarvis (Treasurer), and newly elected and appointed members Sharon Yoon (President-Elect), Andrew T. Kim (General Administrator), and Student Representatives Byung Soo Lee and Sohee Shin.

I join Paul Y. Chang in expressing my sincere appreciation to outgoing board members Angie Chung, Jeehye Kang, Katelyn Kim, and Yeeun Hong for their hard work and dedicated service. I'm excited to collaborate with the new board to serve our members, prepare for next year's conference in New York City, and continue building our community. The board is also planning a winter virtual workshop, so please be on the lookout for the announcement next month.

Sincerely,  
Soo-Yeon Yoon  
2025-2026 AKSA President

# 2025-2026 AKSA Officers



PRESIDENT  
**Soo-Yeon Yoon**  
(Sonoma State University)



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
**Paul Y. Chang**  
(Stanford University)



PRESIDENT ELECT  
**Sharon J. Yoon**  
(University of Notre Dame)



GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR  
**Andrew Taeho Kim**  
(Univ. of Tennessee--Knoxville)



TREASURER  
**Jonathan Jarvis**  
(Brigham Young University)



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
**Byung Soo Lee**  
(SUNY Buffalo)



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
**Sohee Shin**  
(Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)



# Memories from the 10th anniversary conference





# 2025 Graduate Student Paper Award



**Award Winner:**

**Youngrong Lee** (McMaster University)

"Class Identity vs. Intersectional Solidarities: Divergent Models for Organizing Gig Workers in Seoul and Toronto."

## Acknowledgement of Mentors

On behalf of all participants, the Board extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who served as mentors in the 2025 AKSA Summer Mentoring Program. Your expertise, guidance, and dedication have been instrumental in fostering the academic and professional development of the next generation of sociologists.

Andrew Kim	Chioun Lee	Hyeyoung Woo	Kiwoong Park	Sooyong Byun
Angie Chung	Donghyun Kang	Hyunjoon Park	Minjae Kim	Sunmin Kim
BK Lee	Eunkyung Song	Jeehye Kang	Minjeong Kim	
Carolyn Choi	Eunmi Mun	Jina Lee	Paul Chang	
Chaeyoon Lim	Eunsil Oh	Jinwon Kim	Seungsook Moon	
Chan S. Suh	Hae Yeon Choo	Ji-won Lee	Sojung Lim	
ChangHwan Kim	Harris Kim	Joseph Yi	Soo-Yeon Yoon	

A very special thanks to the Korea Foundation and the Korean Sociological Association for generously supporting our 10-Year Anniversary Conference.

KOREA **KF**  
FOUNDATION  
한국국제교류재단

**KSA** 사회학의 학문적 발전과 교류의 장을 여는  
(사)한국사회학회  
Korean Sociological Association

# Announcements

## AKSA By-Laws Amendment

The by-laws amendment was passed with a quorum from the membership. The by-laws were edited for both stylistic and substantive reasons. The stylistic changes include basic edits to the prose, including the simplification of officer titles and other basic revisions. The motivations for the recommended substantive changes include clarifying some procedures and re-aligning the by-laws with what has become our everyday practice. Thank you to all the members who participated in the referendum vote.

Below is a summary of the substantive changes included in the revised by-laws:

- Clarifying that AKSA's annual membership is organized around the **calendar year** from January 1 to December 31 (not the academic year).
- Specifying that any regular member may run for the position of President-Elect upon recommendation by the Nomination Committee (in place of the vague phrase "elective office").
- That the Board of Directors includes the following: President, Past President, President-Elect, General Administrator, Treasurer, and Student Representative(s). The General Administrator, Treasurer, and Student Representatives acted as de facto board members, including for example, informally voting on agenda items. In short, the revised bylaws reflect what AKSA has been doing in practice.
- Specifying that it is the current-year President's responsibility to convene meetings of AKSA's Board of Directors.

## Members' Highlights

### New Positions

**Hyungmin Cha**

joined University of Washington as an Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Yu-Ri Kim**

joined University of Iowa as a new Visiting Assistant Professor

**Youngrong Lee**

joined McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business as a postdoctoral research fellow

**Sojung Lim**

started a new position as the Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at the State University of New York at Buffalo

## All but Dissertation (ABD)

### Mariusz Kierasinski

University of Warsaw (m.kierasinski@uw.edu.pl)

Dissertation title: Two Realities, One Discipline? The History of Sociology in Korea

### Joonsik Kim

University of Toronto (joonsik.kim@mail.utoronto.ca)

Dissertation title: Earmarking People's Money: The (Non-) Financialization of National Pensions in the US, Canada, and South Korea

## AKSA Members on the Market



### Chelle Jones

University of Michigan  
mlejones@umich.edu

Chelle Jones (they/them) studies gender, sexuality, and migration and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan with certificates in LGBTQ Studies and in Inclusive Teaching. Jones' research agenda focuses on how the intersectionality of gender and sexuality with other statuses such as national origin, class, and race influences the life trajectories of LGBTQ migrants in South Korea. Jones has published in *Gender & Society*, *International Migration Review*, and the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*.

