Notes from the Chair
David Cunningham

Happy New Year and greetings from Pearlman Hall! Following a year marked by an unusual amount of departmental transition, I am pleased to introduce this newsletter by reporting on a spate of recent accomplishments and good news that reflect the current strength and vibrancy of Brandeis Sociology.

Fittingly, I'll begin with some farewells and welcomes. After a quarter-century of shepherding the department through thick and thin, senior department administrator extraordinaire Judy Hanley retired this past summer. We miss her wit and wisdom tremendously, but our staff transition has been abetted by a double dose of good fortune. First, Cheryl Hansen agreed to join the department full-time, after several years of deftly juggling our graduate program and a mind-bogglingly large number of interdisciplinary programs around campus. Second, we welcomed Lauren Jordahl to Pearlman, where she now is very ably guiding graduate admissions, department grant administration, and two programs with close ties to Sociology (Peace, Conflict, & Coexistence Studies ([PAX] and Social Justice & Social Policy [SJSP]). As the newsletter you are holding in your hands (or, more likely, viewing on your screen) demonstrates, she also is a formidable editor!

Among Cheryl and Lauren's first acts was a welcome reshuffling of work spaces in Pearlman Hall, which enabled the unveiling this past fall of a dedicated conference room for meetings and other gatherings. In the conference room resides an ever-growing display of books published by Brandeis Sociology faculty and alums, so we hope that everyone in the Brandeis family will continue sending news of works to add to this collection. Most importantly, I hope you will join me in wishing Judy well, congratulating Cheryl on the move to our senior administrator position, and welcoming Lauren to Brandeis!

We also are very pleased to welcome Mike Strand, who will be joining our department next fall as an Assistant Professor. A native of
Wyoming, Mike received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame in 2013, and currently is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. His interests extend to classical and contemporary social theory, morality, culture, and the sociology of knowledge, and he has published related work in a range of highly regarded journals, including Theory and Society, the Annual Review of Sociology, and Poetics. He currently is at work on a book manuscript titled The Origins of Social Justice. We are excited as well about his contributions in the classroom, which in 2015-16 will include a graduate social theory seminar, a new undergraduate course, and the graduate proseminar.

Continuing the flurry of books published by department faculty, Ana Villalobos's Motherload: Making It All Better in Insecure Times was released to strong acclaim this past September by the University of California Press. Sara Shostak's 2013 book Exposed Science was recognized with two(!) 2014 ASA book awards: the Robert K. Merton Book Award from the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology, and the Medical Sociology Section's Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award. My book Klansville, U.S.A. also received the Outstanding Book Award from the ASA’s Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, and was named the 2014 Honorable Mention for the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Charles Tilly Award for Best Book.

Accomplishments by our graduate students continue to stack up as well. On campus, Meredith Bergey won a Mellon Foundation Dissertation Year Fellowship and Sara Chaganti received a University Prize Instructorship to teach her course "Work, Employment, and Unemployment: Sociological Approaches" in Spring 2015. Casey Clevenger's dissertation research has been supported by an external grant from Association for the Sociology of Religion, and Margaret Clendenen's work with Wendy Cadge on chaplains in the U.S. Congress has benefited from a grant from the Shand Endowment of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

This past fall, three of our recent PhDs began new Assistant Professor positions: Nicky Fox at the University of New Hampshire, Vanessa Munoz at Colorado College, and Tom Mackie at Tufts Medical Center. And on the undergraduate side, we recently learned that Brandeis Sociology has come in at #6 overall (of the 547 schools ranked) in the latest USA Today-reported ranking of the nation's top undergraduate Sociology programs. As by far the smallest program in the top tier, Brandeis fared quite well among our distinguished peers, falling right behind Princeton and just ahead of Columbia, Chicago, Stanford, and Penn!

Amidst all of this good news, I would like to close my final collection of chair notes on a more personal note, to express my great appreciation to the entire Brandeis Sociology community. I will be departing both from the chairship and from Brandeis following this year, but I've been honored to be part of this department and its traditions for the past sixteen years. I will always feel a great connection to the most vibrant, varied, and committed group of scholars in the country. I eagerly await future editions of this newsletter, and the great accomplishments that they will contain!

With best wishes for 2015 and beyond,

[Signature]
Faculty Notes

Wendy Cadge continues work on new research projects this year about religion in spirituality in public settings include airports, ports and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. She published several articles including “’Watch Over Us Sweet Angels:’ How Loved Ones Remember Babies in a Hospital Memory Book” with Nicky Fox. Omega: Journal of Death and Dying; “Experience with a Hospital Policy on Not Offering Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation When Believed More Harmful than Beneficial” with Andrew Courtwright, Sharon Brackett, Erik L. Krakauer, Ellen M. Robinson. Journal of Critical Care; “Making ‘Invisible Religion’ Visible: The Significance of Religion and Spirituality in Secular Organizations” with Mary Ellen Konieczny. Sociology of Religion 75(4); and “How Do Social Service Providers View Recent Immigrants? Perspectives from Portland, Maine and Olympia, Washington” with Casey Clevenger, Amelia Seraphia Derr and Sara Curran. Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies. 12: 67-86. She continues as the Chair of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. More information and pdfs of articles are at www.wendycadge.com. She, her partner Deborah and their son Nate (age 3.5) welcomed baby sister Risa in July 2015.

