

April 2025 VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

Spring 2025 Newsletter

Association of Korean Sociologists in America

Greetings from the AKSA President

Dear AKSA Members,

I sincerely hope you are all well, wherever you are and whatever circumstances you are facing. Although cliché to note that these are unprecedented times, this seems to be more true now than I can recall. Democracy in South Korea is under threat, not only because of the declaration of martial law this past December but also by the debilitating political polarization that precludes any effort toward tolerance, mutual understanding, and productive dialogue. Here in the states, students and immigrants are being detained and deported without any semblance of due process, while the intellectual freedom and financial stability of universities are under real attack. With all of the “new” news, it is easy to forget that people are dying every day in Ukraine and in Gaza without viable peace agreements in sight for both situations. As I continue to digest all that is unfolding in South Korea, in the United States, and elsewhere in the world, I am filled with confusion, anger, sadness, and yes, fear.

It is perhaps times like this that community matters most. While I find myself hugging my children a bit longer before sending them off in the morning, I also find myself thinking about friends and colleagues in the academy, many of whom I came to know through AKSA. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I recently had the chance to learn about AKSA’s history from its founders. They shared with us that the core driving motivation to start AKSA was to create a supportive community of scholars and students interested in Korean society. For all of the programming that AKSA engages in, at the heart of it all is a simple desire to be together, to share our intellectual pursuits, and to find solace in community. The world could use more together, more sharing, and more solace.

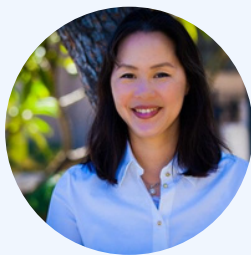
This year is AKSA's 10-year anniversary. We will mark the anniversary at our annual conference in Chicago, August 8, 2025, where we will use the occasion to celebrate our community. At the conference we will have the chance to ponder AKSA's past, present, and future, while also learning from new generations of scholars, from students to early-career faculty. We will formally come together as an academic association but also have opportunities to meet one-on-one through the mentoring program and also of course spontaneously in informal gatherings, which truthfully may be the most regenerative. We will spend the day meeting old and new friends, sharing research, breaking bread, and hopefully, finding some solace in each other's company. I very much look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

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

2024-2025 AKSA Officers



PRESIDENT
Paul Chang
(Stanford University)



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Angie Y. Chung
(University at Albany, SUNY)



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Soo-Yeon Yoon
(Sonoma State University)



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Jonathan Jarvis
(Brigham Young University)



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Katelyn Kim
(University of Pennsylvania)

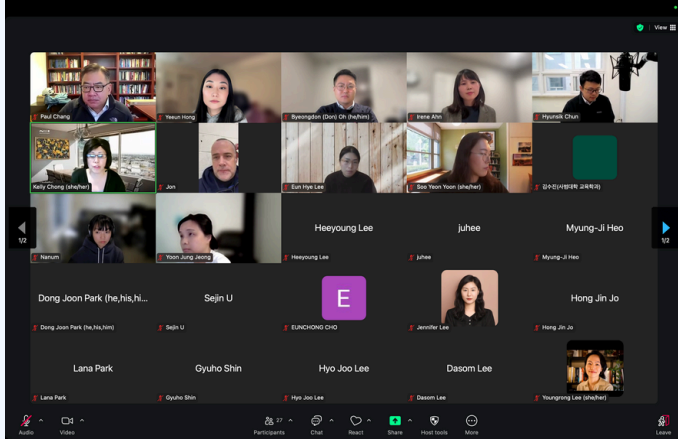


STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Yeeun Hong
(University at Albany, SUNY)

AKSA Winter Activities

Winter Workshop

Navigating the Transition from Student to Faculty



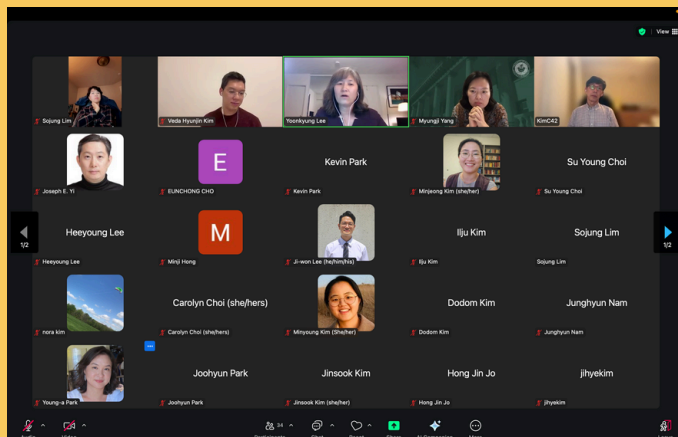
AKSA held a virtual workshop on the transition from student to faculty, on January 29/30th. We thank the panelists for sharing their invaluable experiences and advice!

