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**Letter from the Editors**

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Dear Reader,

With great pleasure, we share with you the 5th volume of the California Sociology Forum, a student-led journal showcasing the depth and breadth of the learning that is being undertaken by students in the Department of Sociology at Cal State L.A. This volume comes after a protracted hiatus since 2010. Bringing it into the world required a commitment to the process of learning and dedication to creating a final product that sets a precedent for future editorial boards.

Together we debated processes and points both big and small. We've agreed and disagreed. We reimagined accessibility to academic spaces by collaborating with CSU Open Journals and added a Creative Works section to recognize the many ways sociologists make society visible. We returned to one another every week: a neat assembly of tiny videos on digital screens; very real windows into our lives and homes.

When we finally met in person, we were already months into our endeavor. It was fitting that Dr. Hyojoung Kim, CSF's founding Faculty Editor and Director of the Center for Korean-American and Korean Studies, hosted our coming together around a traditional barbecue. He shared his culture—the traditional dress he wore for his wedding, how one must always pour a drink for their elders as a sign of respect, and the meaning of eating wraps (or “ssam”) with one bite to enjoy all the flavor and take in the blessing all at once.



*Dr. Hyojoung Kim introducing CSF to KBBQ*

Dr. Kim illustrated the character language for family—eating together under one roof. He explained that in the process of sharing a meal we would forge a family. This felt symbolically parallel to our assembly of tiny videos. In a time of post-pandemic disconnectedness, we have found an academic home and forged an academic family through our CSF community.

Week after week our editorial team came together to participate in simultaneous action—moving toward a singular goal to uplift the scholarship and voices of Cal State LA students. Together, CSF helps create what Émile Durkheim called *collective effervescence*—a sense of harmony through shared purpose. This reflects Dr. Kim’s explanation of imbibing in ancient Korean culture, allowing the gods to enter the body so people could access a higher plane.

We are proud of this volume and the future we envision for CSF. Within, you will find original and creative works by dedicated student sociologists of Cal State LA. This collection is a testament to the varied, complex lived experiences and deep curiosity of our campus community. We editors are thankful to all of the authors and feel privileged to have curated these works with the help of thoughtful and devoted faculty editors. We are eager to share it with you.

In Community,  
The CSF Editorial Board



CSF Dining at KBBQ