In this conversation, Kim Park Nelson will discuss the history of Korean adoption studies in the context of the Korean adoptee scholar and researcher, highlighting on how critical Korean adoption studies emerged as a field in reaction to a long tradition of behavioral science research that focused on expanding the practice of transracial and transnational adoption. She will discuss responsible research design and community based methods in relation to her within-group research in the Korean adoptee community.

Kim Park Nelson is an educator and researcher whose work uses adoption as a lens to understand race and culture. Her work has contributed to building of the field of Adoption Studies and Korean Adoption Studies in the U.S. and internationally. She was the three-time lead organizer for the International Symposia on Korean Adoption Studies, which took place in Seoul in 2007, 2010, and 2013. Professor Park Nelson’s book, Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences and Racial Exceptionalism was published by Rutgers University Press in Spring 2016 and is based on her ethnographic research exploring the many identities of adult Korean adoptees, as well as the cultural, social, historical, and political significance of sixty years of Korean adoption to the United States. She is an associate professor of American Multicultural Studies at the Minnesota State University at Moorhead. She has a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Minnesota.