As we return to campus for the fall, and in the context of recent national and international events, Latin American and Latino studies shoulders an ever more urgent role of fostering understanding, awareness, and exploration of the transnational relationships between the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. It is with this renewed sense of purpose that the LALS program looks forward to continuing to support our community with moments of learning, dialogue, and celebration. Last year LALS was able to support an exceptional range of cultural and academic opportunities. We awarded research travel grants to eleven undergraduate and graduate students, to our faculty, and we were host to an exciting array of visitors. In addition to our annual Dia de los muertos celebration with tamales, pupusas and skull decorating, during the last year we sponsored a wealth of speakers and workshops. Among these, we had a Q&A with documentary filmmaker Reneé Contreras in Azlin Perdomo’s class on Documenting the Immigrant Experience. We collaborated with the International Business School to introduce Brazil Week, featuring a capoeira class, Brazilian food, a talk on Brazilian modernism by art critic José Falconi, and visits by political science (Note From Chair, continued on next page)
Fernando Rosenberg led a group of Brandeis alum to Cuba.

The Cuban national women’s fencing team won the 2017 Pomme de Terre tournament held at Brandeis.

(Note From Chair, continued)

scholar Angélica Duran-Martínez (UMass Lowell) and foreign officer to Central America, Brian Consoli, in Brian Fried’s Narcopolitics class. And we had the pleasure of laughing alongside nationally renowned queer and Latinx comedian Marga Gomez.

We were also able to co-sponsor several events that explored Latin American and Latino culture, including a graffiti cube and a repeat visit and tagging demonstration by internationally acclaimed artist Marcelo Ment. Latin American and Latino arts were prominent on campus, including a theater workshop on “Theatre for Social Change” with the CAST minor, led by the non-profit Rehearsing Change: Empowering Locally, Educating Globally. Their performance, with students from American and Brown Universities, and developed with their counterparts in the Amazon and Quito, addressed racism and gender violence, and the tension between cultural identity and natural resource extraction. LALS co-sponsored, along with Student Activities, a bilingual play El Payaso inspired by the life of Ben Linder, an engineer and clown who served in Nicaragua up until his death under the Contras. Likewise, combining art with social activism, LALS held a screening of environmental justice documentary La buena vida, and a talk by the director, historian Aviva Chomsky (Salem St. University). Renowned literary critic Doris Sommer (Harvard University) led a performative workshop “Spect-Actors Change the Script: Towards More Inclusion and Equality,” along with Jennifer Cleary of the Theater Department.

Furthermore, LALS faculty led presentations at events such as the Indigenous Day Teach-In (Childs, Espinosa, Golden, Urcid) and the roundtable Discussion of Immigration Politics in the 2016 Presidential Election (ICC Director Madeleine López and Brian Fried). Dr. Ferry and Dr. Arellano also presented, on the anthropology of gold mining and reading screenwriting, respectively, at the Mandel Center Faculty Lunch series. The Brandeis Anthropology Research Seminar hosted several events on archeology and anthropology, including a talk and documentary by Patricia Álvarez on
“Piece Wages as Ethical Wages: Valuing Peruvian Artisanal Handwork in the Fashion Industry.”

This time of year, of course, is full of changes, and we are delighted to welcome Dr. Álvarez back to campus as a postdoctoral fellow in the Anthropology department. We say goodbye to our Undergraduate Department Representative Kim Tellez. She will be missed and has our thanks. But even as we say que le vaya bien to Kim, we are pleased that our cadre of undergrad reps—Alex Ashley, Natalia González, Rodrigo García Granados—will continue to work with us in 2017-2018. We also offer our gratitude to Dr. Brian Fried for his service and collegiality during his two years at Brandeis as Kay Fellow in Comparative Politics. Brian’s enthusiasm reinvigorated the interest on campus in the politics of Latin America. He brought a significant number of students into his classes to delve into the complexities of Latin American democracy and its discontents, and, as exemplified by our undergrad reps, and brought new majors and minors to LALS. He has also gone beyond the classroom, bringing speakers to campus and enriching the campus culture and academics here at Brandeis, and serving as an exemplary advisor. Finally, it has been a great pleasure and an honor to serve as Chair of LALS for the past three years, and I now pass that baton of office to our colleague Jerónimo Arellano. Dr. Arellano was a 2016-2017 Newhouse Center for the Humanities fellow at Wellesley. We are looking forward to having him back on campus this fall. We also look forward to two new exciting initiatives: a year-long Mellon Foundation Seminar on Comparative Revolutions in Latin American and the Middle East co-led by Greg Childs and a new graduate concentration in Latin American Jewish and Gender Studies (LAJGS) under the direction of Dalia Wassner in the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. Best wishes for the academic year.