Panelists:

- Kelly H. Chong (University of Kansas)
- Irene Ahn (American University)
- Byeongdon Oh (SUNY-Polytechnic Institute)
- Hyunsik Chun (Kyunghee University)

Co-sponsored Panel discussion

Martial Law, Impeachment, and Lightsticks



AKSA co-sponsored the post-martial law panel discussion with KKAS (Korean and Korean American Sociologists) community of ASA

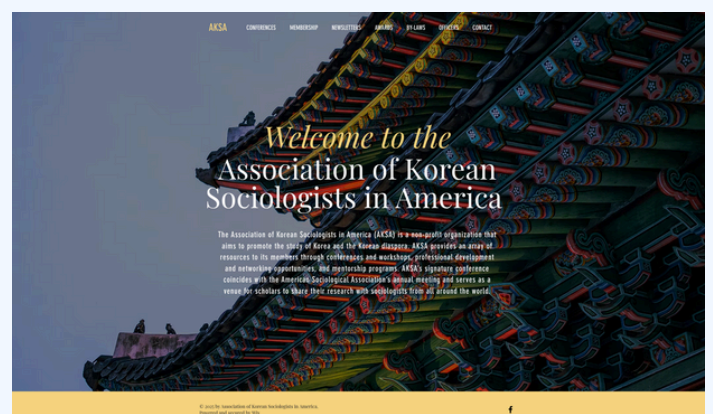
Panelists:

- Na-Young Lee (ChungAng University)
- Jennifer Jihye Chun (UCLA)
- Myungji Yang (University of Hawai'i Mānoa)
- Veda Kim (Ohio Wesleyan University)
- Nora Kim (Mary Washington)

Website Renewal

AKSA recently refreshed its website:
<https://koreansociologists.wixsite.com/aksa>

Visit our new website for information about AKSA conferences, membership, newsletters, awards, and other resources!



Announcements

AKSA 10-Year Anniversary Conference

Save the date: Friday August 8th, 9:30am-5pm

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of AKSA's founding! We will be celebrating this momentous occasion at our annual conference on **August 8, 2025, in Chicago** (coinciding with the ASA annual meeting). We are still working on the program but please mark the date and plan on attending! Registration and logistic information to come!

Roundtable Presentations: Call for Abstracts

AKSA is accepting abstract submissions for roundtable sessions at our annual conference on August 8, 2025, in Chicago.

Please submit your abstracts by **May 31, 2025**.

Abstracts should be no more than 1000 words and can cover any topic.

Submit abstracts to <https://forms.gle/V2z4dX5wzV9SJgXUA>

Mentoring Program Sign-Up

AKSA will be hosting a mentoring program as part of this year's annual conference on August 8, 2025, in Chicago. AKSA's mentoring program will serve as a "matchmaking service," pairing junior scholars at various career stages (grad students, post-docs, contingent or junior faculty members) with more experienced scholars who can provide advice and support. AKSA values the wisdom and experience of faculty (at any stage) who can provide support and assistance to future scholars. We highly encourage faculty to sign up as mentors for this program.

Please sign up to be a mentor or mentee by **June 20, 2025**: <https://forms.gle/5U39EHJRcEjNnLry6>

* Please make sure that you are a paid member of AKSA to participate in the conference and the mentorship program (send membership inquiries to koreansociologists@gmail.com)

AKSA Graduate Student Paper Award

AKSA's Graduate Student Paper Award recognizes outstanding scholarship produced by a graduate student on topics related to Korea and the Korean diaspora.

Eligibility:

- English language sole-authored or first-authored paper by a graduate student, including unpublished manuscripts, published journal articles, or published volume chapters.
- Published articles and chapters must have appeared in print within two years prior to the annual award (e.g. 2023-2025 for the 2025 award).

