

# BRANDEIS SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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## Notes from the Chair

by Peter Conrad

The Sociology Department had another successful year marked by several transitions and special events. After 46 years at Brandeis and 50 years teaching, Maury Stein has retired. We had a lovely retirement event in March, attended by over 100 of Maury's former students and colleagues. Many who couldn't attend contributed their thoughts and wishes to Maury's memory book which was presented that afternoon. The article from the [Brandeis Justice](#), reprinted below,

reflects on Maury's years in the department. On other fronts, Carmen Sirianni was promoted to Full Professor, Shula Reinharz has become the new Jacob S. Potofsky Professor of Sociology, and Karen Hansen returned from her sabbatical. One special event this year was David Cunningham's 'bus trip.' David has developed and organized a course called *Social Change in American Communities*, which included David, eleven undergraduates, and two graduate students taking a sleeper bus for thirty days and nights through the eastern United States this past summer. They visited dozens of civil rights and social change sites, interviewed key personnel, and in some cases, participated in social movement work. The students had all taken an independent reading course with David in the Spring semester and will take a regular seminar this Fall to analyze and write up the results of the trip. Many of us followed the trip's progress on their website, which included student reflections based on their experiences. The bus trip was written up in the [New York Times](#) and became a four minute story for CNN. The [Times](#) article is reprinted below.

This May we graduated one of the largest Sociology classes in recent memory; 101 seniors graduated with a Sociology Concentration (some were double concentrators). Nineteen students completed senior honors theses and five of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude.

This coming Spring, Professor Tom Cushman of Wellesley College will be a Siskind Visiting Professor in our department. Professor Cushman has done research in political sociology, the media and human rights and will teach courses in "Propaganda and Society" and "Sociology of the Internet."

[Tuesdays with Morrie](#) still surfaces on the best seller list after nearly three years and sales of 5 million copies. Amazing.

This is my ninth and I expect last year as chair of the Sociology Department. It has overall been a rewarding experience, but I believe it is time to pass the baton to some one else. In the meantime, please continue to send me (conrad@brandeis.edu) or Elaine Brooks (brooks@brandeis.edu) notices, information and items for the newsletter. In fact, the best time to do it is **now**, while you are thinking of it.

--Peter

## A Busload of Aspiring Activists Take to the Road

By JODI WILGOREN

NEW MARKET, Tenn., June 19 — Not long after midnight, Brandeis University's Sociology 156a rolled off Interstate 40 at Exit 68 into the TA Truck Stop. Young women toted toiletries into the restroom, young men folded themselves into phone booths to dial mothers and girlfriends. David Cunningham, assistant professor of sociology, popped in two quarters for a video game of Galaga.

Lee Tusman, 19, whose research project is on the politics of fast food, eyed the two-for-\$8.99 Heater Meals, cardboard-clad chicken with the unlikely boast "There's a Stove Inside!" (Just add water, and a mix of salt, iron and magnesium warm the food right up.)

"If you don't buy this," Professor Cunningham warned Mr. Tusman, "your grade is going

down."

The moments for teaching arrive serendipitously in Professor Cunningham's "Possibilities for Change in American Communities," a yearlong course that includes this 30-day odyssey through 17 states aboard a 40-foot sleeper bus. Having spent the spring reading treatises on social movements, the 11 undergraduates and 2 teaching assistants this month are meeting with real-live activists, visiting historic sites like the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., and muddying their fingernails with envelope-stuffing and sign-carrying.

Fired up, they plan to return to their campus, in Waltham, Mass., with an activist agenda this fall. They just have not picked an issue yet.

Equal parts Ken Kesey and MTV's "Road Rules," the Brandeis bus trip reflects an explosion of American college courses in which students learn through hands-on experience rather than just text and lectures. Brandeis's program is modeled on one begun in 1992 by Douglas Brinkley, a historian now at the University of New Orleans, who has led eight cross-country journeys focused on American literature and history and who plans a trek down the Mississippi River next year.

Professor Cunningham, 30 years old, says he chose activism as the theme because of a recent surge of student protest. With radicalism percolating among young people who have grown up in prosperity, he said, the atmosphere is reminiscent of the early 1960's.

"Everybody has a sense of what an activist is, this person who spends 24 hours a day in this very visible cause," he said. "I really wanted to broaden the sense of what an activist is. Anyone who's working to change a system for the better is an activist."

So, along with visiting the traditional set of civil rights heroes and monuments, the students have stopped at Rural

Studio, where Alabama architecture majors build houses out of cardboard and cans. They have cooked pots of bruised vegetables for Food Not Bombs, a collective in North Carolina. They have rallied against police brutality in Greensboro, N.C., marched for gay pride in Birmingham, Ala., and met Jesus People Against Pollution in Mississippi. Before heading home on June 27, they plan to spend an afternoon lobbying on Capitol Hill.

"It's this idea of people that are socially conscious connecting to other people who have been socially conscious," said Andrew Slack, a sociology and theater major. "We've been seeing so much over the past two weeks. I've just become very motivated to do something."