Charles Golden,
LALS Chair 2014-2017
LALS Events 2016-2017

September 15, "Spect-Actors Change the Script towards more Equality and Inclusion" : A Forum Theater Event with Doris Sommer (Harvard University) and Jennifer Cleary (Theater, Brandeis).

Marian Gardner, "Los riesgos sobre la salud de los trabajadores inmigrantes bolivianos en los talleres textiles en la Ciudad Autónoma Buenos Aires: las experiencias de los trabajadores de la Cooperativa La Alameda" [The Health Risks of Bolivian Immigrant Workers in Textile Workshops in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires: The Experiences of Workers at the La Alameda Cooperative]

September 29, "Theatre for Social Changepieces" seminar led by Daniel Bryan, Executive Director of the Pachaysana Institute and Resident Director of Rehearsing Change: Empowering Locally, Educating Globally, along with students from American and Brown Universities. Co-sponsored by CAST.

October 5, "How Are We Talking about Immigration in the 2016 Presidential Election?" roundtable with Brian Friend (POL) and Madeleine López (ICC and HIST), and co-sponsored by the Ethics Center.

October 10, Indigenous Day Teach-In, co-sponsored by the ICC. Presentations by LALS faculty.

October 14, Genius for Sale Conference presentation by Elizabeth Ferry, "Golden Means: Value Transformations of Gold in Colombia."

October 31, Día de los muertos celebration featuring tamales, pupusas, pan de muertos, skulls.

November 15, I Am Global Week Language Table dinner sponsored by the Provost’s office and the Dean of Arts and Sciences (Spanish, Portuguese, French, et al).

November 17, International Bazaar with Brazilian food at the Brazil table. Co-sponsored by Brandeis Brazil Initiative (IBS).

December 8, Mandel Center Faculty Lunch Symposium presentation by Elizabeth Ferry “Tangible Assets: Gold in Finance and Mining.”

January 20 Brazil lunch co-sponsored by Brandeis Brazil Initiative (IBS).

January 24, Film screening of The Vigil with filmmaker Jenny Alexander.

February 3 “A Conversation with Clarissa Tossin” and José Falconi (Fine Arts) on Brazilian and Latin American Art in the United States and in the World.

February 7, Q and A with documentary filmmaker Renée Contreras in CAST 170: Documenting the Immigrant Experience.

February 14, “Piece Wages as Ethical Wages: Valuing Peruvian Artisanal Handwork in the Fashion Industry” talk by Dr. Patricia Álvarez.

February 15, Documentary screening of Entretejido by Patricia Álvarez, followed by discussion on ethnographic and documentary filmmaking.

January’s Travel Grants
Winter 2016
Leah Goldman IGS and POL major, “Redefining Religion: Constructing Faith in Revolutionary Cuba”

Ledia Erkou HISP and ECON majors, LALS minor, “Investigating Transnational Examples of the Use of Clothing as a Disguise in Early Modern Literature and Art”

Ned Littlefield POL MA, “How Does Police Deployment in Counterinsurgency Affect Subsequent Territorial Control?”

Doron Shapir IGS major, “Una isla en la isla”
March 15, “Narcopolitics and the Criminal Justice System: Counternarcotics Strategies in Central America” with David Consoli, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Coordinator in Central America.

March 28, Teatro Milagro presented the bilingual play El Payaso, co-sponsored by Student Activities.

March 29 Documentary Screening of La buena vida/The Good Life about the forced displacement of Wayúu villagers in Tamaquito, Colombia by the development of the international coal mining industry with Lucía Reyes de Deu.

April 5, Lunch Talk with historian Aviva Chomsky on La buena vida film.

April 6, Mandel Center Faculty Lunch Symposium “Reading Screenplays” presentation by Jerónimo Arellano.

March 6-10, Brazil Week co-sponsored with Brandeis Brazil Initiative (IBS).

