

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Association of Korean Sociologists in America

GREETINGS FROM THE AKSA PRESIDENT

Hae Yeon Choo (hy.choo@utoronto.ca)

Dear AKSA members,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy in these uncertain times. For many of us, the past year has posed many challenges: online teaching, social isolation, health and mental health concerns, increased care responsibilities, and job market uncertainties for recent PhDs, all the while reckoning with intense political and social turmoil in the United States.

Facing these challenges, AKSA was able to shift gears, and thanks to the work of the executive committee, strived to offer a space to support our members through virtual workshops and weekly writing groups. This year's executive committee at AKSA worked hard to meet the ever pressing need for the intellectual and affective community, in response to the membership survey that we sent out last September. I thank Prof. Sojung Lim (President-Elect), Prof. Kiwoong Park (Treasurer), and Hong Jin Jo (Student Representative), who have joined the executive team this year, as well as Prof. Youngjoo Cha (Past President), and Prof. Jaeun Kim (General Administrator).

Despite the cancellation of the in-person annual conference last summer, we were able to offer virtual workshops during the summer of 2020 on various topics: (1) Publication and grant writing, (2) Early-stage graduate students (3) Tenure and promotion, (4) Job market (North American). Again this winter, in January 2021, we also held two virtual workshops:

(continued)



- *Workshop for Early Career Graduate Students: How To Work With Advisors and Network Beyond the University*: Kiwoong Park and Hong Jin Jo (chairs and organizers), Sojung Lim and Jinwon Kim (panelists)
- *Korean Academic Job Market Workshop (co-sponsored by the Korean Sociological Association)*: Seongsoo Choi (chair), Joongbaek Kim, Sun-Jae Hwang, Eun Kyong Shin (panelists), organized by Youngjoo Cha and Hae Yeon Choo.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers, panelists, and 80 members who participated in the two workshops. We hope these workshops become a way that we can network with one another, and make visible the hidden curriculums of academia, in order to democratise information and share insights among our members. The information from the select workshops, in case that the panelists have generously agreed, is posted on our AKSA website, under “Resources” tab (<https://koreansociologists.wixsite.com/aksa/resources>).

We will continue to provide the opportunities for the membership to connect with one another, through a weekly writing groups, and future programming and mentoring matches during Summer 2021. Please continue to be engaged in our Facebook group, where we share relevant career opportunities and academic events, and announce our future events. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have ideas about what AKSA can do further to support our members.

I wish all of us strength to carry on for another semester with teaching under pandemic, and hope we could meet again soon.

Sincerely,

Hae Yeon Choo, President

Association of Korean Sociologists in America



AKSA WRITING GROUP IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

Thanks to the organizers, Hong Jin Jo, Sharon Yoon, and Ji-Won Lee, we have a weekly writing group, twice a week. The first group meets at 10:30 am Thursday Korea Time (8:30 pm Wed, EST), and the second group meets at 10:30 am Friday (EST). Please join us on Zoom.

1. AKSA Writing Group in January & February (Organizer: Hong Jin Jo):

10:30 am - 12 pm (Korea Time) on Thursdays;
8:30 pm - 10 pm (EST) on Wednesdays
Meeting ID: 964 7464 0988
Passcode: AKSA2021

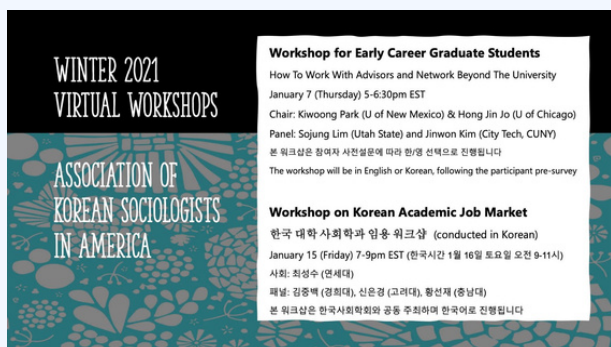
2. AKSA Writing Group in January (Organizer: Sharon Yoon):