During one of many late-night bus discussions, the idea emerged that the students become activists themselves. But it seems to matter more that they get involved than what they get involved with, and they have settled on tactics before goals. Keeping the structure of whatever they do nonhierarchical and building consensus are crucial. They are interested in race and class, but beyond that the contours of the project remain sketchy.

And if the trip has radicalized them, it has also taught some more practical lessons.

Like how to wander casually into the fitness room at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis for a free shower. Or remembering to take the extra roll of toilet paper from the bus driver's motel room. Or mediating between the slobs and the clean freaks on how often to break out the Windex.

"I wasn't particularly interested in the themes of the class, or social activism, or even sociology," Aaron Kagan of Boca Raton, Fla., said as he wandered through the civil rights museum at the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis. "I just wanted in. I knew it was going to be something."

Monday afternoon in Memphis, it was inviting a homeless man named Mark to lunch. That night it was two African-American women who came to Brandeis from tough New York neighborhoods teaching Mr. Kagan and Mr. Slack, Jews from the suburbs, the hand jive to "Rockin' Robin." Outside a Memphis restaurant, it was Suzy Stone, a thoughtful woman from Minneapolis, talking to three local black teenagers with baseball caps turned sideways. "What are y'all, Jehovah's Witnesses?" wondered a passer-by with a gold tooth and a 40-ounce Budweiser dangling from his hand.

A few hours later, as Beale Street came alive with blues emanating from outdoor bars and tourists shopping for blue-suede-shoes salt and pepper shakers, class began inside the bus, parked on a corner.

Cramped in the 40-foot Eagle, vintage 1983, which was once home to the Who and Three Dog Night, the students talked about the differences between the Ku Klux Klan and the gangs that dominate many of today's ghettos. They discussed conspiracy and coalition-building, picking apart Dr. King's strategies and mapping their own.

The rolling classroom left town about 11 p.m., heading east. By 3 a.m., nearly everyone was asleep at the "double-fisted resort," so called because of the amount of space between one's forehead and the ceiling in the coffinlike triple-decker bunks. The students awoke slowly this morning as the bus wandered for hours around the back roads here in New Market, struggling to find the Highlander Research and Education Center.

At Highlander, a retreat in the Smoky Mountains where poor teenagers and new immigrants from the Deep South come for workshops on how to fight the power structure, the Brandeis students asked questions about how they might get involved. They also had lunch — breakfast, really — digging into a buffet of spaghetti and fresh melon.

Mr. Tusman topped his plate with meat sauce, having abandoned his vegetarianism for the trip so he could embrace regional foods fully. For his fast-food research project, he has shellacked a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich from Waffle House and saved a pickle from an Alabama truck stop.

"Food is about nourishment, but it's also recreation," said the young sociologist in training, sharing stories of lunch counters and truck stops across the South. "If I want to check the pulse of a place, I go eat there."

(New York Times, June 24, 2001)

## Maury Stein Retires

Nov 14, 2000 issue of The Justice Features Section

**46 years later, Stein announces retirement. Legendary sociology professor combined personal and professional passions, led the department and touched lives.**

By Stephanie Bower  
JUSTICE STAFF

There are only a few Brandeis professors who have been here since the University's infancy, and one of them is leaving at the end of this semester. Professor Maurice Stein (SOC), better known to his students and colleagues as Maury, has been teaching at Brandeis for 46 years. Now, some wonder why he has decided to leave. "I'm seventy-four going on seventy-five, that's my reason," Stein said. For the last few years, the professor has reduced his course load in preparation for his retirement.

There is a lot for Maury Stein to reflect on. He has been educating and enlightening students here long enough to recall his time at Brandeis in decades. "The students in the 50s were quite amazing," he said. "It was an incredibly interesting and challenging place in the 60s."

Stein helped Sociology to break away from Anthropology and become its own department in 1958. The department was deeply related to the anti-war movement among Brandeis students in the late 60s. Its building, Pearlman Hall, became the home of the National Strike Information Center. "There have been good moments when the University was related to larger society in interesting ways," Stein said.

Professor Peter Conrad (SOC), chair of the Sociology department, said that in the 60s and 70s "the feeling you got was that the department was a reflection of Maury." Conrad recalled how Stein's interests have changed throughout his time at Brandeis. His courses have reflected interests in community and social change, reevaluation and co-counseling, and now, meditation and birth and death. "All these personal and deeply felt interests he somehow intertwined in his teaching," Conrad said.

Professor Gordie Fellman (SOC) corroborated the intersection of personal and professional interests. "Maury is the kind of teacher for whom work and play overlap," Fellman said. "Maury's innovativeness in the classroom has been breathtaking. What has gone on in Maury's classrooms has clearly often been sublime."