Sejin Um is a sociologist of work and organizations, gender, family, and culture. She completed her Ph.D. in Sociology from New York University in August 2025 and is currently a Moon Family Postdoctoral Fellow at the James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Sejin's dissertation and book project, *Good Job If You Can Leave It: The Career Dilemma of Korean Office Workers*, uncovers a new form of insecurity that arises from the clash between organizational structures premised on stability and loyalty and broader culture that prizes mobility and self-fulfillment. Drawing on over 120 interviews with young employees of Korean conglomerate firms (chaebol), she develops the concept of stagnation anxiety to capture the fear of "falling behind"—the social risk of failing to meet the prevailing cultural ideal of self-entrepreneurship—and examines the different ways workers respond to it. These findings show how shifting cultural understandings of a good career have created new dilemmas even for those in highly secure employment. Sejin's work has appeared in *Gender, Work & Organization* and *Social Sciences*.



### Sejin Um

University of Pennsylvania  
sejinum@sas.upenn.edu





**Ji-Won Lee**  
SUNY Albany  
jlee28@albany.edu

Ji-won Lee is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University at Albany, SUNY. His research examines how and why established groups or states symbolically or institutionally embrace less-powerful actors, even when the benefits are not immediately apparent. His dissertation, which focuses on Korean education reform during the 1950s and 1970s, theorizes that fragmented elite actors, fearing a loss of control over the educational process, interacted in ways that unintentionally equalized the system. His other research focuses on Asian Americans' ethnic heterogeneity, race-conscious college admissions, and shifting group boundaries during the pandemic. His work appears in journals such as *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociological Inquiry*, and the *Korean Journal of Sociology*, contributing to scholarship on social inequality, social policy, group boundaries, and race and ethnicity.

## Honors, Awards, and Media Attention

**Irene Hyangseon Ahn** received Outstanding Article Award, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section (2025), for "Performing the Meanings of Money in the Trials of War Orphans against Japan." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, 12, 25–52 (2024).

**Angie Y. Chung** has been selected as a Faculty Engagement Fellow with the AI & Society Consortium at the University at Albany to prepare an OER textbook on AI & Society with collaborators Alessandra Buccella and Jeremy Blackburn.

**Angie Y. Chung** was interviewed with Babette Faehmel on her experience as SUNY Civic Fellow for UAlbany's Engagement Ring podcast. (August 5, 2025). <https://the-engagement-ring.simplecast.com/episodes/like-learning-how-to-appreciate-spinach-developing-civil-discourse-and-civic-engagement-skills>

**Byungdon Oh's** study on STEM Immigration and U.S. STEM Workforce Development at the Intersections of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Immigration status was featured in [IEEE Spectrum](#) and [UC Berkeley Letters & Science](#)

**HJ Katelyn Kim** and **Hyunjoon Park** received Research in Social Stratification and Mobility 2025 Best Paper Award for "The long-run causal effects of single-sex schooling on work-related outcomes in South Korea" with Chloe Ahn, Jere R. Behrman, Jaesung Choi, Eugen Dimant, Emily Hannum, Amber Hye-Yon Lee, and Diana Mutz

## New Publications

**Ahn, Irene Hyangseon.** 2025. "Empowering Victimhood Through Litigation: Trials from the Jeju April 3 Uprising and Political Repression." *Law & Social Inquiry*, 50(3):725–758.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/lsi.2025.21>.

Amstutz, Dominic and **Jaemin Lee.** 2025. "Social Influence in the Public Expression of LGBTQ+ Support: The Case of Rainbow Flags in Residential Neighborhoods of a European City." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231251353022>

**Cha, Hyungmin,** Mateo P. Farina, and Mark D. Hayward. 2025. "How Does the Risk of Dementia Change With Each Additional Year of Education?" *Demography*, 65(2), 1497-1521.  
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-12231508>

**Cha, Hyungmin** and Jennifer Ailshire. Early view. "Male Spousal Caregivers Are Increasing, but Only in Less Demanding Care Roles." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.70030>

**Ji, SeungGyeong.** 2025. "#MeToo in an AI-Generated Deepfake Sexual Violence Era in South Korea." *Women's Studies International Forum*, 112, 103146. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2025.103146>.