Peter Conrad published several papers this year:
• “Autism, the Internet and Medicalization” (with Catherine Tan) Pp. 111-131 in Willy Viehoever and Peter Wehling (eds.) The Public Shaping of Medical Research: Patient Associations, Health Movements and Biomedicine. Routledge, forthcoming.
• “Mental Illness as a Form of Deviance: Historical Notes and Contemporary Directions” (with Julia Bandini) in Erich Goode (ed.) Wiley Handbook on Deviance. John Wiley, forthcoming
Peter also gave papers in Yokohama (ISA), Belfast (Queens University) and Munich this past year.

David Cunningham’s article “Political Polarization as a Social Movement Outcome: 1960s Klan Activism and its Enduring Impact on Political Realignment in Southern Counties, 1960-2000,” with colleagues Rory McVeigh and Justin Farrell, was published in the December 2014 issue of the American Sociological Review. Work forthcoming in 2015 includes a special issue of the journal Race and Justice, co-edited with Geoff Ward, on “Legacies of Racial Conflict and Violence,” and a Sociology Compass article co-authored with Brandeis Ph.D. student Rachel Madsen titled “What is the KKK a Case Of?: Extreme Cases as Analytic Device.” His book Klansville, U.S.A.: The Rise and Fall of the Civil Rights-Era KKK (Oxford University Press, 2013) received the 2014 Outstanding Book Award from the ASA’s Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, and was the 2014 Honorable Mention for the ASA’s Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Charles Tilly Award for Best Book. The book also served as the basis for the American Experience documentary Klansville, U.S.A., which aired nationally on PBS in January 2015. He has also been featured in a video discussing the organization of Jim Crow segregation, as part of Facing History and Ourselves’ Teaching Mockingbird curriculum. This past summer, under the auspices of the Justice Brandeis Semester program “Civil Rights and Educational Equity in the U.S.,” he collaborated with students from Brandeis and Jackson State University and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism on a Spencer Foundation-funded project comparing trajectories of school desegregation in Boston and Jackson, MS. The group’s Boston-based research unearthed a set of 31 essays from 1975 reflecting on experiences with busing by sixth-graders in Dorchester’s Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School. The essays and follow-up research provided the initial basis for a year-long collaboration on the legacy of busing in Boston between Brandeis’ Schuster Institute and Boston
public broadcasting station WGBH. Over the past year, he also gave the Catherine McLaughlin Hakim Lecture at Emmanuel College, and invited presentations at Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis, Western Carolina University, the Boston Globe, and both the Eastern and Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings.

Gordie Fellman, at the annual meetings of the Peace and Justice Studies Association in October, presented a discussion of possibilities of a worldwide arms reduction movement. He believes it is about time for this to get off the ground. Along with climate change, arms reduction seems to be a pressing and logical way to fund necessary services like education, health care, housing, infrastructure repair.

Karen V. Hansen has been speaking about Encounter on the Great Plains (Oxford 2013) to various audiences on the Spirit Lake Dakota Indian Reservation in North Dakota, at public and professional meetings in the U.S., and in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. Her essay, “Breaching Boundaries and Dowsing for Stories on the Great Plains,” was published in a new anthology, Open to Disruption: Time and Craft in the Practice of Slow Sociology (Vanderbilt 2014), edited by Anita Garey, Rosanna Hertz, and Margaret Nelson. She continues to be visiting scholar at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard and to co-edit the Families in Focus series for Rutgers University Press.

Sara Shostak enjoyed her first year as an Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Health: Science, Society and Policy (HSSP) Program. This summer brought the very welcome news that her book, Exposed Science: Genes, the Environment, and the Politics of Population Health (University of California Press, 2013), won both the Robert K. Merton Book Award, from the ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology, and the Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, from the Medical Sociology Section. Her recent publications include a coauthored paper in Nature Reviews Neurology, and two forthcoming book chapters written with Margot Moinester (HSSP 2009). She also has kept busy giving talks, most recently at Bowdoin College, Cornell University, Boston University, the University of California - Los Angeles, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and Northwestern University. Her ongoing research and writing spans the multiple determinants of health, including projects on the psychosocial dimensions of genetic information, the efficacy of mobile farmers markets for improving access to healthy food in low income communities, and the emergence of urban agriculture in New England cities. In Spring 2015, she will be a visiting scholar in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University.