10:30 am - 12 pm (EST) on Fridays
Meeting ID: 772 430 1871
Passcode: AKSA2021

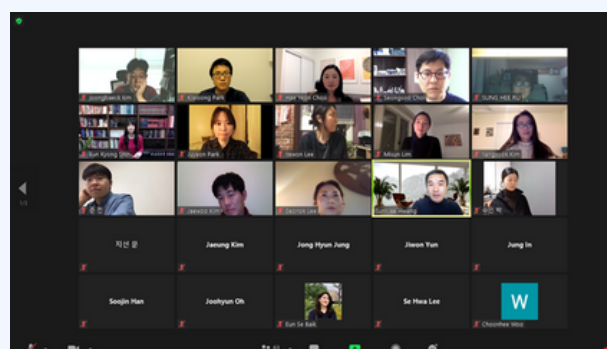
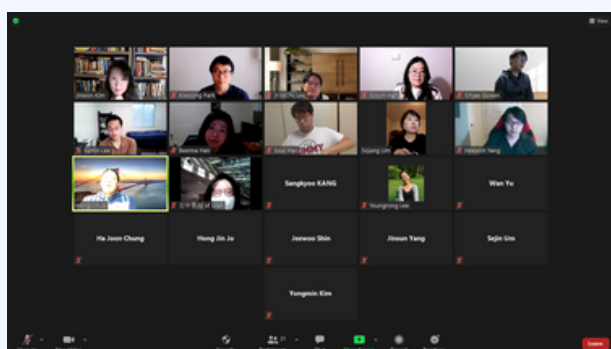
3. AKSA Writing Group in February (Organizer: Ji-Won Lee):

10:30 am - 12 pm (EST) on Fridays
Meeting ID: 916 6755 6171
Passcode: AKSA2021

REPORT ON THE AKSA WINTER 2021 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



The AKSA held two virtual workshops in January 2021 (*Workshop on Korean Job Market* was co-hosted with Korean Sociological Association). We express gratitude to all participants who contributed to successful meetings. The presentation slides can be found at the AKSA website (koreansociologists.wixsite.com/aksa/resources)



Call for the AKSA Graduate Student Paper Award

The AKSA Graduate Student Paper Award is given for an outstanding graduate student paper on a topic of Korea or Koreans/Korean Diaspora (all broadly defined) in English. The work should be either published (or forthcoming) in an English language journal in 2019-2021 or of publishable quality. Authors may nominate themselves, or other AKSA members may do so. The author(s) must be the member of the AKSA at the time of submission. The graduate student must be the 1st author of the paper.

To nominate a paper, email (1) a PDF file of the paper to the chair of the selection committee, **Jaeun Kim: jaeunk@umich.edu**. Please include in your email (2) a one-paragraph description of how the paper meets the eligibility criteria and (3) contact information for the nominee (including email address). The submission deadline is **May 28, 2021**.

The members of the 2021 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee are:

Jaeun Kim (Chair)
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Michigan
jaeunk@umich.edu

Byungkyu (BK) Lee
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
Indiana University
bl11@indiana.edu

Yewon Andrea Lee
Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute for Korean Studies
George Washington University
yewonlee@gwu.edu

2020 - 2021 AKSA OFFICERS



President
Hae Yeon Choo, Ph.D.
(University of Toronto)



Immediate Past President
Youngjoo Cha, Ph.D.
(Indiana University)



President Elect
Sojung Lim, Ph.D.
(Utah State University)



General Administrator
Jaeun Kim, Ph.D.
(University of Michigan-Ann Arbor)



Treasurer
Kiwoong Park, Ph.D.
(University of New Mexico)



Student Representative
Hong Jin Jo
(University of Chicago)

NEW POSITIONS

Sojung Lim, Ph.D.
Utah State University
sojung.lim@usu.edu

She has been appointed as a director of Yun Kim Population Research Laboratory, Utah State University (since 2020 summer).

Sharon Yoon, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame
syoon5@nd.edu

She has joined the University of Notre Dame as an assistant professor at the Keough School of Global Affairs.

AWARDS & HONORS

Ji-won Lee
SUNY Albany
jlee28@albany.edu

He received the 26th SeolBong Scholarship. This scholarship provided by the Ryu Family Foundation has supported Korean-American undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at a college or university located in Northeastern states.

