

# **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

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Since 2020, we have had to learn new pathways to deal with our daily lives. While some countries experience high rates of vaccinations and argue that the pandemic is coming to an end, other nations are still building resilient paths to deal with COVID-19. However, a thing that defines 2021 is adaptation. As human beings, we are constantly transforming to survive. In part, most of the essays and papers from this issue reflect how society and different community groups have changed both in the past and the future to face political, social, and development issues. At the same time, the remaining papers illustrate how we should adapt for future matters.

Before introducing the essays, papers, book reviews, and interviews, I wanted to mention something that I have learned through working on the Yonsei Journal of International Studies (YJIS). The pandemic also hit the academic sector. Now, more than ever, we need to understand and be empathic about the situation of those who submit and edit the articles published here. The YJIS appreciates all the efforts made by the authors of this issue.

The first paper of this issue is “Articulating Japanese Identities: Socialization Processes through Migration Experiences” by Ayako Suzuki. This paper is a clear example of adaptation since the author examines how Japanese people have built a collective identity while migrating to Dublin, Ireland. The research provides results into literature that analyzes how identity changes as people migrate from one place to another. The author interviewed 49 Japanese people living short and long term in Ireland to prove her argument.

Harmond Pedrosa Marte is the author of the paper “Development Aggression in Panay: A Study on the Impact of Dam Projects to the Tumandok Indigenous People in the Philippines.” This research illustrates how development projects challenge indigenous communities in the Philippines, precisely the Tumandok ethnic community living on the island of Panay. The author used key informant interviews and grounded theory to analyze the relationship between national development projects and development aggression, reflected in land dispossession and loss of traditional livelihoods.

The third paper by Matthew Heidenreich analyzes the experiences of ethnic Koreans placed in Japan after the annexation of Korea by Japan. “Living as *Zainichi* in the Twenty-First Century: Identity and Citizenship in Japan’s Ethnic Korean Community” contributes to the literature that presents the societal and economic challenges that ethnic Koreans experience in Japan. However, this paper tries to go further and analyzes these burdens in the twenty-first century.

According to the author, these disparities are existent still in this century.

Matthew F. Fleming also analyzes Japanese society in his essay “The Japanese Government and Immigration: A Duality of Policy in Media and Government Documents.” However, this paper’s argument exposes the dissonance between how Japanese media and the Japanese government portray immigration. On the one hand, media communicates that immigration is being assimilated and diversification has been accepted. On the other hand, Japanese immigration policy agrees with the movement of foreigners for economic purposes in the short term.

Our junior editor Megan Ann Pellouchoud wrote the paper called “An Analysis of White, Euro-American Female Sex Tourism in Thailand: Cross-Border Desire as an Outlet of Racial, Gender, Class, & Sexual Power.” The importance of this study lies in the understudy of female sex tourism by academia. Here, the author analyzes Euro-American white cis-gender females who go to Thailand for sex tourism. The main findings show that these female sex tourists interact with heterosexual Thai men based on race, gender, class, and sexual identity. The methodology was a textual analysis of news commentary and e-forums.

As our last paper, we have historical research made by editor-in-chief Grecia Dominique Paniagua Garcia. The paper, called “Anti-Chinese law and its consequences at the Mexican border,” illustrates the role of the Mexican government in Chinese migration after the United States implemented the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The author displays that the Mexican government had an inconsistent policy in favor and later against Chinese migration by analyzing primary sources.

Then, we have “The US Should Join the CPTPP” as our first essay. Here, author Taehwa Hong argues that the United States can prevail as a great power and maintain alliances by engaging in international trade. The author presents the CPTPP as the instrument on how the US can achieve these two goals. At the same time, this essay also refers to China’s presence in the international community and how the new Biden administration could prevent China from transforming trade rules.

Hana You is the author of our second essay called “The Ethical and Legal Privacy in the World of Big Data and eHealth: Are the US and the EU Ready for the Big Change in Healthcare?” These days countries like the United States and regions like the European Union are not using traditional storages to save health data. Therefore, the dilemma between

ethical and legal privacy has raised concerns. The main questions of this essay are if the current legal frameworks protect health privacy and if these frameworks cover the adoption, facilitation, and use of data in healthcare.

Author Heidi Kasper analyzes the role of the United Nation's peacekeeping operation in Haiti and its relationship with the cholera pandemic in Haiti. In her paper "The United Nations and the Cholera Pandemic in Haiti," Heidi offers suggestions and preventive measures that the United Nations should take to avoid what happened in Haiti in 2010. At the same time, she describes how epidemics influence the role of the United Nations in the international community. For this essay, the author did a secondary analysis and database analysis.

"Rhetoric or Reality? An Assessment of Korea-Africa Relations So Far" is an essay by Hannah Evans which analyzes how Korea has found an economic opportunity in sub-Saharan Africa. African states are currently moving into the agricultural export market, and Korea could find a new space for Korean manufacturing as sub-Saharan African countries' livelihoods improve. The essay, in general, uses policy analysis to show the gaps between Korea and Africa. Additionally, the author gives recommendations on how Korea can strengthen its relationships and benefit from Africa's development.

For our book review, Aaron Molnar analyzes the book *The Steppe and the Sea: Pearls in the Mongol Empire* written by Thomas Allsen. In this review, readers can understand the impact of the cultural, political, and material history of the Mongol Empire through the pearl trade. At the same time, Molnar analyzes two other elements from Allsen's book: the importance of continental and maritime routes and the historiographic emphasis between continuity and exceptionalism in the Mongol empire.

Finally, this issue closes with two remarkable interviews with Saddek Chettab and Michel Setboun. These interviews give us insights into how is to report and photograph conflicts. Both interviewers have worked in different regions and countries such as Syria, El Salvador, Kenya, Somalia, Afghanistan, among others. Saddek Chettab, as a war reporter, illustrates how reporting conflict is unpredictable and dangerous if you are not disciplined in your field. Michel Setboun, a war photographer, also provides insights into emotionally coping when working in regions under conflict. These interviews are very original and provide first-hand insight into how the life of someone behind a camera is.

I am extremely grateful to a team of wonderful women and editors who dedicated their time and efforts to this issue's success. I am sure that without your selections, insights, and edits, completing this issue would have been impossible. Thank you to Megan Ann Pellouchoud, Julie Aase, Simone Liew, Amanda Herath, and Antonia Chettab for your excellent work and continuous support. To our readers, I am grateful for your interest in this journal. In the name of the whole editing team, we wish you good health and safety. Thank you, and enjoy this Spring/Summer issue.

**Grecia Dominique Paniagua Garcia**

*Editor-in-Chief*