Submission: Please submit all nominations (including self-nominations) to the award committee chair, Jeehye Kang (jkang@odu.edu), by **Saturday, May 31, 2025**

- A .pdf file of the manuscript, article, or chapter
- A brief description of how the paper meets the eligibility criteria
- Contact information for the graduate student author

Award Committee:

Jeehye Kang (Committee Chair; Old Dominion University)

Jinwon Kim (Smith College)

Stephen Suh (San Diego State University)

Join KKAS of ASA

The KKAS (Korean and Korean American Sociologists) Community meeting is scheduled for **2-3:30 pm Saturday, August 9** (room number TBA), followed by Coffee & Mingle. Come meet other Korean and Korean American sociologists in the community!

I-CSK Call for Papers

The Korea Program at Stanford University's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center is pleased to host the 4th International Conference on the Sociology of Korea (I-CSK), September 11-12, 2025. The conference will provide a venue for scholars to share ongoing projects on Korea and the Korean diaspora.

Please submit either a full-length paper (up to 10,000 words) or an extended abstract (up to 4 single-spaced pages) to be considered for inclusion in the conference program.

Submission due date: **June 9, 2025**, at 11:59 p.m. (PDT)

Submission Link: https://bit.ly/2025_i-csk

Please send any inquiries to koreaprogram@stanford.edu

Members' Highlights

New Positions

Irene Hyangseon Ahn

joined School of Public Affairs, American University as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology

Hyunsik Chun

joined Kyung Hee University as an Assistant Professor of Sociology

Carolyn Choi

joined the Efron Center for the Study of America, Princeton University as an Assistant Professor of American Studies & Asian American Studies

Ohjae Gowen

joined School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University as an Assistant Professor of Sociology

Sinn Won Han

joined Yonsei University as an Assistant Professor of Sociology

Andrew Taeho Kim

joined University of Tennessee, Knoxville as an Assistant Professor of Sociology

Byeongdon (Don) Oh

joined SUNY Polytechnic Institute as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and is serving as the Founding Director of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Research Center.

AKSA Members on the Market



Youngrong Lee

University of Toronto

youngr.lee@mail.utoronto.ca

Youngrong Lee is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Toronto. She is a comparative sociologist and global ethnographer whose research examines work and labor, social movements, and intersectional inequalities—including gender, race, citizenship, and class—in transnational contexts. Her work focuses on how global economic forces intersect with local contexts, shaping corporate labor controls and influencing how workers collectively respond to the challenges of precarious work. Her dissertation, *The Contested Making of Gig Workers: A Comparative Study of Global Capital in the Gig Economy in Seoul and Toronto*, investigates how the "ideal gig work" is constructed and contested across macro- (global), meso- (union), and micro- (worker) levels. Through global and comparative ethnographic research, she examines how global capital drives the expansion of gig work and how local workers and unions negotiate, resist, and redefine worker subjectivities within the complexities of a heterogeneous workforce. More broadly, her research explores the transnational implications of the gig economy, with particular attention to its impact on precarious, multi-faceted work and the evolving strategies of organized labor across diverse contexts. Her work has appeared in *Critical Sociology* and the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, among others.



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 Teaching. Jones' research agenda focuses on how the intersection 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 *International Migration Review*, the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and has work forthcoming in *Gender & Society*.

Sejin Um is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at New York University, and works on topics in sociology of work and organizations, culture, gender, and family. Her dissertation and book project uses in-depth interviews to investigate how young Korean office workers evaluate their jobs, make career decisions, and envision their futures amid shifting cultural ideals of success in the new economy. She develops the concept of “stagnation anxiety” to describe workers' subjective experience of insecurity about their marketability and the ability to leave their employers—an insecurity that persists even in the absence of structural risks of job loss. She explores the different career pathways workers pursue and the strategies they develop outside of work in response to these concerns. Sejin has also studied work and family issues in the U.S. context. Her research has appeared in *Gender, Work & Organization* and *Social Sciences*.



Sejin Um

New York University
sejinum@nyu.edu

Honors, Awards, and Media Attention

The Korean American Foundation in Los Angeles has awarded \$120,000+ to fund a National Survey on Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Korean America: Current State, Future Directions, which will be led by Korean American Institute (KAI) and P.I.s Edward Chang and **Angie Y. Chung** and Co-P.I.s **Carolyn Choi**, **Minjeong Kim**, **Sojung Lim**, and **Jerry Park**.

Angie Y. Chung has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence application to host Professor Marta Rodriguez-Cruz in the Department of Sociology at the University at Albany (August-November 2025).