**Kim, Jaeun.** 2025. "Getting Saved from Illegality and Unbelief? Religious Asylum, Migration Dreams, and Christian Conversion." *Migration Studies*, 13(3). (Special Issue: Mobile Temporalities and Political Possibilities) <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnaf041>

**Kim, Minjeong.** 2025. "Cross-Border Anxiety among Korean Border Commuters at the US-Mexico Border." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2025.2475808>

**Kim, Yu-Ri.** OnlineFirst. "Daylife: The evolution of partner dance spaces in urban South Korea." *Urban Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420980251349314>

**Lee, Heeyoung** and Tse-Chuan Yang. 2025. "Unequal Spillover of Human Capital: Longitudinal Analysis of Mortality Among Populations by College Degree in US Counties, 2010-2022." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2025.107646>

**Lee, Jaemin,** David Lazer, and Christoph Riedl. 2025. "Complex Contagion in Social Networks: Causal Evidence from a Country-Scale Field Experiment." *Sociological Science*, 12: 685-714.  
<https://doi.org/10.15195/v12.a28>

**Lee, Ji-Won.** 2025. "How Does Qualitative Research Secure Social Scientific Value?: Debates on Its Credibility and External Validity and Their Implications (질적 연구는 어떻게 사회과학적 가치를 확보하는가?: 신뢰성과 외적 타당성 논쟁의 결과와 함의)." *Korean Journal of Sociology* (《한국사회학》), 59(2):1–61. <https://doi.org/10.21562/kjs.2025.05.59.2.1>

- Message from the author: This article, while in Korean, may interest U.S.-based sociologists, especially early-career researchers, as it closely reviews American debates on qualitative methods and connects them to Korean sociology.

**Lee, Jina.** 2025. "Gendered pathways to perpetual fame: the selection of elite Korean novelists into the literary canon." *Poetics*, 112, 102024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2025.102024>

**Oh, Byeongdon.** 2025. "STEM Immigration and U.S. STEM Workforce Development at the Intersections of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Immigration Status." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 11: 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231251348092>

**Yi, Joseph** and Gabrielle Park. 2025. "Asian Americans' Diverse Perspectives: Stakeholders at a Selective, Asian-Majority School." *Journal of School Choice*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2025.2575616>

**Yi, Joseph** and Joe Phillips. 2025. "Race and Selective School Admissions after SFFA (2023)." *Journal of School Choice* (Special issue: Race, Ethnicity, and School Choice), 1-14.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2025.2575637>

**Yi, Joseph** and Joe Phillips. 2025 "Yi and Phillips Response to Chen and Johnson" *Journal of School Choice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2025.2575646>

**Yoon, Sharon J.,** and Rita Udor. OnlineFirst. "Layered Narrative Agency and the Politics of Masculine Respectability: Ghanaian Migrant Marriages in South Korea." *Men and Masculinities*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184X251361580>

**Yoon, Soo-Yeon** and **Hyunjoon Park.** 2025. "Gender-Role Attitudes and Marriage Desires among Never-Married Adults in South Korea." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 87(5), 2167-2177.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.13114>



# Financial Report for 2024-25

Income and Expenses (as of 9/20/2025)

Income		Expense/Budget	
Description	Amount (\$)	Description	Amount (\$)
Previous balance	5,405.72	General Expenses	
		Paper Award	104.99
Registration dues via Paypal (minus fees)	2,491.40	Paper Award Plaque	94.05
Registration dues collected at site (cash)	0.00	Student Rep Appreciation (previous 4 student reps)	400.00
		Student Rep Travel Grant (current 2 student reps)	600.00
Donations			
Korean Sociological Association	985.00	AKSA Meeting Expenses at site	
Korea Foundation (Conference Dinner)	2,595.00	Board Dinner (Lou Malnatis)	200.00
		Supplies for conference (Staples)	22.94
		Conference Breakfast (Einstein Bagels)	214.38
		Conference Lunch (Lotus Cafe & Banh Mi Sandwiches)	954.53
		Afternoon Coffee (Taste of New York)	162.29
		Snacks (Costco)	163.57
		Conference Dinner Drinks (Ahjoomas Apron)	498.54
		Conference Dinner (Ahjoomas Apron)	2,595.00
Total (A)	11,477.12	Total (B)	6,010.29
Balance (C= A - B)			5,466.83

## AKSA Website

The Association of Korean Sociologists in America (AKSA)  
<https://koreansociologists.wixsite.com/aksa>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ksociology>

### AKSA Membership Form

## Newsletter Editor

HJ Katelyn Kim  
University of Pennsylvania  
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November 2025

We extend our deepest appreciation to all members of the Association of Korean Sociologists in America (AKSA) for your continued support and engagement with our scholarly community. Your active participation is vital for advancing the field and fostering a collegial network. We invite you to share your accomplishments, publications, awards, or other good news with us for inclusion in the upcoming AKSA newsletter. Please submit your updates to our newsletter editor to celebrate and disseminate your contributions to the broader community.