March 5 Capoeira class with Mestre Deraldo Ferreira.

March 7 “Drug Trafficking in Latin America and the Peace Process in Colombia” with Brian Fried and Angelica Duran-Martínez.


March 8 Samba lesson with Rosangela Santiago.

March 9 Brazilian Modernism Art Lecture with José Falconi.

Jane’s Travel Grants
Spring 2017
Francesca Bragg, HSSP major, “Pisa Farmacéutica: Medical Design & Manufacturing in Guadalajara, Mexico”

Aaron Goodwin, ANTH major, “Hearing the Changes: Afro-Cuban Jazz and Change in Cuban Society”

Natalia González, POL and PHIL majors, LALS minor, “‘Books Break Boundaries’ in Cusco, Peru – Internship with IFRE Volunteers”

Jessica Priestley, ANTH MA, “Abetting ‘Illegality’: Navigating Competing Ethical Frameworks in Tijuana’s Nonprofit Communities”

Max Seidita, ANTH PhD, “Archaeological Investigations at the Site of Piedras Negras, Guatemala”

Joanna Spyra, HBI and NEJS MA, “Feminist Perspectives on the Body: The Case of Zwi Migdal in Argentina”

Tiffany Nelson, SID Heller MA, “Advocacy for Women’s Rights and Equal Pay in Lima, Peru”
April 18
Graffiti Demonstration by Marcelo Ment. Rio de Janeiro artist gave a talk and a tagging demonstration for Hist 162a History of Graffiti class.

LALS Graffiti Cube, April 18-May 5. Student painted on the graffiti wall throughout the weeks.

May 4, LALS Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, a Women's Studies Center of Brandeis University, is launching a new program in Latin American Jewish and Gender Studies (LAJGS) under the direction of Dr. Dalia Wassner. LAJGS serves as the pioneering academic and cultural center for the study and exploration of Jewish life and gender in Latin America and the Latin American Jewish diaspora. In the coming academic year Dr. Wassner will offer the LALS/NEJS course Latin American Jews. Drawing on the works of public intellectuals, writers, artists, playwrights, and filmmakers, the course offers a textured cultural understanding of the Jewish experience in Latin America and of Latin America’s experience of its Jews.

Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Seniors!

Ledia Erkou, HISP and Economics majors, LALS minor

Kim Tellez, ANTH major, LALS and Architectural Studies minors
LALS Fall 2016 Classes

AAAS126b: Political Economy of the Third World- Nyangoni

*ANTH 107a: Wealth, Value and Power in a World without Money- Golden

ANTH 153a: Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions- Urcid

ANTH 184b: Cross-cultural Art and Aesthetics- Urcid

FA 178a: Frida Kahlo: Art, Life and Legacy- Ankori

HISP 111b: Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture- Rosenberg

HISP 193: Topics in Cinema: Mexican Cinema- Mandrell

HISP 198a: Experiential Research Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies- Rosenberg

HIST 71b: Colonialism, Slavery, Freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean- Childs

*HIST 171b: Latinos in the US- M. López


*POL 144a: Latin American Politics: Democracy, Decay, and Renewal- Fried

* Indicates a new course in 2016-2017

New course offerings for 2017-2018

HISP 196A: Autobiography and Writing the Self- Mandrell

HIST 172b Historicizing the Black Radical Tradition- Childs

LALS 1a Intro to Latin American and Latino Studies- Brown
LALS Spring 2016 Classes

AAAS 133b: The Literature of the Caribbean - Smith

ANTH 131b: Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective - Ferry

ANTH 168a: The Maya: Past, Present and Future - Golden

ENGL 127b: Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts - Smith

FA 77b: Twentieth Century and Contemporary Latin American Art - Falconi

HISP 108a: Spanish for Heritage Speakers - Mederos

HISP 111: Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture - Reyes de Deu

HISP 160a: Culture and Social Change in Latin America - Rosenberg

HIST 162a: Writing on the Wall: Histories of Graffiti in the Americas - Childs

*LALS 144b-Mapping Latino Boston - Brown

POL 149b: Narco-Politics - Fried

SOC 122a: The Sociology of American Immigration - Lucken
Patricia Álvarez Astacio (Anthropology) received several awards for her documentary Entretejido including Best Cultural/Ethnic Documentary Film at the Houston International Film Festival and an Honorable Mention for Best Graduate Student Film, Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival. She published "Piece Wages as Ethical Wages: Valuing Peruvian Artisanal Handwork in the Fashion Industry" in Anthropology Quarterly; "In Conversation: Trinh T. Minh-ha." in The Brooklyn Rail: Critical Perspectives on Arts, Politics, and Culture; and "Screening Room Series" in Visual and New Media Review, Cultural Anthropology Online.

Jerónimo Arellano (Romance Studies) has two forthcoming articles "An Unsentimental Education: Affective Creativity in Contemporary Latin American Fiction" in Bulletin of Hispanic Studies and "Reading the Affects in the Colonial Americas." in Latin American Research Review. He returns to Brandeis this year having completed a residential fellowship from the Newhouse Center in the Humanities at Wellesley College for the 2016-2017 year.

Silvia Arrom (History, Emerita) presented a paper “La Güera Rodríguez Revisited: The Construction of a Legend” at Harvard University in February, and she continues to work on her book on this historical woman. She participated in a panel “Social Assistance in Iberoamerica, 19th and 20th centuries,” at the Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Latinoamericana e Ibérica de Historia Social in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Laura Brown (Romance Studies, Academic Administrator of LALS) completed archival research in Brazil and Washington, DC towards an article on children’s television in Brazil, funded by a Norman grant. She developed the new class LALS 144b: Mapping Latino Boston, funded by a Teaching Innovation Grant, presented at DEIS week, and published a book review in Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos.
Gregory Childs (History) has two forthcoming articles, “Conspiracy, Sedition, Rebellion: Categories and Concepts in Black Resistance Studies,” in New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition (Northwestern UP) and “Cuadernos escandalosos, sujetos sediciosos: Luís Gonzaga y la Conspiración de los Sastres, 1798 Bahia, Brasil” in Los mundos de Jose Antonio Aponte (Instituto Juan Marinello, Havana, Cuba). He will lead the Sawyer Seminar Fellowship, supported by the Mellon Foundation, on comparative revolutions in Latin American, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, along with Prof. Naghmeh Sohrabi. He participated in numerous talks and conferences, and blogged for the African American Intellectual History Society. He is organizing the 2018 AAIHS conference at Brandeis in the spring. www.aaihs.org. He also co-led a Brandeis Bridges trip to Brazil.

Joan Dassin (International Development, Heller School) received the 2017 Heller School Teaching Award. She was a Visiting Scholar at the State University of São Paulo (UNESP) in June 2017, and co-authored the article “International Education in an Interactive Virtual Learning Environment: Experimenting with Digital Media Applications for Community-Based Development,” in Revista Ibero-Americana de Estudos em Educação. Dr. Dassin was a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for Latin American Studies at the University of Oxford, conducting research on the internationalization of higher education in Brazil. Her co-edited volume International Scholarships in Higher Education: Pathways to Social Change is forthcoming with Palgrave. Also in 2017, Dr. Dassin served as a reader for the Yidan Prize for Education Research and the Open Society Foundations Civil Society Leadership Awards.

Cristina Espinosa (Heller School) published a book review of Unearthing Conflict: Corporate Mining, Activism, and Expertise in Peru, by Fabiana Li, in American Anthropologist. She presented at the Brandeis Indigenous Day Teach-In.

(Faculty Notes continued on next page)
Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) recently completed a book with her brother Stephen Ferry, a photographer, La Batea: Impressions of Gold in Colombia, (Editorial Icono/Redhook Editions). She co-edited The Anthropology of Precious Minerals and published Minerales, Coleccionismo y Valor a Través de la Frontera México-Estados Unidos, as well as a book review, "Intellectuals and (Counter)Politics: Invited Comment." Rev. of Intellectuals and (Counter)Politics, by Gavin Smith in FOCAAL. She gave two talks at Brandeis University in the Mandel Center. She continues to conduct research on physical gold in finance.


Charles Golden (Anthropology) continues his work a co-director of archaeological surveys and excavations in the Usumacinta River Valley (between Mexico and Guatemala), seeking a better understanding of the ancient borderlands between Precolumbian Maya kingdoms. He was awarded a grant from The Alphawood Foundation to complete research in Piedras Negras, Guatemala. He published three articles, “Reanalyzing Environmental LiDAR Data for Landscape Archaeology: Mesoamerican Applications and Implications” in the Journal of Archaeological Science; “The Life and Afterlife of the Classic Period Piedras Negras Kingdom” in Ritual, Violence, and the Fall of the Classic Maya Kings (U of Florida P), and “Landscapes, Lordships, and Sovereignty in Mesoamerica” in Political Strategies in Precolumbian Mesoamerica (U of Colorado Boulder).


Lucía Reyes de Deu (Romance Studies) published "Tensiones y desafíos entre varones y mujeres del normalismo: La maestra normal de Manuel Gálvez" at Anuario SAHE (Sociedad Argentina de Historia de la Educación). She presented a paper titled "Nacionalismo y feminismo libertario: Herminia Brumana", and co-coordinated a symposium at VII Congreso Iberoamericano de Estudios de Género, in Buenos Aires. In collaboration with Prof. Elena González (ROMS), she organized a talk and discussion by Prof. Aviva Chomsky (Salem State University) about the documentary La buena vida.

Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) continues to work on human rights, symbolic reparations, indigenous rights, and environmental topics. Last February, he was invited to present his book After Human Rights at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard. As a founding member of the Symbolic Reparations Research Project, he co-organized the Symbolic Reparations Conference at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard this last Spring. This summer, he gave a talk on environmental justice in documentary film at the Visible Evidence conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His article "Teaching Poetry and Human Rights" is forthcoming in Teaching Latin American Poetry (Modern Language Association, 2017).

Laurence Simon (Heller, Sustainable International Development) gave a keynote lecture at the Quest for Equity conference this summer sponsored by the Government of Karnataka, India. He also visited Sri Lanka on behalf of the Prime Minister's Working Group for the Design of a University of Engineering and Business. Laurence was elected to a second term on the Brandeis Faculty Senate Council and co-chairs the Senate's Dignity at Work Committee. He will be on sabbatical in the spring to finish his book on the Brazilian social theorist, Paulo Freire, which compares his work to that of W.E.B. DuBois and Gustavo Gutiérrez.

Faith Smith (English, AAAS) published "Queer Livity in the Caribbean: Rosamond S. King's Island Bodies," a review of Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination. She presented at the symposium on "Caribbean Traffic: Bodies, Cultures, Knowledges" at the Institute of Modern Languages Research, in London. A Brandeis Norman Faculty Research Award enabled her to attend the 2017 Bocas Literary Festival in Port of Spain, and to present at two conferences: "Stuart Hall’s Intellectual Legacies" in Kingston, and the American Comparative Literature Association meeting in Utrecht. Finally, she presented at the "China in the Caribbean and Latin America" symposium at the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing.

Javier Urcid (Anthropology) gave talks at Brandeis, Harvard University, el Colegio de Michoacán, el Patrimonio Cultural de Oaxaca, and at the Society of American Archaeology. His recent publications include "Una extraordinaria vajisa de piedra en el Museo Etnográfico de Berlín" in Arqueología Mexicana; (Faculty Notes continued on next page)
“Restos de un códice mántico, San Bartolo Yautepec, Oaxaca” in Arqueología Mexicana; and “El Nagual de la Serpiente de Fuego y el Juego de Pelota” in Arqueología Mexicana. He co-authored “Two Fragments of an Ancient Mantic Manuscript in San Bartolo Yautepec, Oaxaca” in Ancient Mesoamerica.

Dalia Wassner (Hadassah-Brandeis Institute) recently published “The Sword, the Pen, and the Uterus: Feminist Culture and the Argentine Proceso.” in Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies. During the 2017 summer, Dr. Wassner served as a research mentor to Gina Malagold and Gabriela Bucay, as part of the HBI Gilda Slifka Internship program.

Ana Craven (LALS minor), Rhode Island International Film Festival, Newport, RI. Ana worked as a Sponsorship and Development Intern for the 2017 August RIIFF. She researched leads for potential partner organizations, updated the sponsor database, created informational materials for potential RIIFF sponsors and met with sponsors. As an intern, she served as a RIIFF team member, attending all staff meetings and helping to judge the films submitted to the festival. Ana also helped with educational programming through RIIFF’s KidsEye Filmmaker Camp, teaching film software and technology to campers.

Eva Spitzen, Mujeres Unidas Avanzando, Dorchester, MA. Eva interned with MUA Boston, a non-profit organization that aims to help Latina girls and women learn English, gain employable skills, and become community leaders by breaking through socioeconomic barriers that disproportionately affect the Latina community. It provides a wide range of services, including English classes, GED preparation, job-training in computers, tech education, and career, individual, and domestic violence counseling. MUA also partners with Peak Medical Academy to provide a Home Health Aide and Certified Nursing Assistant program. Eva helped design and execute the curriculums for English and GED classes. Eva also worked on promoting the company’s social media presence, including their Facebook page, Twitter, and monthly newsletter, in addition to other general marketing duties, fundraising, and curricular development.

Geraldine Bogard, Empowering Through Education Camp, Hinche, Haiti. Geraldine interned at the ETE Camp in Haiti, where she was involved in educational and extracurricular programming for the camp students. She also carried out sociological research on the role of French and Haitian Creole in pedagogy. The ETE Camp started in 2009, by Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program Brandeis Alumna Shaina Gilbert as director, along with five other Brandeis students, and a Haitian Boston Public School Teacher, Garry Gilbert. The ETE Camp has since served over 200 youth participants. Each summer the camp serves two daily meals to 60 participants and provides morning classes and afternoon enrichment programs.
I spent the past year as a fellow at the Newhouse Center at Wellesley, working on a new book on Latin American screenwriting. Screenwriting is in many ways an object hiding in plain sight: whenever I tell people the general subject of my project, most of them follow immediately with a comment or anecdote from their own lives. Some folks I’ve talked to mention their favorite screenwriter, others speak about friends or relatives in L.A. trying to break into the film industry. And yet when they realize that the project involves digging up and reading screenplays as legitimate works of art, my interlocutor usually shoots me a blank stare. Or worse: why would you ever read a screenplay? asked a doctoral student in film studies after a talk. In that moment, I gave the usual answer, neutral and disengaged—the answer I believe other scholars of screenwriting might also offer. I gestured at the emergence of a new field, to the theoretical frameworks and methodologies that are coming out of it. I pointed to the rapid growth of a research network spanning many countries, and to the many directions scholarship on screenwriting is currently undertaking.

But this generic answer avoids one the primary reasons I’m drawn to screenwriting as an object of study: many of us involved in the development of screenwriting studies read screenplays because they’re a beautiful, complex art form. Screenplays, especially if they’re effective, are closer to visual poetry than to theater or narrative prose, since a good screenwriter evokes in a few brushstrokes entire audiovisual universes. But a screenplay also accomplishes something a visual poem does not: it creates the blueprint for creative collaboration. Screenwriting is, above all, a transcreative practice. It is a vision that an artist puts forward so that it can be populated by other artistic visions, and in such a way transformed.

In Latin America, this transcreative practice has taken on particular shapes and has followed the course of its own history. One of the most exciting traits of Latin American screenwriting is that it has grown in the absence of normative guidelines defining what a “good screenplay” should be, unlike what’s customary in Hollywood. In the absence of these norms, a wide range of screenwriting poetics and practices has evolved, in some cases as a direct reaction to Hollywood stylistics, in other instances as a synthetic modernism that brings together various traditions of artistic experimentation across the Hispanophone and Lusophone world. The year I spent at Wellesley allowed me to explore a small portion of this spectrum. But the most valuable lesson I learned from the other fellows at the Newhouse Center is that it is OK to get personal, that the more immediate reasons why you choose to write about what you write about are often an integral part of your project. That aesthetic fascination can be foregrounded rather than dismissed in the pursuit of an objective tone. When I’m asked again why on earth I read screenplays, as I think I might in the near future, I’m hopeful I will provide a better answer.
Francesca Bragg shadowed Dr. María Eugenia Póo, a world-renowned embryologist and Embriology Director and the Mexico Country Manager of IGENOMIX. Francesca interned in the Corvera Clinic at the Centro de Reproducción Asistida de Occidente, in the Torre Médica Hospital in Guadalajara, Mexico. Dr. Póo conducts research related to preimplantation genetic screening and diagnosis (PGS-PGD). Francesca participated in research involving the removal of target cells from embryos via laser, and subsequent removal of individual cells under microscope for genetic testing.

Natalia González, in conjunction with the Institute of Field Research Expeditions volunteer program, served as an intern, teaching English at a school in the village of Poroy outside of Cusco, Peru. She purchased and transported over 500 books (primarily in Spanish but also in English) for the children and oversaw the building of a mini-library. Over the course of the next three and a half weeks, the teachers, students, and Natalia worked with the pedagogical materials. Additionally, after several meetings with the headmaster of the school and the mayor of the town, the local government agreed to continue to add climate control, shelving, and books to the library in the future.

Leah Goldman traveled to Havana, Cuba to research the role of José Martí as an icon and discursive figure in the 1959 Cuban Revolution. In addition to seeking out commemorative statures and items featuring José Martí, she procured newspapers and other publication materials related to her senior research project on the sociological and rhetorical patterns that allowed for Fidel Castro to occupy power for more than 50 years.

Aaron Goodwin lived in Marianao, Cuba with a Cuban family for two months as he researched Cuban jazz. During this time, he gained practice conducting ethnographic research. He found that due to the socialist economy, as well as disparities in education and arts training, certain aspects of music in Cuban society are very different from music in the US. He observed that capitalist economic practices related to tourism and the shortages caused by the US economic blockade infiltrate the Cuban economy and arts sector. He found that much of Cuban industry, especially the music industry, is still employed in tourism.
Jess Priestly spent two months embedded in the landscape of nonprofit and governmental service providers who help Tijuana’s large and diverse migrant communities navigate life in the city. Whether they are pausing in transit, have arrived at their destination, or find themselves returned to their nation of origin against their wishes, migrants in Tijuana are able to receive a multitude of services from a handful of shelters and agencies. Her research involved talking with these service providers to gain a fuller understanding of why and how they do this work, the complications they face, and the physical and sociopolitical infrastructures within which they operate.

Doron Shapir traveled to Cuba to conduct research of the Jewish Cuban Community and how it has evolved over the years. As part of his research, he attend Seders for the Passover holiday and visited the local synagogues in Havana, the Jewish cemetery, and individual family homes. He also used questionnaires, conducted interviews, and wrote personal reflections and observations.

Max Seidita conducted two months of archaeological research at the PreClassic/Classic Maya site of Piedras Negras in Guatemala. As part of a team of Guatemalan and American archaeologists, he was responsible for the excavation of several buildings. These excavations investigated the physical infrastructure of a suspected marketplace, specifically the architecture of the buildings and associated plazas. Excavations of an ancient household uncovered the largest sample of human burials outside of the site center, and resulted in samples to be compared with the materials of the market. Ongoing analysis of these archeological materials will provide a better understanding of ancient Mayan economic systems and lead to refined methodologies for these archeological techniques.

Joanna Spyra, a Hornstein student in the Jewish Professional Leadership Program, spent one month in Buenos Aires, Argentina where she worked in the Institute for Jewish Research (IWO) archives under the mentorship of director Abraham Lichtenbaum. She researched Zwi Migdal, an organized group that operated from the 1860s to 1939. The group was involved in the trafficking of Jewish women from Eastern Europe (mainly from Poland) to Argentina for sexual slavery and prostitution. Her study seeks to make a systematic examination of the situation of Jewish women forced into prostitution in Argentina at the turn of the 19th and 20th century, through the lenses of gender, sexuality, transnationalism, poverty, and (dis)ability.

Carlos Barletta ’07 started a new job as the Commercial Advisor to Panama at the WTO Mission in Geneva, Switzerland. He previously worked for the InterAmerican Development Bank in Washington, DC.

Chiara Bercu ’11 recently graduated with an MPA in International Development from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. During the 2016-17 academic year, Chiara worked with Save the Children to pilot a menstrual hygiene management education program in El Salvador. She is currently employed at USAID in the office of Population and Reproductive Health in the bureau of Global Health, where she works as a Family Planning and Sustainable Development Program Specialist.

Juan Eugenio Corradi ’65 was named Professor Emeritus of Sociology at New York University. He continues to publish on geopolitics for Opinión Sur.

Adam M. Greenwald ’98 serves as Director of Development at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles.

Joy Brenner-Letich ’16 earned her Masters degree from Boston College’s Urban Donovan Scholars Honors Program, and she teaches STEM classes at Southbridge Middle school.

Michelle Eisenfeld ’02 is a bilingual physician in the field of Allergy and Immunology in Miami, Florida.

Nancy Foner BA ’66, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at City University of New York, was awarded a 2017 Guggenheim award and a 2016 inaugural Senior Scholar Award from the Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology. Her book Strangers No More: Immigration and the Challenges of Integration in North America and Western Europe (Princeton UP, 2015) received an Honorable Mention, 2017 Distinguished Book Award from the American Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration section of the International Studies Association.


Maya Jacob ’13 is a second-year student at the University of Michigan Law School where she is studying to be an immigration attorney.

Mollie Kravitz ’15 works as a paralegal in the immigration department of the law firm Fletcher Tilton in Framingham, MA. She handles employment and family-based migration cases.

Temma Kaplan ’64 was named Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Rutgers University, where she worked from 2002-2017.

Peter Kornbluh ’79, Director of the National Security Archive’s Chile Documentation Project and Cuba Documentation Project, publishes regularly for The Nation and The Progressive, among other publications, particularly on Trump’s Cuba policy.

Samantha Levin ’07 is Associate Director of Operations at Heartland Alliance International, an international human rights organization, where she supports offices in Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Mexico that provide legal and mental health services to stateless individuals, torture survivors, and at risk youth.
Peggy Levitt ’80, co-director of the Transnational Studies Initiative at Harvard, edited a special volume of Comparative Migration Studies titled Social Remittances: Understanding Migrating People and Migrating Culture in the Context of Global Cultural Circulation. She published two articles “Social remittances and the changing transnational political landscape” in Comparative Migration Studies and “Response to Symposium on Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display” in Identities.

David Lewis ’83 was appointed Senior Associate of the Americas Program in Washington, DC. www.csis.org

Ned Littlefield MA ’17 is a first-year doctoral student in Politics at the University of Wisconsin.

Yaser S. Robles ’03 co-edited the book Dynamics of Community Formation: Developing Identity and Notions of Home on the construction, maintenance, evolution, and destruction of home and community spaces, which are central to the development of social cohesion.

Lara Rosenwasser Newman ’09 completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Louisville in June 2017 and started a cornea fellowship at Devers Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon in July. Her husband Daniel Chaim Newman’ 09, also a LALS alum, teaches Spanish at Tigard High School.

Ruben Rumbaut MA ’73, PhD ’78 gave the American Educational Research Association’s Wallace Foundation Distinguished Lecture in 2017, titled “From Middle School to Middle Adulthood: Education and Social Mobility of the Immigrant Second Generation in an Age of Inequality.”

Luis Rubio PhD ’83, a Global Fellow of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center continues to work on the projects “The Geopolitics of NAFTA” and “A Mexico Utopia: The Rule of Law is Possible.” He published the book A World of Opportunities with the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Bekka Saks ’06 is an independent appraiser of fine art, antiques, and estate goods in Denver and LA. She is an expert in Native American jewelry and ceramics, including pre-Columbia artifacts.

Michael Smith ’75 was awarded the Society of American Archaeology’s Popular Book Award for At Home With the Aztecs: An Archaeologist Uncovers their Daily Life (Routledge 2016). He was awarded a NSF grant for his projects at the Teotihuacan Lab, where he is the director of the lab built by George Cowgill, longtime Professor of Anthropology at Brandeis (1960-1990).

Lynn Stephen PhD ’87 was elected vice-president of the Latin American Studies Association for the 2017-2018 term. She will serve as president from 2018-2019. She published a Spanish translation of her book We are the Face of Oaxaca: Testimony and Social Movements (Duke UP, 2013).

Kim Tellez ’17 worked for the CIEE Global Navigator’s Spanish Language & Culture program in Guanajuato, Mexico. She now works as a Quality Performance Assessment Associate with the Center for Collaborative Education in Boston, focusing on ELL students.

Barbara Tenenbaum ’68 was awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle by Mexico’s ambassador to the United States at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C. The award is the highest honor given to a non-Mexican for achievements that increase international understanding of Mexico. Barbara is the first specialist in Mexican culture in Hispanic division of the Library of Congress.

Steve Volk ’68, emeritus, is the director of the Center for Teaching, Innovation, and Excellence at Oberlin College.

Becky Winkler ’07 is a bilingual speech-language pathologist in Chattanooga, TN, serving the growing Latino population.
Laguna de los Tres by Melissa Darling