Angie Y. Chung has been organizing webinars, convenings, and office hours to promote civic learning and discourse as a SUNY Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellow ([Civic Fellows - SUNY System](#))

Angie Y. Chung is currently chairing a Working Group for the AI+ Institute at University at Albany on “Trustworthy, Explainable and Ethical AI.”

Joseph Yi and Min-Hee Choi. Asymmetric Polarization in Korea and the US. Apr 7, 2025.

<https://www.cspicenter.com/p/understanding-asymmetric-polarization>

Joseph Yi. Same-sex Christians in Korea Speak Out: 'What Would Jesus Do?' Feb 12, 2025. <https://japan-forward.com/same-sex-christians-in-korea-speak-out-what-would-jesus-do> Hx Gay Christians 2024

Joseph Yi. Korea's crisis: Sacrificing for the greater good. Jan. 7, 2025.

<https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10384404>

Joseph Yi and Wondong Lee. South Korea's democracy at a crossroads: Rhetoric, polarization and institutional erosion. Dec. 24, 2024. <https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10021651>

Wondong Lee and **Joseph Yi.** Right-Wing Radicals Are Drowning Out South Korea's Institutional Conservatives, Creating a Political Crisis. UnPopulist. Dec 22, 2024. <https://www.theunpopulist.net/p/right-wing-extremists-are-drowning>

Gabrielle Park and **Joseph Yi.** Dr. Seuss Controversy: Should We Censor Racist (Anti-Asian) Children's Books? Dec 22, 2024

<https://japan-forward.com/the-dr-seuss-controversy-should-we-censor-racist-anti-asian-childrens-books>

New Publications

Kim, Minjeong and Ilju Kim. 2025. "The Second Generation's Perceptions of South Korea's Public Support Programs for Multicultural Families" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 48(6), 1218-1236.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2436071>

Lan, Pei-Chia and **Minjeong Kim.** (co-editors) 2025. Special issue on "The Emerging Second Generation in Asia." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 48(6).

Lan, Pei-Chia and **Minjeong Kim,** 2025. "The Emerging Second Generation in Asia." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 48(6), 1185-1199. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2436072>

Lee, Eunju, Joanna Dreby, **Yeeun Hong,** and Tola Seng. 2025. "Childhood Immigration Enforcement Exposure and Young Adults' Anxiety: A Mixed Methods Study." *Children and Youth Services Review* 172, 108276.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108276>.

Lee, Heeyoung and Matt Vogel. 2025. "Exposure to Police Killing and Adolescents' Self-Concept: Diverging Effects for Black and White American Youths" *Journal of Adolescence*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12490>

Lee, Heeyoung and Tse-Chuan Yang. 2024. "Spatial and Temporal Dimension of Black-White Mental Health Paradox in the US: Effect of Cumulative Neighborhood Disadvantage." *Population Research & Policy Review* 43, 78. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-024-09922-2>

Lee, Heeyoung. 2024. "State-Level Structural Sexism and Adolescent Sexual Violence Victimization in the US." *Child Abuse and Neglect* 158. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2024.107096>

Lee, Heeyoung. 2024. "Delinquency During Puberty as a Biosocial Behavior: Time-Varying Effects of Social Contexts on Girl's Delinquency in South Korea." *Criminal Justice and Behaviors* 51(12), 1881-1898. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548241276087>

Lee, Youngrong. OnlineFirst. "Class identity vs intersectional solidarities: Divergent models for organizing gig workers in Seoul and Toronto". *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 00207152241312904. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207152241312904>

Tse-Chuan Yang, Carla Shoff, Kate Strully and **Heeyoung Lee.** 2025. "Features of residential counties and individual health conditions for opioid use disorder among older Medicare beneficiaries" *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaf069>

Yi, Joseph. 2024. "Discourse Regimes and Liberal Vehemence." *Theory and Society* 53, 1511-1519. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-024-09586-z>

Yi, Joseph and Gwooon Jung. 2024 (Dec). "Censoring Speech in Democracies: South Korea." *Pacific Affairs* 97 (4), 795-811. <https://doi.org/10.5509/2024974-art3>

Yoon, Sharon J., and Rita Udor. 2025. "How hegemonic masculinity injures migrant men: A multilevel analysis of African men in South Korea's low-wage labor market." *Gender, Work & Organization* 32(3), 1192-1218. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/gwao.13206>

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

Katelyn Kim

University of Pennsylvania

katehj@sas.upenn.edu

April 2024

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.