Carmen Sirianni, with Jennifer Girouard as the first editor, published Varieties of Civic Innovation: Deliberative, Collaborative, Narrative, and Network Approaches (Vanderbilt University Press, 2014). He and his co-editors have completed the draft of Contestation and Collaboration in Environmental Governance, edited with Kenneth Andrews and Dana Fisher, which grew out of the National Science Foundation-sponsored workshops, Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center-SESYNC, University of Maryland. He has begun work on Green Democracy: Civic Engagement and Institutional Field in American Environmentalism, an historical institutionalist study (1945-2015). He presented “Systemic Resilience: A Community Perspective,” 8th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in April 2014. He also participated in the Climate Resilience Workshop, White House Safety Datapalooza, co-sponsored by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in January. He is a participant in the Civic Science Workshop, National Science Foundation, in collaboration with Spence Laboratories, University of Iowa, and the Center for Democracy and Citizenship, Augsburg College. He continues his appointment as Faculty Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2009-present.
Ana Villalobos’s book *Motherload: Making it All Better in Insecure Times* was published in September 2014 by University of California Press. In it, she argues that intensive motherhood is a response to societal insecurity, and her data reveals how putting high expectations on the mother-child relationship to create security actually destabilizes families. Her article “Compensatory Connection: Mothers’ Own Stakes in an Intensive Mother-Child Relationship,” based on the same research, will be appearing in *Journal of Family Issues* and was prepublished online in 2014. In a separate project, Ana interrogated the notion of stay-home mothering as a “gift” with no strings attached, and published “The Free Gift: How U.S. Stay-at-Home Mothers Sustain Themselves in a Culture of Nonreciprocity” in an anthology on stay-home mothering. Ana was an invited speaker about her work on mothering, and presented “Mothers’ Own Stakes in Intensive Parenting” at ASA, as well as “The Perils of the ‘Good Mother’ Identity” at an invited thematic session on Identity Work at ESS. Ana’s new research looks at teenagers’ presentation of self online and in their college applications, and how the intense attention teens are putting into these 2-dimensional self-presentations affects their senses of who they are. Relatedly, she created and taught a new course at Brandeis entitled *Self & Society: Who am I Really?* The course delves into the question of what a self really is, and its pilot run in Spring 2014 was a deep socio-philosophical journey both for the students and for Ana!

**PhD Alumni**

Jim Ault (PhD, 1981) has screenings and presentations of his recently released *African Christianity Rising* documentary film series at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the African Studies Association, and at numerous academic institutions in the US and abroad. He will be speaking on the subject at a gathering of presidents of theological schools in the US and Canada hosted by the Association of Theological Schools. He is writing a book on the subject that will, in its e-book edition, have links to project video embedded in its text. He is completing a new documentary on the annual Dia de los Muertos holiday festival in Santa Ana, CA, and planning another on the life and work of Virgilio Elizondo, considered the father of Latino theology in the US.

Susan Bell (PhD, 1981) is the co-editor with Anne Figert (Loyola University Chicago) of a collection, *Reimagining (Bio)Medicalization, Pharmaceuticals and Genetics: Old Critiques and New Engagements*, in press (Routledge 2015). Peter Conrad wrote the Preface to it and one of the chapters in the collection is authored by Sara Shostak and Margaret Moinester.

Alison Better (PhD, 2010) is working on a book with her colleagues entitled *Civic Engagement Pedagogy in the Community College: Theory and Practice*, under contract with Springer. She is co-editor for the volume and is contributing a chapter. Her article "Learning from Experience: Integrating Students’ Everyday Lives into the Urban Community College Sociology Classroom" was published in *The American Sociologist* at the end of 2013. She received a President’s Faculty Innovation Award from CUNY Kingsborough Community College to support a public sociology cross-campus collaboration with Brandeis Kay Fellow Jillian Powers. Alison also received a PSC-CUNY Grant to support her research on women's sexuality and sex shops.

Janet Mancini Billson (PhD, 1976) conducted three major organizational development studies for the World Bank group during the past year. The first one was a staff learning and training needs assessment for the Health, Nutrition, and Population division. The second was a program evaluation of the institution-wide Innovation Challenge Grant. The third study, for the Independent Evaluation Group, explored the challenges of achieving
effective collaboration and solutions to those challenges. She continues to live near Bath, Maine, and invites all her old department colleagues to visit whenever they're up in the Midcoast Maine region.

**Phil Brown** (PhD, 1979) has built his new Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute (SSEHRI) at Northeastern University, which in a short two years now numbers 23 people, including 10 PhD students, 2 MA students, 8 faculty, and 3 postdocs. SSEHRI’s three previous postdocs all got jobs – 2 tenure-track jobs and one research position. Phil is part of Northeastern University’s Superfund Research Program, which studies environmental contaminants’ effect on preterm birth in Puerto Rico and technologies to remediate contamination, and the large program grant was renewed in April 2014 for 5 more years. Among Phil’s recent articles are: “Bridging Research and Environmental Regulatory Processes: The Role of Knowledge Brokers,” (Kelly G. Pennell, Marcella Thompson, James W. Rice, Laura Senier, Phil Brown, Eric Suuberg). *Environmental Science & Technology* 2013 47(21):11985-11992; “Reporting individual results for biomonitoring and environmental exposures: Lessons learned from environmental communication case studies” (Julia G. Brody, Sarah C. Dunagan, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, Sharyle Patton and Ruthann A. Rudel) *Environmental Health* 2014 13:40; “Ductal carcinoma in situ: a brief review of treatment variation and impacts on patients and society” (Christine M. Vatovec, Mujde Z. Erten, Jane Kolodinsky, Phil Brown, Marie Wood, Ted James, and Brian L. Sprague). *Critical Reviews in Eukaryotic Gene Expression*; “Firefighters and Flame Retardant Activism” (Alissa Cordner, Kathryn Rodgers, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Phil Brown) *New Solutions*. 24:507-530; and “Post-Belmont Ethics and the Challenge of Results Communication in Biomonitoring Studies: Lessons from Genetics and Imaging Research” (Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Varshavsky, Max Liboiron, Phil Brown, and Julia Green Brody) *Environmental Research*. In press.

**Levon Chorbajian** (PhD, 1974) presented his paper 'History by Fiat: Turkish Lying about the Armenian Genocide from 1915 through the Interwar Years' at the World War I: Dissent, Activism, and Transformation Conference co-sponsored by the Peace History Society and Georgian Court University.

**CJ Churchill** (PhD, 2000) had his paper, "'Is That All there Is?: Time, Guilt, and Melancholia in Sleep No More and Macbeth" accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies* (pdf copies available upon request). In it, he uses Freud's "Mourning and Melancholia" to interpret Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *Sleep No More*, an "immersive theater" production currently running in New York City based largely on *Macbeth*. He also reviewed *Language, Ethnography, and Education: Bridging New Literacy Studies and Bourdieu for Teachers College Record*, and he has served this year as a sociology book manuscript peer reviewer for Routledge. His review of *Ethnomethodology at Play* edited by Peter Tolmie & Mark Rouncefield is forthcoming in *Contemporary Sociology*.

**Lynn Davidman** (PhD, 1986) has a new book, *Becoming Un-Orthodox: Stories of Ex-Hasidim* that was released from Oxford University Press in October 2014. She is pleased, and amazed, that before the book even came out, it had received an enormous amount of attention: a profile on her in Publisher’s Weekly, a short review of the book in Publisher’s Weekly, a profile of her and the book in thenewrepublic.com (and then reprinted in nymagazine.com) and the Huffington Post. She recently learned from her editor that her book sold out before it was even released!

**Mindy Fried** (PhD, 1996) continues to juggle a number of endeavors, in hopes that they will result in a balanced life. Her consulting group, Arbor Consulting Partners has been working with a number of organizations this year, most recently evaluating 826, a national creative writing program for young people in underserved neighborhoods, and also evaluating the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovation Alliance, an NSF-funded program, which aims to support scientists to bring their ideas to market. This past spring, Mindy designed and taught a women’s studies course at MIT called Gender, Power, Leadership and the Workplace, and she’ll be teaching an
evaluation research course this spring to graduate sociology students at Boston College. Following her passion for music and organizing, she and a friend co-organized a “porchfest” in Jamaica Plain, which is a musical festival held on porches throughout the neighborhood. The event included 65 bands playing on 35 porches to a roving audience of 7,000 people. She is now fundraising for JP Porchfest 2015, via a Kickstarter campaign (launched on 10/15). She is also looking for an agent for a memoir she wrote based on caring for her activist playwright dad in his final year of life. Her daughter, Sasha, who grew up playing in the main office of Pearlman, is now 23 years old, graduated from Tulane over a year ago (Sociology major and Women’s Studies minor), and is working in DC for a children’s theater nonprofit. Peter is still writing plays, and is currently the Playwright in Residence at the Hibernian Hall arts center in Roxbury.

Amanda Gengler (PhD, 2014) completed her first year on the tenure-track at Wake Forest University. Her article, "'I Want you to Save My Kid!' Illness Management Strategies, Access, and Inequality at an Elite University Research Hospital" was published in the September 2014 issue of Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Hank Greenspan (PhD, 1985) is working on a film constructed around his play, Remnants, which itself is based on his doctoral work on Holocaust survivors at Brandeis. He's now been interviewing survivors--including some in the initial group--for almost forty years. The film is called, "Remnants, a Life among Survivors." Greenspan has performed the play live as a one-man show at more than 300 venues worldwide.

Jeffrey Herf (PhD, 1981) has taught in the Department of History at the University of Maryland in College Park since 2000. This year, he was appointed as a Distinguished University Professor at the University.

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom (PhD, 1970) is still teaching at Boston College as Professor Emerita, primarily supervising independent student projects (which continue to win awards). She also continues to work with the Eastern Sociological Society Opportunities in Retirement Network. Several members active in the group took the concept to the ASA level, and now, with the support of the ASA, there is a national Opportunities in Retirement Network.

Kathleen (Kay) Jenkins (PhD, 2002) is currently Chair of the Sociology Department at the College of William and Mary. Her new book, Sacred Divorce: Religion, Therapeutic Culture, and Ending Life Partnerships, was recently published by Rutgers University Press (http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Sacred-Divorce,5226.aspx).