Yewon Andrea Lee, Ph.D.
George Washington University
yewonlee@gwu.edu

She received an award: American Sociological Association's 2020 Labor & Labor Movement Section's Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Graduate Student Paper Award.

PH.D. CANDIDATES

Hong Jin Jo
University of Chicago
hongjin@uchicago.edu

Dissertation Title:

"Local Motivations, Global Trajectories: The Rise and Fall of Korean International Students in American Higher Education, 1950-2020."

Chelle Jones
University of Michigan
mlejones@umich.edu

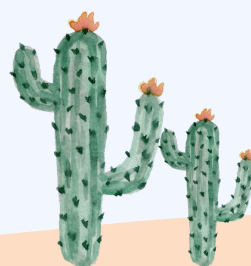
Dissertation Title:

"LGBTQ Migrants in South Korea: Recouping Fragmented Citizenship through Transnational Strategies."

Ji-won Lee
SUNY Albany
jlee28@albany.edu

Dissertation Title:

"Concerted Standardizations: The Contested Development of the Education System in South Korea."



AKSA MEMBERS ON THE MARKET



June Jeon, Ph.D.

Tufts University
June.Jeon@tufts.edu

June Jeon is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life. June received his Ph.D. degree in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2020. His research interests include social theory, sociology of science and technology, qualitative methods, and environmental sociology. In his published works, he has studied how social power shapes science and technology that result in various kinds of social and environmental inequalities. His works have been published in journals, such as *Social Studies of Science*, *Agriculture & Human Values*, and *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*. As an ethnographer and qualitative researcher, he received the best student paper awards from SSSP's Institutional Ethnography division, Environment and Technology division (honorable mention), and ASA's Sociology of Science, Knowledge, and Technology section (honorable mention). His research and teaching interests can be further found at www.junejeon.com

Minwoo Jung (minwooju@usc.edu) is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Southern California. His research and teaching interests include globalization and transnational sociology, political sociology, social movements, human rights, gender and sexuality, and qualitative methods with regional expertise on East and Southeast Asia. His research agenda interrogates the multi-scalar impacts of global and regional politics on political, economic, and social life of marginalized groups. He is particularly interested in how rights are evoked in the everyday lives of marginalized individuals. Drawing on two years of comparative ethnographic research in Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea, including 230 in-depth interviews with LGBT activists and community organizers, his dissertation project examines the global circulation and transformation of human rights discourse. His work has been published and forthcoming in positions: *asia critique* and *Sexualities*, and has been recognized by grants and awards by the SSRC, ASA, ISA, and AAS. For more information, please visit his website: <https://minwoojung.net>



Minwoo Jung

University of Southern California
minwooju@usc.edu



Sou Hwan Kang

Korea University
toroncine@korea.ac.kr

Sou Hwan Kang will receive his Ph.D. degree in sociology at Korea University on February 25, 2021 (Dissertation: A Study on the Conditions and Influence of University Ranking System: Norm, Institutional Logic, and Status Group). His current research interests include organizational sociology, higher education, cultural industries, institutional change, and neo-institutionalism.

AKSA MEMBERS ON THE MARKET



Ji Hye Kim

University of Iowa
jihye-kim-1@uiowa.edu

Ji Hye Kim is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Iowa (expected graduation in 2021). Her research interests include culture and cognition, social psychology, social stratification, and cross-cultural research. Her dissertation, “The Structure of Culture: Cross-Cultural Investigation of Shared Beliefs,” takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining how individuals perceive the world by connecting social cognition to stratification and culture. Integrating latent classification methods with network analytics and survey experiments, her research identifies latent groups based on shared cultural schemas – the ways in which individuals understand a set of social-psychological constructs such as values, morality, and life goals. By analyzing secondary and primary survey data from the U.S. and Korea, she finds different configurations of cultural understandings (in the form of belief networks) and underscores their associations with educational, political, religious, and family outcomes, varying across stratification and cultural contexts. Her recent papers have been published in *Social Indicators Research* (2021) and *Computers & Security* (2020). Her ongoing and future works engage different sources of data (survey, experiment, and texts), which identify heterogeneous cultural understandings crosscutting groups and emphasize how such shared beliefs shape micro-level decision making and develop diverging life paths within and across countries.

I study the intersection of gender, labor, race and ethnicity, and international migration. My research seeks a nuanced understanding of how subordinated people make sense of, navigate, and resist the deepening inequalities in the context of neoliberal globalization. My dissertation draws upon comparative ethnographic studies to examine how (im)migrant and non-migrant care workers, unequally located by racialized labor markets and immigration policies, yet commonly engaged in precarious employment, form agentic political subjectivities in Los Angeles Koreatown and in and near Seoul.



Yang-Sook Kim, Ph.D.

University of Toronto
yangsook.kim@mail.utoronto.ca



Yewon Andrea Lee, Ph.D.

George Washington University
yewonlee@gwu.edu

Dr. Yewon Lee is currently an Assistant Research Professor of International Affairs and Postdoctoral Fellow at The George Washington University Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS). She received her PhD in Sociology at UCLA in 2019 and previously held a 2019-2020 Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto. Her current book project, entitled *Precarious Workers in the Speculative City: The Untold Gentrification Story of Tenant Shopkeepers’ Displacement and Resistance in Seoul*, examines how tenant shopkeepers challenge financial speculation in Seoul’s commercial real estate industry through protest and collective organizing. Dr. Lee’s research on the resistance to commercial gentrification in Korea has appeared in *Critical Sociology*. Also, manuscripts emerging from this research project have been well received, winning many prestigious awards, including the American Sociological Association’s 2020 Labor & Labor Movement Section’s Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Graduate Student Paper Award.

NEW BOOKS

Korean “Comfort Women”

Military Brothels, Brutality, and the Redress Movement

PYONG GAP MIN

"This book provides the most complete account yet of the historical situation of Korean 'comfort women' and of current efforts to seek redress for the survivors. Drawing upon a vast trove of first-person evidence and displaying a rigorous commitment to factual evidence, the author creates an invaluable record of past war crimes and present-day activism."

—Margaret D. Stetz, author of *Legacies of the Comfort Women of World War I*

Arguably the most brutal crime committed by the Japanese military during the Asia-Pacific war was the forced mobilization of 50,000 to 200,000 Asian women to military brothels to sexually serve Japanese soldiers. The majority of these women died of physical abuse, malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, injuries from bombings or other military attacks, or other tragic circumstances. Korean survivors kept silent about their brutal experiences in military brothels for about fifty years. In the late 1980s, the women's movement in South Korea helped to start the redress movement for the victims. It helped many survivors come forward to tell what happened to them. The redress movement with their testimonies gained strong support from the U.N., the U.S., and other Western countries.

Korean "Comfort Women" synthesizes the previous major findings about Japanese military sexual slavery and legal recommendations, and provides new findings about the issues "comfort women" faced for an English-language audience. It also examines the transnational redress movement, revealing that the Japanese government has tried to conceal the crime of sexual slavery and to resolve the women's human rights issue with diplomacy and economic power.

PYONG GAP MIN is a distinguished professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as well as the director of the Research Center for Korean Community. He is the author of five books and the editor or co-editor of fourteen books, including the award-winning *Caught in the Middle: Korean Communities in New York and Los Angeles* and *Preserving Ethnicity through Religion in America: Korean Protestants and Indian Hindus across Generations*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chronology

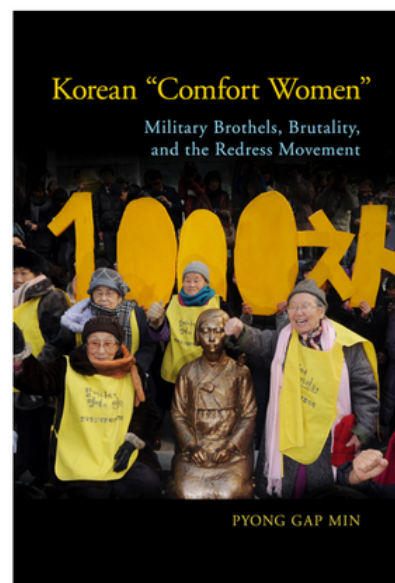
List of Abbreviations

Introduction: Background Information about Japanese Military Sexual Slavery and the Redress Movement for the Victims

1. Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks
2. Enough Information, But The Issue Buried For Half Century
3. The Emergence of the "Comfort Women" Issue and Victims' Breaking Silence
4. The General Information about the Comfort Women System
5. Forced Mobilization of Comfort Women
6. Payments of Fees and Affectionate Relationships
7. Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Threats at "Comfort Stations"
8. Perils of Korean "Comfort Women's" Homecoming Trips
9. Korean "Comfort Women's" Life in Korea and China
10. Progress of the Redress Movement in Korea
11. Divided Responses to the Redress Movement in Japan
12. Response to the Redress Movement in the U.S.
13. Conclusion

Bibliography

Index



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KOREAN FAMILIES YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Korean families have changed significantly during the last few decades in their composition, structure, attitudes, and function. Delayed and forgone marriage, fertility decline, and rising divorce rates are just a few examples of changes that Korean families have experienced at a rapid pace, more dramatic than in many other contemporary societies. Moreover, the increase of marriages between Korean men and foreign women has further diversified Korean families. Yet traditional norms and attitudes toward gender and family continue to shape Korean men and women's family behaviors.

Korean Families Yesterday and Today portrays diverse aspects of the contemporary Korean families and, by explicitly or implicitly situating contemporary families within a comparative historical perspective, reveal how the past of Korean families evolved into their current shapes. While the study of families can be approached in many different angles, our lens focuses on families with children or young adults who are about to forge family through marriage and other means. This focus reflects that delayed marriage and declined fertility are two sweeping demographic trends in Korea, affecting family formation. Moreover, "intensive" parenting has characterized Korean young parents and therefore, examining change and persistence in parenting provides important clues for family change in Korea.

This volume should be of interest not only to readers who are interested in Korea but also to those who want to understand broad family changes in East Asia in comparative perspective.

HYUNJOON PARK is Korea Foundation Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

HYEYOUNG WOO is Associate Professor of Sociology at Portland State University.

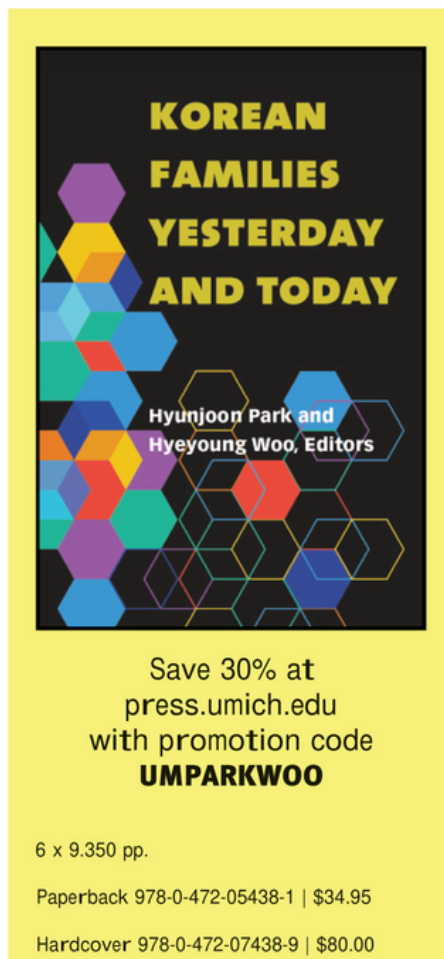
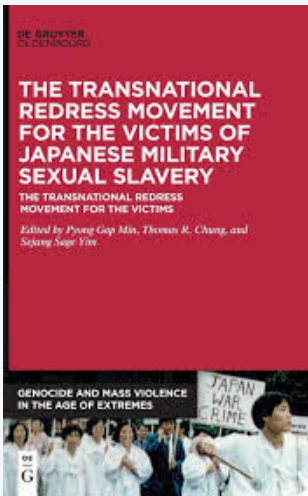


Table of Contents

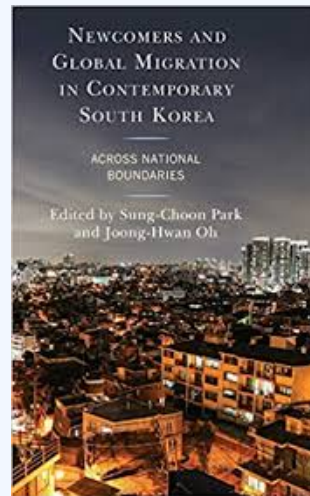
- Introduction: Change and Persistence in Korean Families: Parenting, Children's Outcomes, Gender Roles, and Family Formation (Hyunjoon Park, Hyeeyoung Woo)
 1. The Evolution of the Korean Family: Historical Foundations and Present Realities (Paul Y. Chang)
 2. The Strength of Information: Maternal Education and Child-Rearing in Urban Korea (Eunsil Oh)
 3. Reshaping Educational Strategies: Habitus Transformation of Immigrant Mothers in South Korea (Hyejeong Jo)
 4. Consequences of Educational Assortative Mating for Children's Academic Achievement in South Korea (Soo-yong Byun, Yifan Bai, Hee Jin Chung)
 5. Does Marriage Matter for Children? Parental Marital Status and Children's Health in South Korea (Hyeeyoung Woo, Sojung Lim, Sun Young Jeon, Wonjeong Jeong)
 6. Does Grandparents' Education Matter for Grandchildren's Education in South Korea? (Hyunjoon Park, Heewon Jang)
 7. Living Arrangements and Obesity among Korean College Students: Living Away from One's Family Home as a Factor Affecting Weight Gain (Haram Jeon)
 8. Educational Background, Gender-Role Attitudes, and Parenting Time for Young Children (Yean-Ju Lee, Kitae Park, Ivan Sanidad)
 9. Gender Roles of Married Women in Korean Immigrant Families in the United States (Byung Soo Lee)
 10. Who Gets Married? Parent's Household Income, Individual's Education, and Entry into Marriage in South Korea (Jihye Oh, Jae Kyung Lee, Hyeeyoung Woo)
 11. Integrating Men's Gender Roles and Fertility Attitudes into the Study of Low Fertility in South Korea (Soo-Yeon Yoon)
 12. *Kwinong kwich'on kwihyang* (Back to the Land) Discourse of Young South Korean Families: Exchanging "Hell Choson" for Breathing Room (Yoyu) (Bonnie Tilland)



The Transnational Redress Movement for the Victims of Japanese Sexual Slavery

Pyong Gap Min (co-edited by Thomas Chung and Sejung Sage Yim)

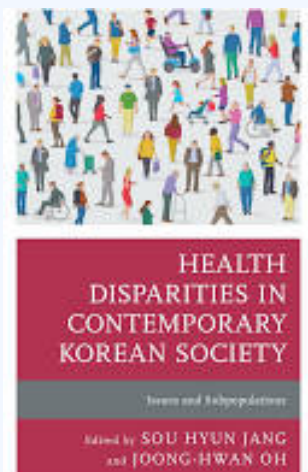
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Newcomers and Global Migration in Contemporary South Korea: Across National Boundaries

Sung-Choon Park and Joong-Hwan Oh (eds.)

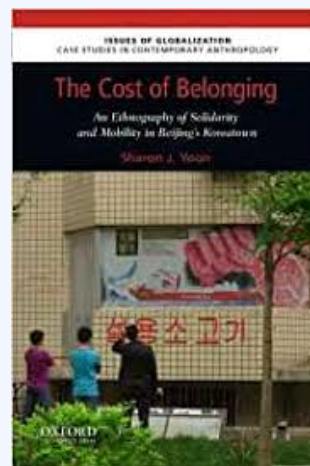
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The Cost of Belonging: An Ethnography of Solidarity and Mobility in Beijing's Koreatown

Sharon Yoon

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NEW ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Chang, Paul Y.

“The Evolution of the Korean Family: Historical Foundations and Present Realities.” Pp. 19-40 in *Korean Families Yesterday and Today*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 2020.

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“Speculative Home-Making: Women’s Labor, Class Mobility, and the Affect of Homeownership in South Korea.” 2021. *Urban Studies* 58(1):148-163. doi.org/10.1177/0042098019878393

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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

Kiwoong Park
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January 2021

Thanks for reading through the newsletter.
We're interested in incorporating comments and stories.
Please submit contributions for our next newsletter to the editor.