

## *Letter from the Editor*

“Now and then, the passage of time seems acutely apparent. Physical pain always sharpens the awareness. The migraines that began when I was twelve or thirteen swoop down without warning, bringing with them agonizing stomach cramps that stop daily life in its tracks. Even the smallest task is left suspended as I concentrate on simply enduring the pain, sensing time’s discrete drops as razor-sharp gemstones, grazing my fingertips. One deep breath drawn in and this new moment of life takes shape as distinctly as a bead of blood. Even once I have stepped back into the flow, one day melding seamlessly into another, that sensation remains ever there in that spot, waiting, breath held.

Each moment is a leap forward from the brink of an invisible cliff, where time’s keen edges are constantly renewed. We lift our foot from the solid ground of all our life lived thus far and take that perilous step out into the empty air. Not because we can claim any particular courage, but because there is no other way. 지금 이 순간도 그 위태로움을 나는 느낀다. 아직 살아보지 않은 시간 속으로, 쓰지 않은 책 속으로 무모하게 걸어들어간다. [Now, in this moment, I feel that vertiginous thrill course through me. As I step recklessly into time I have not yet lived, into this book I have not yet written.]”

Excerpt from “나 [I]” *The White Book* by Han Kang

The 2023 Double Issue of Urban Action marks the first on Open Journal Source and the first to return from a brief hiatus. These firsts allow us to feature voices from across time and programs. Issue 42 consists of work from Urban Studies and Planning (USP) and Master of Public Administration (MPA) students in the 2022-2023 academic year. Issue 41, or the “lost issue” as it was dubbed before it was “found” thanks to Anne Chen, consists of submissions from the 2019-2020 academic year with a COVID section that comprises works centered around the pandemic.

The editorial team went through all the pieces submitted for Issue 41, and it was hard to connect to the submissions at first. It was twice the work, and the punctuation caused by the pandemic made the authors feel not like fellow students but like the specters of students who used to occupy the same space in the Health and Social Sciences building at SF State.

But it got easier once we recognized a common thread across this space and time. That is a frustration with the persistent failure to address issues in housing, homelessness, the environment, and poverty. This collective consciousness also has a place in common: San Francisco State University, the faculty that anchors the programs, or maybe it’s just in the ether.

Regardless of what draws in and guides this consciousness, here it goes. The first precipitous step from the migraine called the pandemic.

Michelle Ju-won Bark  
Editor-in-Chief

p.s. Thank you to Chris Abeel and Sofia Hernandez for your consistency and support.

p.p.s. I hope all is well, USP AY 19-20. Ashleigh Castro, if you ever see this, I want to be friends.