
Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present the latest publication of the student-run CSF journal, featuring a range of works created by Cal State LA's Department of Sociology students (and even a few of their peers from other departments as co-authors). Volume 6 continues our goal to expand beyond traditional texts and provide students the opportunity to exhibit creative pieces. Several discussions and panels were held with the goal of encouraging student contributions to the journal. The formal structure of these lectures served to illustrate the advantages of being a peer-reviewed author as well as the process of becoming published.

Similarly to CSF's last volume, CSF's founder Dr. Hyojoung Kim (and Director of the Center for Korean American and Korean Studies) presented CSF with Korean Barbecue in three stages. Stage 1 was composed of typical cuts of KBBQ meats, Stage 2 was a Korean Bulgogi specialty not commonly offered in Southern California. Dr. Kim expressed the significance of the bulgogi's unique preparation on a special grill allowing it to cook in a soup typically eaten over steamed rice; something he grew up eating on special occasions as a child. Stage 3 was a serving of cold noodles meant to cleanse the palate of all the protein digested.



A collage of photos showcasing the multiple stages of KBBQ

Experiencing this food and learning the meaning behind the preparations together contributed to the fostering of community, in this moment we were family. This sense of community felt symbolically relevant to the experiences CSF members were having outside of the journal.

The Fall 2023 semester was filled with calls to justice. The first movement was from students against tuition hikes organizing a walkout across all the CSU's. Then the genocide in Gaza demanded attention, with students and faculty alike rallying to offer programs and protests in support of solidarity to #FreePalestine. The transition into the start of the Spring 2024 semester was eventful, as classes were delayed due to multiple unions striking for contract negotiations. Students and faculty alike were utilizing their agency as community members in the CSU, bargaining for better conditions for all. Such organizing and acts of resistance against greed and the corporatized university set the tone not only for the semester but for the CSF board as a whole.

Consistent with the spirit of solidarity, the 9th Annual Social Theory Conference, hosted by the Department of Sociology, picked the theme of "Conflict, Ideology, and Critical Humanitarianism." Half a day was devoted to "Social Justice" – allowing labor and union organizers to sit on a panel followed by a mixer enacted to teach the students agency and how to advocate for themselves.

UNION *'yün-yen:*

An act or instance of uniting or joining two or more things into one. Something that is made one: something formed by a combining or coalition of parts or members. A confederation of independent individuals for some common purpose.

Description of "UNION" as seen on the 3rd Floor of the CSULA U-SU

As volume 6's completion progressed, themes of resistance began to emerge organically from the submissions. We as a board followed our authors' lead with fluidity, reinforcing the decision to not produce a normative sociology journal. We encouraged the spirit of imagination to roam free in our journal and pivoted away from the standard formatted journals common to academia. The work in this journal, although untraditional, is impactful and depicts how knowledge can be produced through art and community. The varied expressions of the sociological imagination reflect CSF's platform to assist in the decolonization of students' minds and challenge the heteronormative, patriarchal, ableist, white supremacist institution. We are thrilled with this volume and look forward to what CSF has ahead of it.

In Solidarity,

The CSF Editorial Board