"I started teaching (Sociology of) Birth and Death in the 70s when I was captured by the birth of my second child," Stein said. The course is three hours long, but it is not structured like a typical class. Generally, Stein talks with his students for less than an hour, does meditations with the class, and presents a speaker or video. Melissa White '01, a teaching assistant for the course, does not think the students feel that Stein is lecturing the class, but rather presenting them with the tools they need to guide and facilitate their learning. "He's been

teaching for 50 years and he's been teaching (Sociology of) Birth and Death for I think 25 years, and he is still doing it differently every time," White said. Professor Stein teaches in a way that promotes communication and relationships. He brings his students together through intimate meditations. Conrad said he "always listened to a different drummer about the way he taught his students."

In the late 80s, Stein began teaching with Professor Luis Yglesias (COML) in the Humanities Interdisciplinary Program. He is enthusiastic about collaborative teaching and said that working with Yglesias, whom he calls a "great scholar," he was "able to teach texts in a lively way rather than in an abstract, technical way."

Chrisina Ho '01 took the "Imagining How We Are: East and West" course with both professors. "I just think the dynamic between Luis and Maury was so unique. It was exactly the type of thing I would look for in a University education. The University experience is supposed to be special. I really think they captured that in their class," she said. Ho said Yglesias did storytelling and Stein led class meditations. "It was like a family when you walked into that classroom," she said. "It really was."

Stein said leaving has become harder after experiencing his "Sociology of Birth and Death" class this semester, which he described as "superb" and "exquisite." "This particular class has been extraordinary. It couldn't be better," he said.

White said Stein is a humble leader in class. "He never takes on being the source of knowledge," she said. "He doesn't presume to have all this knowledge to offer people—even though he does." Rebecca Wolf '02, currently enrolled in "Sociology of Birth and Death," said that the class has been special to her. "I know that I will never have another experience quite like this again," she said, "but I will carry what I have learned in this class with me for the rest of my life."

Professor Conrad said Stein has a deep understanding of what teaching

should be like. "I think he has had a tremendously deep impact on generations of students," he said. "He does not force any of this upon us," Wolf said. "Instead, he gently guides us through our experience in this class."

Stein has been here to watch Brandeis change throughout the last half-century. "It was 13 buildings when I came," he said. The castle and one other building are the only ones still standing as they were when he came to the University. "Everything else has given way to progress," Stein said.

"The thing that has stood out to me in the years has been the students," Stein said. He said the student body is particularly exciting right now. "The place has gotten really interesting in the last five years. "I think Women's Studies has generated a lot of interest in subjects that border the subject I teach," he said.

After he leaves Brandeis, Stein, who lives near Harvard Square, plans to spend more time in Cambridge pursuing his interests. He hopes to spend time in Harvard University's archaeology department, where his daughter is studying. He said he plans to do some writing and perhaps even teach again. He said his best plan may be to "just see what happens."

"There's a lot to say about the years. At some point you have to put that away and do what a person at my age and in my position has to do," he said.

But, Stein was asked, could you leave Brandeisians with any words of wisdom?

"The only wisdom I have at the moment is, I'll miss you guys."



## Shula Gets a Chair

Shula Reinharz was awarded the Jacob S. Potofsky Chair in Sociology in June. Maury Stein, who was the Potofsky Professor for as long as anyone can remember, is now Professor Emeritus.

## Two New Postdocs

The Department, jointly with Anthropology, will host two postdoctoral fellows. **G.L. Mazard Wallace**, completing a PhD in Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, will be a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in "Aging, Culture and Health" for two years. He will teach "Africa Reoriented: Theory and Experience of the African Diaspora" in the Fall and a course on Disability and Culture in Spring. **Dr. Ann Morrison Spinney**, who has a PhD in Musicology from Harvard University, will be a Consilience Fellow for 2001-2002. She will teach "Music in Contemporary Society" in Sociology in the Spring semester and an ethnomusicology course in the Anthropology Department in the Fall.

## Jo Anne Preston, Basketball Star

As Jo Anne was preparing to attend her 40th high school reunion, the following article re-emerged in her personal archives. It was published in the Kennebec Journal (Augusta, ME), on March 2, 1961 under the headline, "Kents Hill Girls Posted 10-3 Mark," the article notes "Miss (Jo Anne) Preston was the leading scorer and was rarely held in check by the opposition." Go, Jo Anne, pioneer feminist athlete!

## Faculty Notes

**Peter Conrad** has published several articles this year. These include: "From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults: Some Observations on the Expansion of Medical Categories" (with Deborah Potter), Social Problems, 2000, 47(4): 559-82; "Genetic Optimism: Framing Genes and Mental Illness in the News," Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry, 2001, 25: 225-47; and "Constructing the 'Gay Gene' in the News: Optimism and Skepticism in the American and British Press" (with Susan Markens). Health, 2001, 5(3): 373-400. He was also

appointed to the editorial board of Journal of Health and Social Behavior. He is beginning research on a new project on "the structure and meanings of biomedical enhancement."

**Gordie Fellman's** year as chair of the Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict, of the American Sociological Association, is coming to an end. His last task will be to chair a meeting of the section at the ASA meetings in Anaheim in August. Gordie and his wife, Pamela Blau, became parents of Ezra Fellman-Blau on April 30. Ezra was born in Boston on April 11 and weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. The parents are ecstatic, and the baby is exquisite.

