

Editors' Note

With volume 5, *Korean Anthropology Review: A journal of Korean anthropology in translation* (KAR) is turning five years old. Looking back, we have come a long way. Motivated by a desire to foster dialogue between traditions of anthropology in South Korea and in English-language academia, we began by translating seminal articles by the pillars of South Korean anthropology. Gradually, we expanded our scope to showcase interesting work by younger South Korean scholars, primarily on South Korea but increasingly beyond. In addition to diversifying the geographical range of translated articles, from volume 3 (2019) we have also expanded the scope of our journal, inviting commentaries on translated articles from overseas scholars and soliciting book reviews of anthropological monographs published by South Korean publishers.

In KAR's tradition, volume 5 balances our ambition to introduce South Korean approaches to classic and contemporary anthropological problems with a commitment to breaching topics of particular interest to our Korean Studies readers. Cho Oakla's article offers a moving ethnography of the culture of urban poor in South Korea—of the elderly denizens of Baeksa Village. We learn not only about hardships villagers have endured throughout their lives but also about their robust socializing, their rituals of sharing food and resources, and their proud identities as residents of Seoul's last shanty town. Kim Changmin details the relations among the same-birth-year age groups (*gapjang*) on Jeju Island, highlighting the peculiarities of Jeju relationality in South Korea and unpacking everyday implications of its concerns with equality. Jee Eunsook's article provides an ethnography of unmarried daughters taking care of their elderly parents in Japan, a research study that illuminates changes in family relationships and gender

order in the ageing society. Lee Eungchel piece draws a broad-strokes portrait of South Korean fandom lifeworlds, usefully situating much-commented-on K-pop fandoms within larger trends of youth culture. Lee Kangwon's imaginative analysis of technological rituals around earthquake prediction in Japan raises provocative questions about the relevance of the concept of culture in contemporary societies where human lives are entangled with many devices.

We have also continued with our effort to stage a dialogue between scholarship produced in South Korea and abroad. Volume 5 was supposed to be the first one with every article having a commentary from an overseas scholar, but the COVID-19 situation disrupted many people's work schedules, so we had to postpone this ambition until next volume. However, our book review section has grown, covering six recent publications, both ethnographic monographs and edited volumes. We express deep gratitude to the contributors who found time for the *KAR* despite the chaotic state of the world.

Finally, there have been some editorial staff changes since the previous volume. The *KAR*'s first editor-in-chief, Hyang Jin Jung, assumed the position of senior advisor, while chief editorship went to Olga Fedorenko. Hilary Finchum-Sung left the position of associate editor, and Seung Cheol Lee now holds that position. We were sad to see the *KAR*'s long-term editorial assistant Elisa Romero go, though Sunkyu Son and Ri Choi stepped in to steer volume 5 through completion.

We hope that our readers find volume 5 stimulating and that presented research contributes to larger conversations in anthropology in South Korea and beyond.