Donald W. Light (PhD, 1970), having won the Distinguished Career Award in the practice of sociology from the ASA, continues with his work on prescription drugs as a major health risk that sociologists and policy makers overlook. Drugs are the 4th leading cause of death, tied with stroke, and they lead to about 2.7 million hospitalizations a year in the US alone. Don's research as a fellow at Harvard's E J Safra Center for Ethics is summarized in an article you can download at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2282014. A forthcoming book with Palgrave-Macmillan, GOOD PHARMA, is an extensive case study of a research institute driven by ethics of integrity and transparency that has learned how to avoid the prevailing practices of "Bad Pharma" - doing research primarily to maximize patents that turns out drugs mainly with few clinical advantages for patients, hiding or obscuring negative findings, designing clinical trials to make their drugs look more effective and safe than they are in practice, and biasing medical knowledge. By contrast, the Mario Negri Institute only does research that to find clinically better therapies, patents none of its discoveries because patenting distorts every step of research, and has research teams write their own grants, control research design, do trials only to test for superior clinical results, and publish all negative and well as positive results. The Institute has also reached out to reform what drugs doctors prescribe and how, and to study drugs as toxic waste in the environment. The book should be out in March 2015. Don is a professor at Rowan University and is a visiting researcher on immigration and access to health care at Princeton University.
Seungsook Moon (PhD, 1994) is a Professor of Sociology at Vassar College and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Asian Studies*. For the academic year 2014-2015, she has received an inaugural endowed chair visiting professorship at Harvard University. As the Sang-kee Kim Visiting Professor of the Social Sciences at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, she also is teaching a course per semester in Harvard’s Sociology Department. For this fall she is teaching Food, Culture, and Globalization and for the spring she will be teaching a seminar, Masculinities: a Global Perspective.

Karl Pillemer (PhD, 1985) can’t believe it’s been 30 years already! He continues as a professor at Cornell University, dividing his time between the Department of Human Development and the Division of Geriatric Medicine in Cornell’s Medical College. He is the PI of an NIH-funded center grant: the Translational Research Institute on Pain in Later Life. This institute focuses on using community-based participatory research approaches to develop non-pharmacological interventions to help older people in pain, testing them in diverse populations in New York City. In January 2015, he will become the Director of Cornell’s Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, devoted to developing better and faster ways of moving behavioral and social science research to real-world applications. Another project (which makes good use of qualitative research training at Brandeis) involves a series of interview studies of older people regarding their advice for younger generations, which led to his book *30 Lessons for Living: Tried and True Advice from the Wisest Americans* (Penguin/Hudson Street Press, 2011). His new book uses similar methods to tap elder wisdom on the topic of committed relationships. *30 Lessons for Loving: Advice from the Wisest Americans on Love, Relationships, and Marriage*, will come out in January 2015 (by the same publisher).

Victoria Pitts-Taylor (PhD, 1999) has taken a new position as Professor and Chair of Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University. This year she gave talks at conferences in Switzerland, Japan, and Puerto Rico, and is finishing a book and an edited volume for Duke University Press and NYU Press.

Debbie Potter (PhD, 2007) completed her 2-year term in 2014 as Co-Chair of the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division of the SSSP. One of her 2014 publications was based on non-dissertation research that she began while a graduate student at Brandeis: “Acting Up and Acting Out: Conduct Disorder and Competing Media Frames.” *Deviant Behavior*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2014:152-172. She also contributed two entries, “Mental Health Legislation” and “Pathways to Psychiatric Treatment,” to *The Cultural Sociology of Mental Illness: An A-to-Z Guide*, edited by Andrew Scull for Sage Publications. Her latest research project is on ‘whole health’ and examines the social contexts in which women diagnosed with clinical depression and type 2 diabetes use a variety of health-promoting and help-seeking behaviors (including traditional health and mental health care treatment, medication, alternative health care, diet, exercise, social support, and spiritual practices.)

Rubén G. Rumbaut (PhD, 1978):

*Award*  Received the 2014 Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association, Section on International Migration
see: http://internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu/node/26098).

*Books*


Chapter

Article

Presentations

Cheryl D. Stults (PhD, 2009) is a research sociologist at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute. Her research focuses on patient-provider communication and the evaluation of primary care redesign initiatives, particularly shared medical appointments. She is a co-investigator for a study funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to help create a more patient-centered tool to assist Medicare beneficiaries in selecting a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. She is currently working on several studies including how to create a zone of openness for patients to foster more open communication with their primary care providers and an-activity based costing of primary care transformations including shared medical appointments. She recently presented “Estimating the Costs of Supporting Primary Care Transformation: Shared Medical Appointments” at an AHRQ PBRN webinar “Contemporary Issues in Economic Assessments of Primary Care” on July 29, 2014. Recent publications include:


Ken Sun (PhD, 2011):
Journal articles
Book chapter

Invited talks

Ella Taylor (PhD, 1985) covered the Jerusalem Film Festival summer 2014. It was lively in unexpected ways, adjusting daily to rockets overhead. No one was hurt, thanks to Iron Dome. Ella Taylor wrote up her experiences for the Los Angeles Jewish Journal: http://www.jewishjournal.com/culture/article/politics_and_war_at_israel

Becky Thompson (PhD, 1991) has a new book out, Survivors on the Yoga Mat: Stories for those Healing from Trauma that is dedicated to Professor Maury Stein of the sociology department at Brandeis. Becky has been on a book tour--Duke, Vassar, Southern Connecticut State, National Women's Studies Association, many yoga studios and community centers. The celebration of the book launch at Brookline Booksmith was a blast (that is on YouTube if you want to check it out) with over a 100 people attending. Becky continues to appreciate teaching in the same sociology department at Valerie Leiter (Brandeis alum) at Simmons College. The Brandeis connections continue to guide her in ways both seen and mysterious.

Gregory Wilpert (PhD, 1993) is the director of the recently launched teleSUR English website (www.telesur.net/english). teleSUR is a multi-national 24-hour news channel that was first launched in Latin America in 2005 and is now the largest such channel in Latin America (with Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, Argentina, and Nicaragua as its sponsors). In July 2014 it launched its English-language expansion, which will become a satellite television channel in 2015 with 24-hour news coverage from the South for the English-speaking North, with numerous full-time correspondents based throughout the world. teleSUR English has its headquarters in Quito, Ecuador, which is where Gregory now lives.

Karen Anne Wolf (PhD, 1993) has recently published the following article: Wolf KA (2014). “Critical Reflections on Nursing as BodyWork.” Advances in Nursing Science 37(2), 147-160. Wolf was honored by the National Academies of Practice with the 2014 Nicholas A. Cummings Award. This award is given to a member of an NAP Academy who has demonstrated outstanding or extraordinary contributions to interprofessional health care. She relocated to Central Pennsylvania in July 2014.
Josh Basseches (BA, 2012) - After concluding a 2-year stint in Massachusetts politics -- managing the campaign of, and serving as a Legislative Aide for, Waltham's state senator, Mike Barrett -- Josh Basseches has begun his first year pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at Northwestern University, where he plans to focus in the sub-fields of political sociology and social movements.


Joy Gordon (BA, 1980) has accepted a position at Loyola University-Chicago. She will be the Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J. Chair in Social Ethics in the Philosophy Department.

Rosanna Hertz (BA, 1975):


Grant - Rosanna Hertz (Wellesley College) and Margaret K. Nelson (Middlebury College) have received a two-year NSF grant for their research called “Social and Genetic Factors of New Forms of Families." They are interviewing parent(s) who conceived children using donor gametes and their children over the age of 13. When possible we are also interviewing the donors. If you want more information, are such a parent or child and would like to be interviewed, or you have friends who might be interested in talking to us, please email: rhertz@wellesley.edu

Rachel Gordon Loube (BA, 2006) is currently completing her first feature documentary film, *The Descendants of Devenishuk* - a film about tragedy, community and hope. Film website: https://devenishukdoc.squarespace.com/ She is the director, producer, cinematographer and editor of the film. Rachel’s previous quadruple credit film *Every Tuesday: A Portrait of The New Yorker Cartoonists* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2012 and won a Student Academy Award in 2013. It also screened in a number of well-respected Jewish Film Festivals, including those in Boston, San Francisco, Columbus and other American cities. *The Descendants of Devenishuk* is very close to being done, and she has just completed a successful Indiegogo (crowdfunding) campaign to raise the finishing funds for the film. To learn more and join Rachel in the making of *The Descendants of Devenishuk*, check out the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/TheDescendantsOfDevenishuk

Susan Markens (BA 1989; Postdoc 1999-2000) was tenured and promoted to associate professor this past year in the Sociology Department at Lehman College - City University of New York where she currently serves as deputy chair.
Harry M. Rosenberg (Masters, 1963 and PhD in Sociology (Demography), Ohio State University, 1972)
Since his move three years ago from Bethesda, Maryland, to Raleigh, North Carolina, Harry has been active in gay rights, and takes pride in North Carolina joining the states that perform same-sex marriage beginning October 10, 2014. This milestone results from a Circuit Court action that overturned an amendment to the NC Constitution two years ago that defined marriage as only between a man and woman. Harry says, “Our next goal is have state-wide fair employment statutes that include non-discrimination by gender-orientation. In NC, as in many Southern states, there are no such protections; one can be fired for being trans-gender or gay.” Harry recalls that at Brandeis he participated in the boycott of Cambridge’s Woolworth Store in sympathy with the lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro, NC. At the organizing meeting for the strike, chaired by Charles Kamen, then student body president, Harry sat next to Amy Kuntz, a Brandeis undergraduate, who was to become his wife and the mother of their two sons, Dan and Josh. Harry’s Master’s thesis in Anthropology at Brandeis was carried out in a fishing village in Barbados in the summer of 1960. Harry retired in 2002 from a career as Chief, Mortality Statistics Branch, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Harry is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Recent PhDs

Nicole Fox (Sociology)
Dissertation titled, “Moving Beyond Violence: The Role of Memory and Nationalism in Post-Genocide Rwanda.”
Currently Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of New Hampshire
http://cola.unh.edu/faculty-member/nicole-fox

Amanda Gengler (Sociology)
Currently Assistant Professor of Sociology, Wake Forest University
http://college.wfu.edu/sociology/people/faculty/amanda-gengler

Thomas Mackie (Sociology & Social Policy)
Dissertation titled, “Extending Psychotropic Medication Oversight for Children in Foster Care: A Sociological and Econometric Examination of State Monitoring Mechanisms.”
Currently Assistant Professor of Medicine, Tufts University
http://sackler.tufts.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Faculty-Profiles/Thomas-Mackie-Profile

Vanessa Munoz (Sociology)
Currently Assistant Professor of Sociology, Colorado College
https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/sociology/people/profile.dot?person=munoz_vanessa_lopes

Thomas Shields (Sociology & Social Policy)
Currently, Full-Time Lecturer, University of Massachusetts – Lowell
http://www.uml.edu/FAHSS/Sociology/faculty/PinerosShields-Thomas.aspx
Jill Smith (Sociology)
Dissertation titled, “The Role of Independent Educational Consultants in the College Application Process”

Dana Zarhin (Sociology)
Dissertation titled, “Obstructive Sleep Apnea as a Patient Contested Disease: Pathways to & from Medicalization/”
Currently Kreitman Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Health Systems Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Rebekah Zincavage (Sociology & Social Policy)
Dissertation titled, “My Siblings' Keeper: Mental Illness, Family Dynamics and Responsibility Among Adult Siblings”

Recent Masters in Sociology

Danielle Cole
Consuelo Revis
Rachel Rodriguez

Recent Masters in Sociology/WGS

Alyssa Poggi
Sierra Schnable - Currently PhD candidate in Sociology, University of Florida
Caitlin Taborda - Currently PhD candidate in Sociology, University of Minnesota

Faculty and Graduate Students Receive External Research Grants

The research of some faculty and graduate students continues to be made possible by grants they are awarded external to Brandeis. Current and recent grant funded projects include:

- Professor Wendy Cadge and Sociology PhD candidate Margaret Clendenen are working on a project about the prayers offered by the chaplain in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives between 1970 and the present. This project was funded by the Shand Endowment of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

- PhD candidate Casey Clevenger was awarded an Association for the Sociology of Religion Fitcher Research Grant in the spring of 2013 for promising sociological scholarship on gender and religion. This $4080 grant provided support for her dissertation project, "Women with Hearts as Wide as the World: Gender, Race, and Inequality in Women's Transnational Religious Organizations.”

- David Cunningham was awarded a grant from the Spencer Foundation for a project titled “Trajectories of School Desegregation.” This paired-case comparative study examines how early patterns of cooperation and contestation around school desegregation mandates in Boston and Jackson, MS, were encoded in formal policy as well as personal experience, shaping subsequent enrollments, resource allocations, and school cultures and
reputations. He has worked with a team comprised of Ashley Rondini (Sociology PhD '10), Molly Schneider (Sociology BA '11), current Sociology graduate student Rachel Madsen, and a dozen undergraduates enrolled in his "Civil Rights and Educational Equity" JBS program to collect a range of archival and interview data focused on the process of school desegregation and its enduring impacts on public schooling in both cities. David and colleagues partnered with Brandeis' Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism to create a web-based platform that integrates and presents audio, video, and archival data alongside students' original text. The website should go live in the Spring.

• **David Cunningham** was also awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled, "Civil Rights Mobilization and Enforcement Networks." It is a collaborative research grant, with Geoff Ward (UC-Irvine) and Dan Kryder (Brandeis) as co-PIs, that asks why conservative whites used clandestine and brutal or public and legal enforcement methods in some places but not others; whether such enforcement patterns resulted from local economic, cultural, or political factors; or how such enforcement actions altered protest in various places, if at all. How did whites both inside and outside of government in the American South combine in various ways to try to suppress local civil rights activity through various kinds of enforcement actions from 1955 to 1971? What if any are the long term implications of this anti-civil rights activism?

• **Amanda Gengler**, who recently completed her PhD in the department, was awarded a Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation to support her dissertation research, “Cultural Health Capital, Emotion Management, and the Reproduction of Inequality in the case of Life-Threatening Childhood Illness.”

• **Sara Shostak** and collaborators were recently awarded a $2 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Sara, along with principal investigator Ruth Ottman, professor of epidemiology at Columbia University, and other collaborators were awarded the grant to learn more about the following questions: If you carried a gene that increased your risk of having an epileptic seizure, would you want to know? Do perceptions of stigma and discrimination against people with epilepsy affect interest in genetic testing for the disease? Shostak says that her commitment to this research is also focused on trying to ensure that both the process of offering genetic counseling and testing, and the guidelines that different professional groups develop to guide genetic counseling and testing for epilepsy, are informed by the perspectives of people who are affected.

## Current Graduate Student News

Rachel Madsen (Second Year PhD Heller) co-authored two articles published this past summer, “Tea Party Meets Environmental Justice: Ideology and Mobilization in a US Municipal Landfill Controversy” with William T. Markham in Sociological Imagination, and “Disaster, Time and Dialogue: A Couple Lessons from Hurricane Katrina” with Steve Kroll-Smith in Sociological Inquiry. She also co-authored an article with David Cunningham, “What is the Ku Klux Klan a Case of? The KKK as Analytic Device,” forthcoming in Sociology Compass. In October, Rachel presented her paper, “Civil Rights, Morality, and Environmental Justice: Bridging Activism through the Black Church,” at The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture’s Diversity Challenge Conference at Boston College.

Catherine Tan (Fourth Year PhD Sociology) was invited to do a short podcast for The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography (to be recorded sometime early 2015). She was recently invited to work as a part-time research assistant with Tufts, UMass Boston, and Northeastern on a NIMH funded study on autism screening and early intervention. Tan will be working with Tom Mackie, a recent Brandeis sociology graduate. Catherine is making progress with her QPDs and is working on her social movements paper this winter---the final piece! She has been progressing with preliminary data collection for her proposal. She also recently applied for and was accepted to be a penguin caretaker volunteer at the New England Aquarium!

Some of our PhD students celebrating together!
USA Today reported College Factual’s ranking of the nation’s top undergraduate Sociology programs and Brandeis was ranked #6 overall out of over 500 sociology departments! http://college.usatoday.com/2014/12/27/top-ranked-colleges-for-a-major-in-sociology/

Quite an accomplishment everyone can be proud of – faculty, staff, alumni, and current students. The ranking looked at "quality schools that are focused on delivering an education in Sociology and that are successful at it". The Brandeis Sociology department comes in at #6 overall, right behind Princeton and just ahead of Columbia, Chicago, Stanford, and Penn! The ranking methodology emphasizes former majors' career salaries, the percentage of current students enrolled in the major, departments' connections to associated majors/programs, and overall college/university quality, so it's great to see how well we fare relative to our distinguished peers.

Teaching Materials about Jewish-Buddhist Relations: Emily Sigalow (PhD candidate) and Professor Wendy Cadge recently developed teaching guides and curricular material (posted at www.jewbu.net) to help faculty in sociology, religion and Jewish Studies teach about Jewish-Buddhist intersections in America. They are available for free and are being used in classrooms across the country. These case studies are part of a larger project funded by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation that explores the relationship between Judaism and Buddhism historically and in the contemporary United States. The cases study materials employ primary source material (including interviews, audio and video recordings, and memoirs) and scholarly literature about multiple religious belonging. One case was designed in collaboration with the Pluralism Project at Harvard University.

New Courses in the Sociology Department

SOC 116A Work, Employment and Unemployment: Sociological Approaches
Graduate Student: Sara Chaganti
Considers work, employment, and unemployment in the U.S. using a sociological framework. It offers a broad overview of the role work has played in society historically and currently, and the changing nature of work in the 21st century. Special one-time offering spring 2015.

SOC 128B Documenting Race, Class and Gender through Photography
Professor: Jillian Powers
Uses our own experiences and our own photographs to explore intersections of race, class and gender. Investigation will cover three broad topics: systems of power, structures of institutions, and performances or displays of race, class and gender identities. Special one-time offering, spring 2015.

SOC 147A Sustainable Cities and Communities
Professor: Carmen Sirianni
Studies innovations in the U.S and around the world that enhance urban sustainability, healthy communities, environmental justice, climate resilience and adaptation. Grassroots sustainability and climate movements, as well as environmental, health, and urban planning practice are examined. May be combined with internships and action research.
SOC 199B  Senior Capstone Seminar: Sociology in the World
Professor: Karen Hansen
Provides an opportunity for senior Sociology majors to consider in depth how sociologists engage with the research process to inform both academic and public debate over pressing social issues.

PAX 140A  Religion, Conflict and Peace
Professor: David Steele
Examines how religion can either escalate or mitigate conflict. Students study the influence of ideology, relationships, and actions of various faith traditions. We will explore the motivations of moderates and extremists as well as faith-based intervention roles and reconciliation processes. Usually offered every year.

2014-2015 Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDRs)

Meredith van der Walde ’15 is a senior with a double major in Sociology and Psychology and a minor in Social Justice and Social Policy. On campus she is a member of Adagio Dance Company, a Tour Guide through the Undergraduate Admissions Office, an Orientation Leader, and Student Caller for Brandeis’s Phonathon. Meredith shares, “I am extremely passionate about social justice and hope to pursue a career in law and/or nonprofit work after graduating from Brandeis. As a Sociology Undergraduate Departmental Representative, I hope to strengthen the relationship between the Sociology and the Social Justice and Social Policy departments, as well as raise awareness on campus about the opportunities that stem from majoring in Sociology.”

Fallon Rosen ’16 is a junior sociology major from New York City. Aside from her passion for Sociology, Fallon is an events coordinator for J-street at Brandeis, and is a Tour Guide for Admissions. She was a development intern at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in NYC last summer and was a Face to Face/Faith to Faith participant at the Auburn Theological Seminary. Fallon also has experience as an intern for a news desk in NYC.

Judith Giller-Leinwohl ’15 is a senior majoring in Sociology. Along with Sociology, Judith is double majoring in Health: Science, Society, and Policy. She has many more involvements on top of just her schoolwork: she is a certified EMT and active en BEMCo on campus. This past year, Judith served as the Event Chair for Relay for Life at Brandeis. Off campus, she has experience as a Unit Head at Camp Swift, a camp geared toward underprivileged youth from inner city Phoenix. She has also worked as a First Responder for Magen David Adom in Israel.
2014-2015 Colloquia Series

October 13, 2014
Adam Hochschild, Acclaimed Author, Journalist, and Lecturer, UC Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism
“1914-1918: The War Within the War”

October 23, 2014
Howard Winant, Professor at University of California, and founding director of the University of California Center for New Racial Studies (UCCNRS)
“Racial Formation Theory Today”

January 22, 2015
Larissa Buchholz, first female sociologist elected to the Harvard Society of Fellows, and the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Sociological Association

March 12, 2015
Dr. Kimberly Hoang, Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies, Boston College
“Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work”

April 16, 2015
Helle Porsdam, professor of American Studies at the University of Copenhagen
“Cultural Rights: The New Human Rights Frontier?”

Check out the Brandeis Sociology website and learn more about our program as well as the accomplishments of our students and faculty:
www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology