

Managing Editor's Introduction

The *Korean Social Science Journal* (KSSJ) continues its commitment to illuminating significant issues across various milieus. Last year, the KSSJ introduced a Hallyu special section to feature the rich scholarship about Hallyu or the Korean Wave as it is experienced across the globe. To add to Hallyu scholarship featured in the KSSJ, the first article in this issue entitled “K-pop and the mainstream media gap: A Philippine case study” by Rachel Khan investigates the dynamic between K-pop’s global reach and its reception among fans in the Philippines, focusing on the gap between mainstream media narratives and the participatory cultures of fandom.

Additionally, for the June 2025 issue, we are pleased to present a special section entitled “Urban Palimpsests: Seoul between Local Pasts and Global Presents,” guest-edited by Dr. Tae-Sik Kim from the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Monash University, Malaysia. This collection brings together diverse perspectives on urban studies, reflecting the multifaceted nature of Seoul’s evolving urban landscape. Collectively, the KSSJ Spring issue invites readers to reflect on diverse social phenomena in Seoul - and by extension, other global cities - where the interplay of local pasts and global presents is constantly negotiated and reimagined.

As the official journal of the Korean Social Science Research Council (KOSSREC), the KSSJ continuously aims to provide readers with the latest provocations in social science research from diverse theoretical and methodological backgrounds. The KSSJ is actively seeking original research that covers a wide range of topics in the social sciences with a distinct focus on dynamic understandings of Korea. The KSSJ team ensures a timely double-blind peer review process that involves experts and authority figures across a wide array of academic disciplines. We are also open to special issue proposals on key relevant and emergent topics within the social sciences. The KSSJ is an open-access journal, and we are hoping to play a crucial role in democratizing knowledge by ensuring that cutting-edge research is accessible to everyone, regardless of one’s institutional affiliation or financial resources. By providing a platform for interdisciplinary research, the journal contributes towards promoting and disseminating innovative social science research from Korea and beyond to the broader academic community. The KSSJ publishes biannually in June and December.

For inquiries or submissions, you may get in touch with the editorial team at kssjournal@gmail.com

* Please note that the views of the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the KSSJ editors and/or the Korean Social Science Research Council (KOSSREC).