



# BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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## **In This Issue:**

<b>From The Chair.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Faculty Notes.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Current Graduate Student Activity.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Notes from Department Ph.D.s.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New Ph.D.'s.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>New M.A.'s.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>New Jobs for Recent Ph.D.'s.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>B.A.'s turned Ph.D.'s.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Entering Graduate Students.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Senior Theses.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **From The Chair**

Our department had a good year again, though not without some losses. Karen Hansen was promoted to full professor, published her book *Not So Nuclear Families*, and was named the first recipient of the new Dean of Arts and Sciences Mentoring Award for her outstanding work with graduate students (who barraged the dean with amazing testimonials). David Cunningham received tenure, was promoted to associate professor, and has also taken a leading role in a new Davis Foundation project on experiential and service learning across the campus, a priority focus for the dean of Arts and Sciences. Laura Miller sent the University of Chicago Press her completed book, *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Rationalization of Consumption*. Gila Hayim has also sent to press her new book, *Cultural Configurations in the Complex Systems of Modernity*. Debra Osnowitz, who defended her dissertation in August, joined our faculty on a one-year visiting line to teach courses in work, families, professions, and qualitative methods. Congratulations to Nadia Kim for her election to the council of the ASA's Asia and Asian American section!

Our graduate students continue to distinguish themselves, as is evident in the February 2005 issue of *Gender and Society* (two articles and two of our Ph.D.'s books reviewed), as well as in Emily Kolker's New Writer's Prize from *Sociology of Health and Illness*, dissertation awards for Betina Freidin, Jennifer Zoltanski, and Heather Jacobson, and many articles presented and published. Our Ph.D.s continue to publish very interesting books, such as Kay Jenkins' *Awesome Families: The Promise of Healing Relationships in the International Churches of Christ*; Monisha Das Gupta's *Unruly Immigrants: South Asian Transnational Politics*; and Seungsook Moon's *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea*. Victoria Pitts

continues our tradition of great teaching with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching at Queens College-CUNY.

Six students received their Ph.D.s last year: Mignon Duffy (joint with Heller), Oliver Benoit, Anastasia Norton, Debi Osnowitz, and Deborah Cohan. We welcomed our exciting new class of Ph.D. and M.A. students at a wonderful dinner at the home of Shula and Jehuda Reinhartz in September. Many thanks once again to Shula for helping to make this a welcoming, spirited, and fun night all around. Graduate Dean Milton Kornfeld's proposal for everyone to do a riff on the *Aristocrats* instead of the usual book and movie review, however, was overruled (actually, he didn't *exactly* propose this, but we wish to give him credit anyway for his good humor). It was great to have Milton, Peggy Higgins, Margaret Haley, and Robin Parks-McConnell from the graduate office, since they have been so helpful to us and have been wonderful to work with, as well as Prof. Christine Bishop from the Heller School, who has been so important to our joint Ph.D. program. And good to see there Janet Giele, our now retired Heller colleague, who seems to like to share our company, food, and ideas.

Judy Hanley, our tireless administrator, has begun a new side-career in television. She and her family are profiled in a forthcoming PBS documentary, "Boomers: Redefining Life After 50." Elaine Brooks, our graduate secretary, became a most happy grandmother to Joshua Lee Brooks, who (soon) begins his sociology career of critical reading on hierarchy and related topics with *Yertle the Turtle*.

Stefan Timmermans has left us for UCLA, but he has left a lasting mark on the department over the past decade. We had a wonderful party honoring him, and wish him all the best, though we will miss him and his family. George Ross announced his forthcoming retirement in 2009 and will cut back to one semester per year on campus till then, while he enjoys the freedom to write, ski, and play in many other interesting ways. We will have to exploit his talents even more intensively than we already do while we still have him with us. We mourn the loss of Hammed Shahidian, one of our Ph.D.s, who died of cancer at age 46. Hammed was an important critical voice on women in the Iranian revolution and was associate professor and chair of Sociology/Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

*Carmen Sirianni*

## **Promotions: David Cunningham and Karen V. Hansen**

David Cunningham has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Karen V. Hansen has been promoted to Full Professor. Congratulations to both on these well-deserved promotions. Karen will be on sabbatical leave for the calendar year 2006 and David will be on sabbatical next year for one semester.

## **Emily Kolker Receives 2005 New Writer's Prize**

Emily Kolker, an ABD graduate student, was awarded the 2005 New Writer's Prize by the editorial board *Sociology of Health and Illness*, the medical sociology journal of the British Sociological Association. Emily's article, "Framing as a Cultural Resource in Health Social Movements: Funding Activism and the Breast Cancer Movement in the US 1990-1993," was published in the volume 26:6 (pp.S20-S44) issue of the journal. The award is for the best article published by a novice writer.

The judging panel made the following statement: "All the articles were very good, but the one that stood out for all of us was Kolker's. This was an innovative study of the US breast cancer movement, empirically sound and well-written, presenting findings in a theoretical context that enabled the author to make an important contribution to the understanding of health social movements in general." The award includes a £250 cash award. Congratulations to Emily.

## **Brandeis Sociology in Gender and Society**

We all know gender and feminist theory is one of the substantive specialties of our department. This was no place more apparent than in the February 2005 issue of *Gender and Society* (Volume 19, no. 1). This issue included two articles and two reviews of books by our Ph.D.s. The articles were Mignon Duffy's, "Reproducing Labor Inequalities: Challenges for Feminists Conceptualizing Care at the Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class" and Debra Osnowitz's, "Managing Time in Domestic Space: Home-Based Contractors and Household Work." The issue also included reviews of Henry Rubin's (1996) and Jean Elson's (2000) books.

## **Stefan Timmermans Moves to UCLA**

After a decade in our department, Stefan Timmermans has

accepted an offer to be Professor of Sociology at UCLA. Stefan was a great colleague and fine teacher in his years in the department. He made many contributions to students' education, especially in medical sociology and ethnographic research. He coauthored articles with several graduate students including Valerie Leiter, Allison Angell, Emily Kolker and Betina Freidin. For the past two years Stefan was on a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health where he began some new research on asthma among Latino families. We thank Stefan for his contributions to our department and wish him (and Ruth and the children) well as they tackle the traffic, smog and sun of Los Angeles. We are searching for a qualitatively oriented medical sociologist to replace Stefan as the newsletter goes to press.

Stefan's new contact information is:  
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## **Rhomberg '82 Returns**

In February we were pleased to host a colloquia with Professor Chris Rhomberg. Chris received his B.A. in 1982 from Brandeis Sociology and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1998. He is now an Associate Professor of Sociology at Yale University. His talk, "No There There: Race, Class, and Political Community in Oakland," was based on his book with the same title published in 2004 by the University of California Press. Here's a description from the publisher: "Challenged by Klu Klux Klan action in the '20s, labor protests culminating in a general strike in the '40s, and the rise of the civil rights and black power struggles of the '60s, Oakland, California, seems to encapsulate in one city the broad and varied sweep of urban social movements in twentieth-century America. Taking Oakland as a case study of urban politics and society in the United States, Chris Rhomberg examines the city's successive episodes of popular insurgency for what they can tell us about critical discontinuities in the American experience of urban political community."

## **Hammed Shahidian (1959-2005): A Remembrance**

By Yassamine Mather (Iranian.com, October 8, 2005).

Hammed Shahidian, who died at the age of 46 on the 1st of October, 2005 after a two-year struggle with cancer, was a researcher, translator and activist of the Iranian left and the feminist movement. He was Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology/Anthropology Program at the University of Illinois at Springfield and in

2001-2002 Honorary Research Fellow at Glasgow University.

He was one of the founder editors of *Iran Bulletin* – Middle East Forum, a member of the editorial board of *Sexualities*, University of Essex, editor of *Critique: Journal for Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East*, Hamline University. Between 1988 - 1992 he was on the editorial board of *Porssa*: A Persian Journal of Theoretical Research.

Hammed's extensive writings on Iranian women were collected in two books in 2002. "Women in Iran: Women and Gender in the Islamic Republic" and "Women in Iran: Emerging Voices in the Women's Movement." In particular he was very critical of those apologists who argued in favour of "Islamic feminism."

In the words of Professor Bridget Fowler: He was one of a group of secular thinkers who was of great promise for the future and who already had contributed a very great deal in terms of a perspective on Iranian society. This is at once one which was committed strongly to certain values - the socialist proletarianisation of the Enlightenment - and also of great complexity and sophistication in discussing the structures of contemporary societies and especially the significance within various fields - literary and political - of dissidents. He wrote especially about those societies, such as Iran, at the cutting edge of the disputed categories "tradition" and "modernity," or "the clash of civilisations" - a term, by the way, which Bourdieu used in the context of the Algerian War, long before Huntingdon so infamously appropriated it - and in this respect he was particularly valuable."

I first met Hammed in February of 1985 in Boston, when he was studying for Ph.D. at Brandeis University. The title of his thesis was: The Woman Question in the Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979. I was on a visit to all branches of the support groups of the leftist Fedayin Minority, trying to explain a series of dreadful events in the Kurdistan Branch of this organisation. Hammed, like the rest of us, had sensed that this was the beginning of the end for the organization that had inspired so many of our generation in the 1970s and early 1980s, yet his only consolation seemed to be the fact that at least they had sent a woman to explain these problems!

This was the start of a friendship that lasted until his premature death. Throughout these 20 years, it appeared as if whatever political turn I took, whatever mistake I made, Hammed was with me. I am not sure if this was a form of political allegiance or because he didn't want to end a lifelong friendship.

In 1987, when Fedayin Minority embarked on a final split that resulted in self destruction, Hammed like most other members and supporters of the organisation refused to join any of the emerging splinter groups, instead he embarked on a relentless effort to understand the causes of the crises of the left, not only in Iran but throughout the world.

The journal *Porssa* (Boston- Glasgow 1988-1992) was a

project close to his heart and despite the short life of the journal, he remained committed to its objectives until his death. His research in the 1990s led to a series of articles and book chapters including:

- 1994, The Metamorphosis and Emancipation of the Exiled, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 7(4): 411-417
- 1995, Islam, Politics, and Writing Women's History in Iran, *Journal of Women's History* 7(2): 113-144
- 1997, Women and Clandestine Politics in Iran, 1970-85, *Feminist Studies* 23(1): 7-42
- 1997, The Politics of the Veil: Reflections on Symbolism, Islam, and Feminism, *Thamyris: Mythmaking from Past to Present* 4(2): 325-337
- 1998, Islamic Feminism and Feminist Politics in Iran, University of Illinois at Springfield
- 1999, Saving the Savior, *Sociological Inquiry* 69(2): 303-327

Hammed was a workaholic who translated books in his spare time. The Persian translations of Nawal Al Saadi's book, "Woman at Point Zero," Edward Said's "After the Last Sky," Eli Wiesel's "Night," articles and plays by Kafka, Bertolt Brecht, Lukash and Anatoli V. Lunacharski amongst others. As amazing as it might sound he even found time to translate Shamloo's poetry eloquently to English.

Four years ago, in fact on the 1st of October, he came to Glasgow to spend his 'sabbatical' year in the Centre of the Study of Socialist Theory and Movements and the Faculty of Social Sciences in Glasgow University. He had been communicating with Professors Fowler and Ticktin and although other universities in Europe had offered him better conditions and facilities he was adamant he wanted to come to Glasgow. During this year he did the bulk of the research collated in two valuable books:

- Women in Iran: Gender Politics in the Islamic Republic (2002) and
- Women in Iran: Emerging Voices in the Women's Movement (2002)

In Winter 2003 he phoned to say he and his partner Negar would be going to Egypt and he might come to London later in 2004. There was no news of him by late January and I got slightly worried, that is when he phoned to say he had been diagnosed with colon cancer, however, he added immediately that he is lucky, it had been found in an early stage and he would be cured soon. From that day until he tragic death we had many phone conversations. I always hesitated phoning fearing the worst, but he was always so reassuring that he managed to convince me he would get better soon. Even when he was ill he wouldn't give up on his research. Every time we spoke he was asking for a new article, a reference ...

In early spring he was looking for an article by Aziz Alazmeh. I told him I am not sure if I can find an electronic version of this. He replied, there is an electronic version on *Iran Bulletin/Middle East Forum* site, you can email me that version. Following Negar's suggestions I was looking for a

revolutionary treatment of colon cancer in UK when they both told me that a hospital in New Jersey was likely to perform the operation. We were all full of hope and then we got Negar's sad email. The surgeons thought nothing could be done.

I spoke to Hammed soon after this. He was as always full of hope and just to keep up his morale I said, "of course you realise in the tradition of the Fedayin you must defeat this illness." Weeks later, when one could hardly hear his voice, he told me in a serious tone ( but of course jokingly) : "Comrade Yassamine, I am well aware of my organizational responsibilities, I cannot and will not show weakness in the face of this illness."

Indeed his brave fight against this horrible disease that humanity should have overcome by now (had it not been for wars/ military/nuclear developments...) is an amazing story. Our thoughts are with his partner Negar and his loving family.

### **Hammed Received his Ph.D. from our department in 1990.**

Yassamine Mather is a member of the editorial board of *Critique, Journal of Socialist Theory*, published by Centre for the Study of Socialist Theory and Movements, Glasgow University.



## **Former Sociology B.A. '89 to Ph.D.: Estee Neuwirth's Reflections**

Dear Friends,

It is so great to hear from the Sociology Department at Brandeis - I had such a great experience in the department. Discovering sociology at Brandeis has had a big impact on my life! I received my Ph.D. in sociology in June 2004 from the University of California, Davis. My doctoral dissertation is titled: "Blurring Corporate Boundaries: Staffing Agencies, Human Resource Practices, and Unions in the New Employment Relationship." I have a paper coming out very

soon that was based on a chapter from my doctoral dissertation research - the citation is below. After receiving my PhD I did a one year Postdoctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. In the midst of my post doc I got a great job offer to work as an applied researcher at Kaiser Permanente's Care Management Institute (CMI) - an organization that works nationally to improve the quality of health care. In my daily work I help identify, study, and spread better health care practices, particularly those that are patient-centered. The work has been really fun and meaningful, and a perk of my job is that I get to teach others about the power of qualitative methods while also inspiring them to think sociologically.

I live in Berkeley, California. And I share my life with my husband Michael Stein (Brandeis class of '86, a fellow Brandeis sociology department devotee who also gets to deploy his sociological imagination in his daily work as an internet strategist working with progressive non-profit organizations) and our two children - Simon and Rachel (ages 3 and 5).

As some in the department might recall, I began my career in sociology as a work-study student in the department, photocopying articles for the faculty and assisting the administrative support staff. After taking a few courses in the department I was given an incredible opportunity to TA for one of Gordie's classes. I often reflect on what an intellectually enriching (and politically stimulating) experience I had at Brandeis. I am grateful to my mentors and faculty supporters at Brandeis and to the administrative staff who gave me my first break! I feel so fortunate to have been first introduced to sociology in such an incredible, unique, and nurturing department.

**Upcoming publication:** Neuwirth, Esther B. "Opportunities and Challenges Facing New Workforce Institutions: A Close-up Analysis of an Alternative Staffing Service." In *Worker Participation: Practices and Possibilities*, Vicki Smith (ed.) *Special Issue of Research in the Sociology of Work*, Volume 16. Oxford: JAI/Elsevier Press (forthcoming, early 2006).

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## Faculty Notes

**Peter Conrad** recently published "Prescribing More Psychotropic Medications for Children: What Does the Increase Mean?" [invited editorial], *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine* 158: 829-30, 2004 and "The Shifting Engines of Medicalization" (The Leo G. Reeder Award lecture), *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 46: 3-12, 2005. He has three pieces in press: "Medicalizing the Aging Male Body: Baldness and Andropause" (with Julia Szymczak, B.A. 2004) in Dana Rosenfeld and Christopher Faircloth, *Medicalized Masculinities*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press; "Medicalization of Deviance," (with PJ McGann) *Encyclopedia of Sociology*; "Trends in the Use of Psychotropic Medications in Adolescents, 1994-2001" (with Liz Goodman, Cindy Thomas and Rosemary Casler) in *Psychiatric Services*. He also published a seventh edition of *Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives* (Worth Publishing, 2005).

**Gordie Fellman** published "World Views, Normative Masculinity, and the Invention of Peace," *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, Spring/Summer 2005, Vol. 3, Issue 2; "The Courage of Social Scientists," in Richard A. Couto, ed., *Courses in Courage: Antioch College and the Social Sciences* (done originally as a conference honoring Antioch sesquicentennial), XLibris, 2005; and "World Conflict," in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, Ed Tiryakian, ed., Blackwell, 2005.

**Janet Giele** retired in summer 2004 but has remained active in the field. She has continued as chair and member for a number of doctoral dissertations and given several guest lectures in classes at Brandeis as well as the Distinguished Women's Studies Faculty Lecture in February 2005 on "Educated Women as Agents of Change in Their Own Lives" At the ESS meetings in March, she participated in a panel on work and family policy and in August at ASA she presented her approach to teaching family policy in the Workshop on Teaching Sociology of the Family. She continues her research on "Changing Life Patterns of College-Educated Black and White American Women, 1960-2000" with a small grant from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study to complete interviews of educated black homemakers. Janet's main writing project at the moment is a small book on Writing and the Research Process that will be a guidebook for students and others who are working on theses, dissertations, or books.

Recently promoted to full Professor, **Karen V. Hansen** has been awarded the newly established Dean of Arts and Sciences Mentoring Award for her work with graduate students. Her new book, *Not-So-Nuclear Families: Class, Gender and Networks of Care* (Rutgers 2005) was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award given by the SSSP.

**Nadia Kim** was elected to the council of the Asia and Asian American section of the American Sociological Association. She also attended SSRC International Migration Summer Institute.

**Laura Miller** presented several papers this summer: "Designing Consumer Experience: The Aesthetics of Retailing" at the World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, Stockholm, in July; "Changing the World by Feeding the Self: Natural Foods Cookbooks as Political Tracts" at the annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Halifax, also in July; and "Politics and Products: The Commercial Underpinnings of the Natural Foods Movement" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, in August. Her book, *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption* is in press at University of Chicago Press.

**Shula Reinharz** published two co-authored books: *American Jewish Women and the Zionist Enterprise* (UPNE) with Mark Raider, and *JGirl's Guide: The Young Jewish Woman's Handbook for Coming of Age*, co-authored with Penina Adelman and Ali Feldman. In addition, Shula completed a book (in Hebrew), co-edited with her husband Jehuda, and an Israeli colleague, Motti Golani, that was published by Yad Ben Zvi in Israel concerning the life and writings of Manya Shohat, a woman who should be known as the founder and implementer of the kibbutz idea. She is now working on the English translation. Other publications include an entry on Women's Studies in the *Encyclopedia of New England* and a chapter co-authored with graduate student Rachel Kulick on feminist content analysis for a new *Handbook on Feminist Research*, edited by Sharlene Hesse-Biber. Most fun for Shula, however, has been the invitation to write a weekly Opinion column for the *Jewish Advocate*. This opportunity allows her to use sociological perspectives on contemporary topics related to Jews and gender.

**George Ross** spent his one year sabbatical, coinciding with Jane (Jenson's), chilling in Orford, Quebec, Europe (Brussels and elsewhere) with too many detective stories and some work. He did publish two books: *Euros and Europeans*, with Andy Martin and a good research group (Cambridge UP), and *European Politics in Transition* (5th edition textbook), Mark Kesselmen, Joel Krieger, et al (Houghton Mifflin). George has signed a deal with Brandeis to retire in four years. His vision is to become a senior skim bum; as preparation he took three week-long skip trips to Valle Nevada (Chile), Silver Star (British Columbia) and Les Deux Alpes (France). George ended term as Chair of European Union Studies Association (EUSA), Jane (Jenson) received a Trudeau Fellowship (Canadian equivalent of MacArthur), greatly easing pressure on family finances, and Fergus the wonder dog learned that squirrels live in trees.

**Carmen Sirianni** published his book *The Civic Renewal Movement: Community Building and Democracy in the U.S* (2005), which develops the social movement dimensions (frames, networks, etc.) of his work with Lewis Friedland in *Civic Innovation in America* (2001). Based on extensive interviews in several new arenas, as well as action research in the convening of a series of strategy conferences among more

than one hundred movement leaders, this book is written especially for civic leaders, community activists, and professional practitioners, though it contains an extensive guide to scholarly and other resources. With a semester sabbatical last spring, Carmen got a good running start on a new book (the third leg of the tripod), entitled *Investing in Democracy: Government as Civic Catalyst*, which examines a series of local, state and federal agencies and programs that have been on the cutting edge of building civic capacity, and develops an ambitious public policy agenda ("public policy for democracy") to promote further change. As part of this work, he serves as an advisor to various agencies, most notably as a member of the EPA headquarters team (Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation) for the new Community Action for a Renewed Environment program, which engages all of EPA's media (air, water, toxics, solid wastes) and regional offices in promoting innovative community coalitions and models, and aims to build a national partners network across the entire field of civic environmental work. Carmen also serves on the ASA's Task Force on Public Sociology.

**Stefan Timmermans** published "Suicide Determination and the Professional Authority of Medical Examiners," *American Sociological Review*, Vol.70 (April), 311-333; "Death Brokering: Constructing Culturally Appropriate Deaths," *Sociology of Health and Illness*, Forthcoming; (with Aaron Mauck) "The Promises and Pitfalls of Evidence-Based Medicine," *Health Affairs*, Vol. 24 (1), 18-28; (with Emily Kolker) "Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Reconfiguration of Medical Knowledge," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Vol. 45, Suppl., 177-193. His book, *Suspicious Deaths*, went into production with University of Chicago Press. Stefan was a keynote speaker at a conference on standardization in Trondheim, Norway in March 2005. (See article elsewhere in newsletter about Stefan's move to UCLA).

## CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITY

**Alison Better** presented a paper "Best of Two Worlds: An Exploration of Identity Issues Among Gay Fathers" at ASA in August 2005.

**Betina Freiden** received the Jane's Travel Grant from the Latin American Studies Program for summer research and the Berkowitz Dissertation Award from our Department. She used these grants to conduct preliminary research for her dissertation on alternative medicine, specifically the development and current practice of acupuncture in Argentina. She spent 3 month in the cities of Buenos Aires and Tucuman conducting extensive fieldwork. With Stefan Timmermans, she presented a paper on childhood asthma management strategies among Latina and Non-Hispanic mothers at the 2005 ASA annual meeting in Philadelphia.

**Heather Jacobson** received a Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2004-05. She published two articles: "Challenges to Independent Child Citizenship: Immigration, Family, and the State," forthcoming in *Childhood*, (with Valerie Leiter and Jennifer Lutzy McDonald); and "Adults with Autism Living at Home or in Non-Family Settings: Positive and Negative Aspects of Residential Status," *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*. Vol. 49, Part II. February 2005, (with Marty Wyngaarden Krauss and Marsha Mailick Seltzer). She also presented "International Adoption and Standards of Parenting" at the SSSP meeting in August 2005 "Choosing Russia, Choosing China: An Analysis of Factors Involved in the Parental Choice of Adoptive Country," at the Reproductive Disruptions: Childlessness, Adoption, and Other Reproductive Complexities Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 2005.

**Emily Kolker** received the *Sociology of Health and Illness* Young Writer's Award for 2005. See article elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Rachel Kulick** was a Spencer Fellow this past year and has a paper, "Teen Voices Magazine: Re-appropriating Girl Talk," accepted in the *Cortex* (Brandeis graduate journal).

**Benjamin Phillips** currently manages the 2005 Boston Jewish Community Study, a 1,600 household sample of Jewish households in the Boston area drawn from list and RDD frames, for the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies on behalf of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. He is the author of four forthcoming publications: "Guide to NJPS 2000-01" in *Contemporary Jewry* 25 (with Charles Kadushin and Leonard Saxe), "Ethnic Capital and Inter-marriage: A Case Study of American Jews" (with Sylvia Barack Fishman) and "Reconceptualizing Religious Change: Ethno-Apostasy and Change of Religion among American Jews" (with Shaul Kelner) in a special issue

of *Sociology of Religion*, and "Intermarriage in Contemporary American Societies" (with Sylvia Barack Fishman) in the second edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. Benjamin also presented "Jewish Identity among the Adult Children of Intermarriage" (with Fern Chertok) at the 2004 meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (paper available at <http://cmjs.org/index.cfm?page=229&IDResearch=100>). He is also a co-author of "Evaluating birthright israel: Long-Term Impact and Recent Findings" (<http://cmjs.org/index.cfm?page=229&IDResearch=101>).

**Deborah Potter** presented "Engaging Parents as Partners in Community Collaboratives" at the Eastern Sociological Society, March 2005.

**Megan Renfrew** presented a paper "True Love Waits: The Regulation of Adolescent Sexuality at the Local, National, and Transnational Levels" at the The International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society's 5th annual conference at San Francisco State University, June 2005. Also, an abstract of the paper was published in *Culture, Health, and Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention, and Care*: IASSCS Conference 2005: Sexual Rights and Moral Panics Abstract Book, Vol 7, Supplement 1, June 2005 by Routledge Press.

**Cheryl Stults** presented "Physician Race-Gender Bias and Coronary Artery Disease in Women" at the ASA in 2004. In August 2005 she presented "The Commodification and Commercialization of Menopause" at the SSSP meetings and the "Demedicalization and Risk Scare on the Utilization of Hormone Replacement Therapy" at the ASA meetings.

**Jennifer Zoltanski** was awarded a Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2004-05.

## Notes From Department Ph.D.'s

**James Ault's** (1981) book *Spirit and Flesh: Life in a Fundamentalist Baptist Church* (Alfred Knopf '04) has been named one of two Honor Books in Nonfiction by the Massachusetts Center for the Book (the state arm of the Library of Congress' Center). *The Christian Science Monitor* named it one of the 5 best nonfiction books of 2004 and it came out in paper with Vintage in September and *The Washington Post* called it "The best single-volume explanation of why American fundamentalist Christianity thrives among certain people . . . and will not die out."

**Phil Brown** (1979) co-authored a number of papers with his contested illness research group at Brown University, including "Gender, Embodiment, and Disease: Environmental Breast Cancer Activists' Challenges to Science, the Biomedical Model, and Policy" in *Science as Culture*, "The Politics of Asthma Suffering: Environmental Justice and the Social Movement Transformation of Illness Experience" in *Where We Live, Work, and Play: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, David Pellow and Robert Brulle, eds. and "A Lab of Our Own": Environmental Causation Of Breast Cancer and Challenges to the Dominant Epidemiological Paradigm" will shortly appear in *Science, Technology, and Human Values*. In addition he also published "The Benefits of Community Medical Monitoring at Nuclear Weapons Production Sites: Lessons from Fernald" (with Benjamin Gerhardtstein) in *Environmental Law Reporter*. In addition to academic research his research group works collaboratively with a number of community based organizations that deal with environmental health issues.

**C.J. Churchill** (2000) published two articles: "Ethnography as Translation" appeared in *Qualitative Sociology* (Vol. 28 No. 1 Spring 2005) and "Collective Dissociation in Mass Society" appeared in *Humanity & Society* (Vol. 28 No. 4 November 2004). He completed his first year of psychoanalytic training at the New York Freudian Society and began his second year in September. As a part of the analytic training, he is spending this July through January 2006 in a psychology externship at Bellevue Hospital's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program.

**Monisha Das Gupta** (1999) published "Of Hardship and Hostility: The Impact of 9/11 on Taxi Drivers in New York City," "*Wounded City: The Social Impact of 9/11*" edited by Nancy Foner, New York: Russell Sage Books, 2005 and "A View of Post-9/11 Justice from Below," *Peace Review* 16(2), 2004. She also published "The Neoliberal State and the Domestic Workers' Movement in New York City," *Canadian Woman Studies* special issue on "Migration, Labour and Exploitation: Trafficking in Women and Girls" 22 (3/4), 2003. Her book *Unruly Immigrants: South Asian Transnational Politics* is forthcoming from Duke University Press and her article, "Bewildered? Women's Studies in the U.S. and the War on Terror" is forthcoming in *Interrogating Imperialism: Conversations on Gender, Race, and War* edited by Naem

Inayatullah and Robin Riley, published by Palgrave/Macmillan.

**Jean Elson** (2000) continues as an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at The University of New Hampshire. During the past year, her book, *Am I Still a Woman? Hysterectomy and Gender Identity* (Temple University Press, 2004) received additional positive critical reviews. Last September, an interview with Jean, "The Hidden Impact of Hysterectomy," was included in the medical journal *Women's Health in Primary Care*. Jean's book was also reviewed in the February 2005 issue of *Gender & Society* and she presented a colloquium on her book research at a January meeting of the UNH President's Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, a symposium on Am I Still a Woman? is featured in the July 2005 issue of *Contemporary Sociology*. Jean's review of Nellie Oudshoorn's book, *The Male Pill*, appeared in the March 2005 issue of *Contemporary Sociology*, and she was the organizer and discussant for the "Health Disparities" panel at the SSSP annual meeting in August. With the assistance of one of her graduate students at UNH, Jean has authored a chapter for the forthcoming *Our Bodies, Ourselves* book on menopause.

**Mindy Fried** (1996) has co-founded a research consulting firm, called ArborConsulting, with two colleagues, one of whom is a Brandeis-trained anthropologist (and former partner in a child care co-op!). Two of their most recent projects have been: a study at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), a longitudinal assessment of why workers are leaving the organization; and an evaluation of a student-led campaign at MIT that is aimed at reducing dangerous drinking among students. Mindy has also paired up with **Claire Reinelt** (1996), to conduct an evaluation of a leadership program at the Rhode Island Foundation. Mindy is also a faculty member for the VSA Arts Institute, a professional development institute focused on training teachers and teaching artists, and she has conducted a strategic planning process for the institute as well. Mindy continues to be a Visiting Lecturer at MIT in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and in Women's Studies, teaching a course called *Gender and Race, Work and Public Policy*. After a hiatus from the "conference circuit," she has most recently presented "From Macro to Micro: Downsizing and Worker Control," at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference in Washington, D.C. (2005). She presented "Teaching Work and Family Policy" at the American Sociological Association Conference in Philadelphia this summer, and was moderator and discussant for "Weaving and Balancing, Work and Life: Quality and Control," at the Society for Study of Social Problems meeting (a panel that was organized by new Brandeis Ph.D., **Debi Osnowitz!**). Her daughter Sasha - once a Brandeis babe and now nearly 14 years old is totally into theater and plays a mean piano, and at one point this year claimed that Latin was her favorite subject! Peter is writing plays (!) and loving it, and Mindy's 92-year-old dad, Manny, (whom some of you know) played Morrie in the play "Tuesdays with Morrie" this past February at the Studio Arena Theater, an equity theater in Buffalo, New York!

**Kathleen (Kay) E. Jenkins** (2002) accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of William and Mary. Her book, *Awesome Families: The Promise of Healing Relationships in the International Churches of Christ* was published Fall 2005 by Rutgers University Press.

**Kati Kriz** (2003) works as a Projects Coordinator for the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy at the Kennedy School of Government, organizing research residencies for Harvard Ph.D. students in the social sciences at 13 university departments and research institutes in Western Europe. Kati's article on "How Grandmothers Become 'Second Moms': Family Policies and Grandmothering in Britain, Germany and Sweden" is forthcoming in the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*, vol. 7.2.

**Janice Irvine** (1984) was appointed Director of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. She also received the 2005 Simon and Gagnon Award from the Sociology of Sexualities Section of the ASA. A revised and expanded version of *Disorders of Desire: Sexuality and Gender in Modern American Sexology* was published by Temple University Press.

**Valerie Leiter** (2001) has three forthcoming publications focused on childhood: "Families and Childhood Disabilities" in *Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell; "The Division of Labor Between Systems of Therapeutic Care for Children with Disabilities" in the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*; and "Challenges to Independent Child Citizenship: Families, Immigration, and the State" in *Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Research* (with Jennifer Lutzi McDonald and Heather T. Jacobson). She has just begun a two-year term as co-chair of the Health division of SSSP.

**PJ McGann** (1991) has an article "Healing (disorderly) Desire: Medical-therapeutic Regulation of Sexuality," forthcoming in *Sex and Society*, edited by Steven Seidman, Nancy Fischer, and Chet Meeks, New York: Routledge. 2006. She also co-authored an article, "The Medicalization of Deviance" (with Peter Conrad) for *The Encyclopedia of Sociology*. She recently presented two papers: the first at the NASSS meetings from her on-going participant observation study of adult hockey ("Of Pucks and Men: A Female Body in Naturalized Masculine Terrain") and the other, a retrospective on her time as chair of the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division, at the 2005 SSSP. She was also co-chair of the Program Committee for the 2005 SSSP meetings.

**Seungsook Moon** (1994), Associate Professor of Sociology at Vassar College, published her book, *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea* (Duke University Press 2005). She also published an article, entitled "Trouble with Conscripted, Entertaining Soldiers: Popular Culture and the Politics of Militarized Masculinity in South Korea" in *Men and Masculinities* (July 2005). She reviewed *The Remasculinization of Korean Cinema* (2004) in *Journal of Gender Studies* (July 2005), *The Melodrama of Mobility: Women, Talk and Class in Contemporary South Korea* (2003) in *Gender & Society*

(February 2005) and *Narratives of Nation Building in Korea: A Genealogy of Patriotism* (2003) in *Acta Koreana* (July 2005). Seungsook is currently working on two projects. One is a special issue/edited volume project on "Gender & Sexuality in the Global U.S. Military Empire." The other is a single-authored book project based on her 10-month fieldwork in South Korea, funded by 2004-2005 Fulbright Research Award. She was also awarded a 2005 Korea Foundation Advanced Research Grant to write this book, tentatively entitled "Making Citizens, Practicing Citizenship: Gender, Class and the Civic Selfhood in South Korea." During her 2005-2006 research leave, she is residing in New Haven where she will participate in a workshop on Comparative Modernity organized by Prof. Julia Adams at Yale University.

**Debra Osnowitz** (2005) published "Managing Time in Domestic Space: Home-Based Contractors and Household Work" in *Gender & Society*, February 2005. She is delighted to be spending the academic year 2005-06 teaching in the sociology department at Brandeis.

**Victoria Pitts** (1999) was the keynote speaker at the Bodies in Transformation Conference at the University of California-Santa Cruz in October, where she presented an address called "Beauty, Body Image and Psychosocial Power." She gave invited lectures at UC Davis, UCSF, and the Graduate Theological Seminary at Berkeley in 2004-2005. Her article "Feminism, Technology, and Body Projects" is in the most recent issue of *Women's Studies*. She has been awarded the 2005 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching at Queens College, and was appointed to the doctoral faculty at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

**Elizabeth Wood** (1999) was awarded tenure, and promoted to Assistant Professor (they start as "Instructor") at Nassau Community College, a unit of the SUNY system.

## ***New Ph.D.'s***

### **SOCIOLOGY**

#### **Martin Oliver Benoit**

"Causes of Social Change and Conflict, and the Emergence of a National Consciousness in Grenada"

#### **Deborah Cohan**

"Rage and Sociological Imagination"

#### **Anastasia Norton**

"U Da Sembe Fa Aki (We Are People of This Place) Place Attachment and Belonging: A Saramaka to Globalization"

#### **Debra Osnowitz**

"Title: Marketing Expertise: The Contingent Experience of Contract Professionals"

### **SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY**

#### **Mignon Duffy**

"One Hundred Years of Buying Care: Gender, Race, Immigration, and Market Care Work in the Twentieth Century"

## ***New MA's***

### **SOCIOLOGY**

#### **Reginald Sapp**

### **SOCIOLOGY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

#### **Sara Kennedy**

#### **Erin Maurer**

#### **Carla Harris Pascal**

## ***New Jobs for Recent Ph.D.'s***

**Martin Oliver Benoit** - Assistant Professor, (tenure track) St. George's University (in Grenada)

**Sadhana Bery** - Lecturer, Harvard University, Social Studies Department

**Mignon Duffy** - Assistant Professor, (tenure track) University of Massachusetts/Lowell

**Kay Jenkins** - Assistant Professor, (tenure track), College of William & Mary

**Debra Osnowitz** - Full time Lecturer for Sociology for academic year 2005-2006, Brandeis University

## ***B.A.'s Recently Turned Ph.D.'s***

**Abigail Lawrence '96.** Ph.D. in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Michigan (August 2005).

"Recreating the Common Good: Intergenerational Community Action." Abbie is now doing a post-doctoral internship at the Turner Geriatric Clinic and Senior Resource Center which is affiliated with the University of Michigan Hospital.

**Adaline Mueyed '89.** Ph.D. in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University (2005).

"Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms and the Protective Role of Social Support Systems (Parent, School and Peer) in Urban Adolescents"

**Esther Neuwirth '89.** Ph.D. in Sociology with a designated emphasis in Social Theory and Comparative History, University of California at Davis (2004). (see earlier article on Estee.)

"Blurring Corporate Boundaries: Staffing Agencies, Human Resource Practices, and Unions in the New Employment Relationship"

**Judith K. Taylor '93.** Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara (2002). Currently Assistant Professor in Sociology and Women's Studies at the University Toronto.

"Activist Bureaucrats: A Study of the People who turn Movement Ideals into Institutional Logics"

## ***Entering Graduate Students***

This Fall the department welcomed nine new graduate students.

New Sociology Ph.D. Students:

**Guy Abutbul Selinger** graduated from Ben Gurion University in 2002 with an M.A. in Cultural Sociology; in 1998 with a B.A. in Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology.

**Erin Rehel** graduated from McGill University in 2005 with an M.A. in Religious Studies (specialization in Bioethics); in 2003 with a B.A. in Religious Studies.

**Chih-Yan Sun** graduated from the National Taiwan University Graduate Institute of Journalism, in 2004 with an M.A., and in 2001 from National Tsing Hua University, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, with a B.A.

**Miranda Waggoner** graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004 with a B.A. in Sociology and Government.

Two Joint Ph.D. Students entered from The Heller School:

**Tom Shields** has been a part-time graduate student at The Heller School at Brandeis since 2003 and enters our department as a part-time joint Ph.D. student. Tom graduated from Tufts University in 1996 with an M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy and from Cornell University in 1991 with a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies.

**Rebekah Zincavage** has done a year of graduate work at The Heller School at Brandeis and enters our department as a joint Ph.D. student. Rebekah graduated from Boston College in 2004 with an M.A. in Sociology and from Wesleyan University in 1996 with a B.A. in Sociology and American Studies.

Joint M.A. Students- Sociology and Women's Studies:

**Emily Hogan** graduated from Boston College in 2004 with a B.A. majoring in Human Development.

**Sonja Jacob** graduated from Brandeis in 2005 with a B.A. majoring in Sociology.

**Cristen Powell** graduated from Linfield College with a B.A. majoring in Sociology and Psychology.

## **Senior Theses**

**Alia N. Kaneko.** "Advancing Justice: Social Legal Insights of Restorative Justice."

**Kathrine S. Kim.** "Laws of Attractions: Korean American College Students Navigating Gendered Racial Stereotypes of One Another."

**Nathaniel Wayne Westheimer.** "Signs of Leadership: A Theoretical Inquiry on the Elements of Leadership."



\* This edition of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Peter Conrad, Judy Hanley, and Vidal Bahar '07. Please send us news by e-mail to [conrad@brandeis.edu](mailto:conrad@brandeis.edu).

\* Be sure to visit us at <http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology>.