On June 9, **Janet Zollinger Giele**, Professor at the Heller Graduate School with joint appointment in Sociology, received the Radcliffe Graduate Society Award for her leadership in research on gender and the family and her illumination of the complexity of women's roles in contemporary society. The citation referred to her "ground breaking scholarship on women's roles [that] has widely influenced public policy and practice" and her work as "a dedicated teacher and mentor [who has] inspired many younger scholars to define and realize their professional goals." The award is an honor given each year to an outstanding woman graduate of any of Harvard or Radcliffe's graduate programs and professional schools.

**Karen V. Hansen** has a new working paper out with the Berkeley Center for Working Families, "Class Contingencies in Networks of Care for School-Aged Children." It can be downloaded from their web site <http://workingfamilies.berkeley.edu/>. She presented another paper from the project, "Men in Networks of Care for Children," at the Carework Conference in Anaheim. She is co-editing a special issue for Journal for Family Issues with **Rosanna Hertz** (B.A. '75), Anita Garey, and Cameron Macdonald, PhD '98, on "Care and Kinship." She will be team teaching a course on Transformations of Families at the Graduate Women's

Studies Consortium, housed at Radcliffe in Spring 2002. Karen was also selected to participate in the interdisciplinary Consilience Seminar for 2001-02.

**Shula Reinharz** has been involved in numerous activities on campus and beyond. In January she opened the Women's Studies Research Center - a beautiful 10,000 square foot facility with dedicated space for the arts, humanities and social sciences that will be used by approximately 50 Resident and Visiting Scholars. As a consequence of her work, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Boston Society of Architects (one of two non-architect positions). She spoke at about 50 different locales around the country and in Israel.

She continues her roles as Director of the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women and "first lady" of Brandeis. As series editor of the Brandeis Series on Jewish Women (published by University Press of New England), she oversaw the production of several new books this year, with more on board for next year. After 10 years as Director of the Women's Studies Program, she is stepping down to focus on these other projects. During the year, she received a lot of very positive media attention, including a two page personal profile in the Boston Globe on December 5.

Shula was honored by Women's ORT this year, and went on a research trip to Turkey in June with senior research director, Susan Kahn, to study Turkish Jewish women. A conference on that topic will take place in December at the new Women's Studies Research Center.

**George Ross** continues to direct the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis (funded by the German government) and teach in both the Sociology and Politics departments. This year he was co-author of a proposal to create an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Social Justice and Social Policy at Brandeis which will initiate new collaboration between the Heller School and the Faculty of Arts

and Sciences for teaching and discussion of many of the fundamental issues facing American society. He has published articles and essays on European integration, equal opportunity policy and child care in the EU, transnational labor organization, international politics, France, and social movements in various edited volumes, textbooks, *Annals* and *le Monde Diplomatique*. A piece which he thinks is about the legacies of Nicos Poulantzas was recently published in Greek.

**Carmen Sirianni** was promoted to Full Professor. He published Civic Innovation in America: Community Empowerment, Public Policy, and the Movement for Civic Renewal (University of California Press 2001) with long-time friend and colleague, **Lewis Friedland**, PhD '85. This book analyzes civic innovation as a long learning process from the 1960s to the present, and relates grassroots innovations to public policy and institutional design. The book is based on some five hundred interviews with innovators, field work in various organizations and networks, and action research in several national projects on civic renewal.

Sirianni and Friedland are extending this work this year with a \$380,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to study innovative forms of civic engagement among young people ages 15-25. This national action research project will work with some five hundred practitioners and youth leaders to map projects, networks, and policy designs in areas ranging from community youth development and high school service learning to youth environmental action and university-community partnerships.

**Stefan Timmermans** article with **Alison Angell** entitled, "Evidence-Based Medicine, Clinical Uncertainty, and Learning to Doctor," was accepted to the Journal of Health and Social Behavior. He has also published "Hearts Too Good to Die: Claude Beck's Contributions to Life-Saving" in the Journal of Historical Sociology as well as an article in a Dutch edited volume and one on health

care technology in the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. He spent his fall semester on leave working on his book on forensic medicine and watching Merel sit and crawl.

**Dessima Williams** received the 2001 Debs-Thomas' Bernstein Award from the Boston Democratic Socialists of American. This award honors her work in "the peace movement, as a feminist and as an intellectual and organizer for a more just world order."

## Postdoctoral Fellow

**Annika Lillrank** who conducted postdoctoral research supported by the ASLA Fulbright Program and the Academy of Finland has had her article, "The Tensions between Overt Talk and Covert Emotions in Illness Narratives: Transition from Clinician to Researcher," accepted for publication in Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry.

## News from Department PhDs

**James Ault** ('81) is finishing up a three-year documentary project on African Christianity funded by Pew Charitable Trusts, for which they shot over 250 hours of video in Ghana and Zimbabwe. He is completing his book for Knopf, tentatively titled Spirit and Flesh: Life in a Fundamental Baptist Church.

**Susan Bell** ('81) has been named the first occupant of the A. Myrick Freeman Chair in Social Science at Bowdoin College.

**Stephen David Berkowitz** ('76) has two books in press: Basics of Sociology: A New Introduction to the Science of Society (Newport, CT: Greenwood Press) and (with Mbulelo Mzamane) The Mbeki Turn: South Africa After Mandela (Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield).

**Janet Mancini Billson** ('76) of Barrington received the Stuart A. Rice Merit Award for Career Achievement from the District of Columbia Sociological Society (SCSS) in a ceremony May 16 in Washington, SC. The award, which was presented by Carla Howery, Deputy Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, recognized "outstanding sociological achievements over a career of at least 25 years." Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Rhode Island College for 18 years, Billson was lauded for a combination of "scholarship, sociological teaching excellence, leadership in the use of sociology in public policy formation, contributions to professional associations, advancement in the public awareness of sociological practice, and leadership in the use of sociological knowledge in non-traditional settings." Billson is currently Director of Group Dimensions, a social policy research firm founded in Providence in 1981. She also served during the 1990s as Assistant Director of the American Sociological Association and as Visiting Professor at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Billson received the Society for Applied Sociology's award for Sociological Practice in 2000 and was named Alumni of the Year at Baldwin-Wallace College in 1999. In addition to her applied work, Billson has written several books, including recent additions, The Power of Focus Groups for Social and Policy Research (2001), and Their Powerful Spirit: Inuit Women in a Century of Change (forthcoming, 2001).

**Y. Michael Bodeman** ('79) spent the summer in Berlin and with a Rockefeller residency at Bellagio, Italy in order to finish two books: one, a collection of essays in German, entitled, In the Waves of Memory, Jewish Life in Germany after the Shoah (DTV Verlag) and At Home in the Geography of Time, A Jewish Family in Germany. This is based on lengthy interviews with members of an extended family and siblings/cousins born in Germany after the war and now living in Germany, Israel and the U.S.

**Phil Brown** ('79) is on sabbatical from Brown University, working on a project on "contested illnesses," studying disputes over environmental factors in asthma, breast cancer, and Gulf War illnesses. He gave presentations on this project at the ASA, SSSP and APHA conferences. Two papers from this project were accepted by journals: "Print Media Coverage of Environmental Causation of Breast Cancer" will come out in Sociology of Health and Illness, and "A Gulf of Difference: Disputes Over Gulf War-Related Illnesses" will appear in Journal of Health and Social Behavior, and two other articles are forthcoming in edited books. He is now working on a book based on this research. The third edition of his collection, Perspectives In Medical Sociology, was published this year by Waveland Press, as well as an anthology (co-edited with Steve Kroll-Smith and Valerie Gunter) Illness and the Environment: A Reader in Contested Medicine. Another edited volume, In the Catskills: A Century of the Jewish Experience in "The Mountains" is in the process of being printed by Columbia University Press and should be available in January. It contains fiction and nonfiction, both by me and others. Phil continues to head the Catskills Institute and to run its History of the Catskills Conference. Much of this work may be viewed at [www.brown.edu/Research/Cat\\_skills\\_Institute/](http://www.brown.edu/Research/Cat_skills_Institute/).

**Nancy Chodorow** ('75) published "Reflections on the Reproduction of Mothering--Twenty Years Later," in Studies in Gender and Sexuality, 2000, 4: 337-48.

**Patricia Hill Collins** ('84) published "Like One of the Family: Ethnicity and the Paradox of National Identity," in Ethnic and Racial Studies, 2001, 24: 3-28, and "Gender, Black Feminism, and the Black Political Economy," in Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 2000, 568 41-53.

**Steven P. Dandaneau** ('92) published Taking it Big and Developing Sociological Consciousness in Post

Modern Times with Pine Forge Press.

**Lynn Davidman** ('86) published "Studying Close to Home: The Intersection of Life and Work," in Sociology of Religion 6: 425-32, 2000.

This fall, **Jean Ellson** ('00) begins her second year in the Sociology Department at the University of New Hampshire. During the past year, Jean presented papers at the Eastern Sociological Society, the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, and the American Sociological Association. Jean continues to work on her book analyzing the impact of gynecological surgery on gender identity, which is under contract to Temple University Press.

**Mindy Fried** ('96) continues working as an independent consultant, designing and implementing research studies, focusing on child care, gender equity, and community capacity building. Her clients currently are: Tufts University, Simmons Graduate School of Management's Center for Gender in Organizations, the U.S. Air Force and Brandeis University. She is also doing a study for the Urban Institute, a three-state case study (heading up the Massachusetts site) looking at how child care worker compensation shaped by and manifesting in the state's social policy agenda. She was a judge for the Braverman Graduate Student Award for SSSP this past year and co-authored "Measuring the Impact of Workplace Flexibility," published by Boston College Center for Work and Family.

**Lewis Friedland** ('85) co-authored Civic Innovation in America: Community Empowerment, Public Policy, and the Movement for Civic Renewal with Carmen Sirianni. He is the Director of the new Center for Communication and Democracy at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

**Robert Horwitz** ('83) was promoted to Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego. He published Communication and Democratic Reform

in South Africa with Cambridge University Press, 2001.

**Ruth Harriet Jacobs** ('69) retired from Clark University several years ago but still speaks regularly on feminist and aging issues. She taught a course this year on memoir writing at the Brandeis Adult Learning Institute.

**Janet Kahn** ('94) writes that on June 10th she and her partner Rose bought a wonderful "special needs" house -- an old brick Greek Revival -- built in 1840. "At the moment I am working on two studies on Lower Back Pain at Harvard Medical School, and have one proposal pending on massage at end of life, and another pending to develop curriculum modules on research for massage schools. Peace Village Projects has received a small grant for a book on peace for kids and teens and we are hoping this project will enlarge." She is finishing her second year of sitting on the advisory council for complementary medicine at NIH and finds it very illuminating and rewarding.

**Valerie Leiter** ('01) defended her dissertation, "Gentle Intrusions: Family-Centered Care in Early Intervention," in March. She has a post-doc at the Heller School and recently received a fellowship from Zero to Three to continue research used on her dissertation. In August, she presented a paper co-authored with Marty Krauss ("Consequences of Caring") at the ASA meeting.

**Donald Light** ('70) continues to do research on health care policy. Recent publications include: "Fostering a Justice-based Health Care System," in Contemporary Sociology 2000, 29: 62-74; "Sociological Perspectives on Competition in Health Care," Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, 2000, 25: 269-74; and Managed Competition, Governmentability, and Institutional Response in the United Kingdom, Social Science and Medicine, 2001, 52: 1167-81.

**Jonathan Martin** ('01) defended his

dissertation in December. He also organized an ASA 2000 panel on "Political Consciousness and Progressive Change in the 21st Century" and presented a paper: "Toward a New Consciousness of Class Consciousness: Reflections on the Study of Middle Class Economic Populism in the United States." Jonathan has been appointed to a tenure track post at Framingham State College.

**Victoria Pitts** ('99) recently published, "Visibly Queer: Body Technologies and Sexual Politics" in The Sociology Quarterly.

**David Shafer** ('99) has accepted a position as Director of Research at Trial Practices, a jury consulting company in Tampa, Florida. The firm has a history of doing defense work in capital cases many times pro bono as the founder and upper level management are all sociologists and are against the use of the death penalty.

During the academic year 2001-02, **Hammed Shahidian** ('90) is on sabbatical leave and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Glasgow. During his leave, he means to complete two manuscripts based on his field study among Iranian exiles. One, Square Pegs in Round Holes, examines exilic politics and underground activism in post-revolutionary Iran. In addition to closely studying political activism from a scholarly perspective, Square Pegs includes an autobiographical, hence experiential, component. He owes this latter to Kurt Wolff's encouragement during his days at Brandeis that he should write his autobiography as a "stranger." Feminism, Political Activism, and Exile studies women in the Iranian Left. His two other books, Coercion: Gender Politics in Revolutionary Iran and Resistance: Emerging Voices in the Iranian Women's Movement are forthcoming from Greenwood Press. He has also recently published articles in Sexualities and Current Sociology.

**Barbara Ellen Smith** ('81) is now director of the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis. She is the project director of "Race and

Nation: Building New Communities in the South," funded by the Ford, Rockefeller and Stewart Mott Foundations.

**Charles Smith** ('66) is extricating himself as much as possible from his long-time administrative duties at CUNY. Last year he published two books: Success and Survival on Wall Street: Understanding the Mind of the Market, which is an update of his Mind of the Market done 20 years ago. The other book is entitled Market Values in American Higher Education: The Pitfalls and Promises. Rowman and Littlefield published both. He continues in the editorship of The Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior. Next year will be his 20th year as senior editor after 6 years as an associate editor. His research continues to be focused on different sorts of markets.

**Barbara Tarlow** ('94) is a research associate in the Enhanced Family Caregiving Through Technology Program at the Research and Training Institute of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged.

**Katarina Wegar** ('94) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Old Dominion University. She will be on sabbatical 2001-02 and will be a Research Associate in our department while working on her book on adoption and stigma.

**Elizabeth Wood** ('99) is living on a 37' cabin cruiser in Seaford Harbor on the south shore of Long Island. She has a tenure track position at Nassau Community College. She recently gave a presentation and led a discussion with Julie Shah (Third Wave Foundation) at the Huntington 2001 International Women's Film Festival. The occasion was a screening of the documentary "Live Nude Girls Unite!" about the unionization of the Lusty Lady Theatre in San Francisco. She continues her research and writing on sex-work and has an article, "Strip Club Dancers: Working in the Fantasy Factory," in Alex Thio and Thomas Calhoun's Readings in Deviant Behavior, 2nd edition (2001, Boston: Allyn and Bacon).

## Colloquia 2000-01

**Professor John Brewer**, Queens University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. "Ending Violence: a Sociological Framework for Comparing the Peace Process in Northern Ireland and South Africa"

**Professor John Lie**, University of Illinois, Urbana. "Multi-Ethnic Japan"

**Professor Diane Vaughan**, Boston College. "Turtles All the Way Down: Ethnography, Cultural Analysis and Organizations"

**Professor Judith Shoval**, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. "The Bear's Hug in Israel: Patterns of Pragmatism Collaboration and Co-Existence of Complementary Medicine and Bio-Medicine"

**Professor Linda Blum**, University of New Hampshire. "'Bodies at Work: The Case of Breastfeeding'"

**Professor Robbie Pfeuffer Kahn**, University of Vermont. "Birth, Babies and Buddhism"

## New PhDs

Sociology:

**Jonathan Martin**: "Stew of Discontent: Middle Class Americans' Economic Populism"

Joint Degree in Sociology and Social Policy with the Florence Heller School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare:

**Valerie Leiter**: "Gentle Intrusions: Family-Centered Care in Early Intervention"

## New MAs

Sociology:

**Heather Jacobson**  
**Jennifer Zoltanski**  
**Jennifer Ginsburg Richard**

**Christine Guzman Sufrin**

Sociology & Women's Studies

**Alison Angell**

**Meg Lovejoy**

**Johanna Wigg**



## Current Grad Student Activity

**Sadhana Bery** will be a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology for 2001-02 teaching the following courses: "Protest, Politics and Change: Social Movements," "Sociology of Culture," Society, State and Politics: The Problem of Democracy" and a new offering on "Race and Identity."

**Deborah J. Cohen** presented "Rage in the 'Matrix of Domination'" at the SSSP meetings in Anaheim.

**Heather Jacobson** presented "Family Connections: Kinwork Among U.S.-based Cross-national Couples," at the meetings of the SSSP in August.

**Christa Kelleher** received a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (NIH) for the upcoming year to support her dissertation research. Her article, "Nurturing Babies, Protecting Men: The Unequal Dynamics of Women's Postpartum Caregiving Practices" co-authored with Bonnie Fox (University of Toronto), has been accepted for an edited carework volume. In Spring 2001, Christa taught "Women and Politics" for the Politics Department at Brandeis.

**Emily Kolker** presented a paper, "Drawing the Line at 1 in 9: The Social Construction of Breast Cancer Funding as a Social Problem," at the 2001 annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Anaheim, CA. Emily was also elected to the position of student member of the Nominations Committee for the Medical Sociology section of the ASA for 2001-02. In the fall, Emily will

be teaching an undergraduate, introductory course in Medical Sociology at UMass-Boston.

**Katrin Kriz** was awarded a University Dissertation Fellowship for 2001-02. The title of her proposal is "The Public and the Private Politics of Childcare: The Experiences of Dual-earner Couples with Childcare for the Very Young in Germany, Britain and Sweden."

**Meg Lovejoy** has published, "Disturbances in the Social Body: Differences in Body Image and Eating Problems in African American and White Women" in *Gender and Society* (April 2001).

**Anastasia Norton** was awarded a Janes Travel Grant by the Latin American Studies Department to spend 6 weeks in Surinam. She is visiting the Saramachan village where she lived for 2 years as a Peace Corps Volunteer and is conducting interviews with the villagers about various global issues, including aspects of transnational migration.

**Debra Osnowitz** presented a paper at ASA in August titled "Making Gender Malleable: Home-Based Professionals and Household Work." As she continues work on her dissertation, she is also working as a research associate at the Labor Resource Center at UMass Boston, where she is developing a research agenda related to contingent work and work-family issues. She also received the first Julius Berkowitz Research Award, awarded to a graduate student for support of dissertation research.

**Deborah Potter's** paper, "'Acting Up' and 'Acting Out': 'Conduct Disorder' and the Medicalization of Adolescent Aggressive Behaviors," was awarded the Lindesmith Prize by the Law and Society division of SSSP. She also co-authored "From Hyperactive Children to Adult ADHD: Observations on the Expansion of Medical Categories" (with Peter Conrad), which was published in *Social Problems*.

**Jennifer Ginsburg Richard** presented

“Chemicals and Breast Cancer: An Examination of the Methods and Implications of Linking Environmental Factors to Breast Cancer,” at the meetings of the SSP in August.

**Jennifer Zoltanski** presented “The Construction of Rape as a Problem of War: Recognition and Legitimation as a Crime Against Humanity,” at the meetings of the SSSP in August.

Three graduate students had babies this year. **Rachel Rockenmacher** gave birth to Ethan Jacob Medeiros on February 5. **Mignon Duffy** gave birth to Benjamin Folmer Jorgensen-Duffy on May 17th. And **Valerie Leiter** returned from China on April 1st with twins Esther Xing Gilbert and Evelyn Fu Gilbert who were born on October 13th. Congratulations to these families!

## Honors Thesis Symposium

A number of this year's senior concentrators conducted research and wrote fine theses. The process, for the third year, culminated in a symposium of students' work to the department faculty and guests. Topics covered socialization, the law, medical sociology, women and politics, and identity. Congratulations to these honors graduates!

### **Bridget Ahearn '01**

“Emotional and Informational Social Support in Computer Mediated Communication” - Peter Conrad, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Brenna Carney '01**

“Guyhood: An Emerging Identity in the Male Life Cycle” - Shulamit Reinharz, Faculty Thesis Advisor; Anastasia Norton, Graduate Student Thesis Advisor

### **Julia Deak '01**

“Social Movements & School Reform: Case of the MCAS” - Jo Anne Preston, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Ariella Feingold '01**

“The Ambivalence of Justice:

Illegal Chinese Immigration since 1965” - Gila Hayim, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Andy Figueroa '01**

“The Globalization of the Military-Industrial Complex & Its Effects on National Sovereignty” - George Ross, Faculty Thesis Advisor; Anastasia Norton, Graduate Student Thesis Advisor

### **Stacy Gershuny '01**

“The Changing Philosophy of Juvenile Justice: a Lens on Contemporary Childhood in America” - Peter Conrad, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Laura Godine '01**

“Is Fair Fair? Shaping Equality in American Education” - David Cunningham, Faculty Thesis Advisor; Kirsten Moe, Graduate Student Thesis Advisor

### **Dana Hagooli '01**

“Alternative Leadership in Times of Crisis: Application to Intimate Settings” - Gila J. Hayim, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Jessie Henderson-Cohen '01**

“Demerol or Davening? Influence of Religious Affiliation on Pregnancy/Childbirth Experience and Decisions among Observant Jewish Women in Israel” - Peter Conrad, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Stephanie Khalifa '01**

“Two Voices: Gender Discrimination in Sephardic Communities” - Gordon Fellman, Faculty Thesis Advisor; Oliver Benoit, Graduate Student Thesis Advisor

### **Grace Kim '01**

“The Alternative Solution: Integration of Eastern Medicine in a Western Health Care System” - Dessima Williams, Faculty Thesis Advisor; Christa Kelleher, Graduate Student Thesis Advisor

### **Rebecca Lacher '01**

“Reforming American Juvenile Justice thru Restorative Justice: Following the Success of New Zealand & Australia” - David Cunningham, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Raphael McGregor '01 ICON**

“Censorship in America: Aesthetics and Extra-legal Tactics” - Gila Hayim, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Tova Neugut '01**

“Grenada ‘As One Family, One People’: Healing Rifts of October 1983” -

Dessima Williams & George Ross, Faculty Thesis Advisors (For consideration for honors for both Sociology and Politics)

### **Elizabeth Pederson '01**

“The Double Bind: Choosing Between Motherhood & Addiction” - Stefan Timmermans, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Marsha Pierre-Jacques '01**

“Cultural Beliefs in Haitian Health: Factors Affecting Access to Health Care” - Peter Conrad, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Brooke Silverstein '01**

“‘It’s All in Your Head’: The Experience of Illness and Diagnostic Uncertainty” - Peter Conrad, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Laura Subramanian '01**

“Empowerment in the Birth Experience: Educating Women About Medicalized & Natural Childbirth Paradigms” - Maurice Stein, Faculty Thesis Advisor

### **Autumn Wiley '01**

“The Inclusion/Exclusion of Feminist Criticism of Sex & Gender Bias in the DSM\* in Abnormal Psychology Books” (\*Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) - Shulamit Reinharz, Faculty Thesis Advisor

## Incoming Class of Fall 2001

### Ph.D. Program in Sociology

in Sociology:

**Brant Downey** -- B.A. in Sociology (1998) from Okanagan University College, and from York University with an M.A. in 2001. His areas of interest are Classical Theory and Social Movement.

**Rachel Houghton** -- B.A. in English (1989) from University College London. Her area of interest is Causes of Marginalization.

### Joint MA Program with Women's Studies

**Emilie Hardman** -- B.A. in Sociology and Communications Studies (2001) from Alfred University. She is interested in Feminist Theory.

**Allison Kelley** -- B.A. in Biology (1997) from Haverford College. Allison is interested in Women's issues and Biology.

*This edition of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Peter Conrad and Judy Hanley. Please send us your news by e-mail now at either: [conrad@brandeis.edu](mailto:conrad@brandeis.edu) or [hanley@brandeis.edu](mailto:hanley@brandeis.edu). If you haven't got e-mail, 'snail mail' will do: Peter or Judy c/o Brandeis University, M.S. 071, Waltham, MA 02454-9110.*



**IMPORTANT:** If you have some news now, please send it along right away (so you don't forget). We'll hold it for the summer 2002 edition. Of course, we welcome input any time of year!

FYI: The Sociology Website will be updated this fall. Check it out at [www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology)