



## Department of Sociology

### *Notes from the Chair ~ Karen V. Hansen*

Dear Brandeis Sociology Community,

Greetings from Pearlman Hall. This last fall we had a successful search for a new Assistant Professor in medical sociology. I am delighted to report that **Dr. Siri Suh** has agreed to join our faculty starting July 1. Her research bridges the fields of global maternal and reproductive health, population and development studies, and feminist and post-colonial studies of technology, science, and medicine. I want to thank our able search committee, chaired by **Sara Shostak**, consisting of **Gowri Vijayakumar**, **Laura Miller** and **Wendy Cadge**, who reviewed over 140 highly qualified applicants for the position.



I am also pleased to report that two junior faculty have been successfully renewed for another three years. Congratulations to **Michael Strand** and **Derron Wallace**! Both will be on a much-deserved leave for one semester during the next academic year.

Last spring we honored retiring faculty, **Peter Conrad** and **Shulamit Reinharz**, who had over 70 years between them in their service to Brandeis. They each had events, conferences, and parties celebrating the wide-ranging dimensions of their work and their many contributions to Brandeis. Best of luck to Peter and Shula in the next stage of their creative endeavors!

Warm wishes in solidarity,

*Karen V. Hansen*



## Faculty and Staff Notes

### ~ Department of Sociology Faculty ~

**Wendy Cadge** returned this fall from a wonderful research leave. She taught graduate Field Methods in the Fall and continued to chair the Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies Program. She and Randy Armor continued giving talks and showing photos from their [Hidden Sacred Spaces Project](#).

Wendy also published several new articles this year. They include:

- Forthcoming. "The Evolution of American Airport Chapels: Local Negotiations in Religiously Pluralistic Contexts" *Religion & American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*.
- Forthcoming. "God on the Fly? The Professional Mandates of Airport Chaplains" *Sociology of Religion*.
- Forthcoming. "Structure, Operation, and Experience of Clinical Ethics Consultation 2007-2013: A Report from the Massachusetts General Hospital Optimum Care Committee." with Ellen Robinson, Kimberly Erler, Sharon Brackett, \*Julia Bandini, Alexandra Cist, M. Cornelia Cremens, Eric Krakauer, Andrew Courtwright. *Journal of Clinical Ethics*.
- Forthcoming. "The Role of Religious Beliefs in Ethics Committee Consultation for Conflict Over Life-Sustaining Treatments" with \*Julia Bandini, Ellen Robinson, Andrew Courtwright, Angelika Zollfrank. *Journal of Medical Ethics*.
- Forthcoming. "Re-enchanting the End of Life: Spiritual Care in the Israeli Medical System" with Michael Pagis and \*Orly Tal. In *Current Perspectives on Death in Israel*. Edited by Haim Hazan and Shai Lavie. Tel Aviv: Hakibutz Hameuad (in Hebrew).
- Forthcoming. "Online Teaching of Public Health and Spirituality at University of Illinois: Chaplains for the Twenty-First Century" with Kathryn Lyndes and George Fitchett. In *Why Religion and Spirituality Matter for Public Health: Evidence, Implications, and Resources*. Edited by Doug Oman. Springer.
- 2017. "After the DNR: Surrogates who persist in requesting cardiopulmonary resuscitation" with Ellen M. Robinson, Angelika Zollfrank, M. Cornelia Cremens, Andrew M. Courtwright. *Hastings Center Report* 47(1): 10-19.
- 2017. "What do Non-Clergy Spiritual Care Providers Contribute to End of Life Care in Israel? A Qualitative Study" with Michal Pagis and \*Orly Tal. *Journal of Religion and Health*. 56(2):614-622.
- 2017. "Teaching Inter-Religious Encounters: Perspectives from a Case Study Initiative" with Emily Sigalow. In *Teaching Inter-Religious Encounters*. Edited by Marc Pugliese and Alexander Hwang. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wendy also continued her work on a range of grant funded research and teaching projects including:

- 2017-2020 Economic & Social Research Council, United Kingdom. Project title, "Religion in Multi-Ethnic Contexts: A Multidisciplinary Case Study of Global Seafaring" with Helen Sampson, Sophie Gillat-Ray and Graeme Smith.
- 2017-2020 Henry Luce Foundation. Project title, "Assessing and Reimagining Chaplaincy Education: the Case of Healthcare Chaplaincy" with Trace Haythorn and George Fitchett. (\$275,000)

- 2017-2020 Henry Luce Foundation, awarded to Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Nancy Fuchs Kreimer (PI). “Campus Chaplaincy for a Multifaith World: Engaging Diversity, Cultivating Connections.” Sub-award to assess impact of programs. (\$40,724)
- 2017-2018 Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. “Interprofessional Spiritual Care Training for Senior Care Providers” (\$35,000)
- 2017-2019 Project Grant for Researchers, the Louisville Institute. Project title, “Congregation-Port Connections: Case Studies of Port Chaplaincy in the U.S. and Canada” with Jason Zuidema. (\$24,352)
- 2018 Funding Individual Spiritual Health (F.I.S.H) Foundation, Project title, “Chaplaincy Across Sectors” (\$25,000)
- 2018 Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Project title, “Mapping Chaplain Diversity: An Initial Investigation” with Marilyn Barnes and Kelsey White. (\$6,000)
- 2017-2019 Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Project title: “God Around the Edges? Moral Frameworks in Times of Crisis.” (\$4,000)
- 2015-2019 The John Templeton Foundation with George Fitchett. Project title, “Training Research-Literate Chaplains as Ambassadors for Spirituality and Health: Phases I and II.” (\$4.5 million)
- 2017 Mass Humanities. Project title, “Boston’s Hidden Sacred Spaces.” (\$3,000)

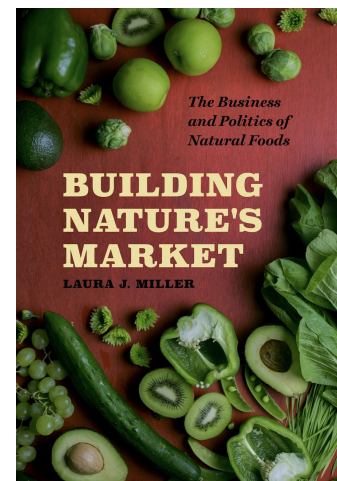
**Gordie Fellman** continues to serve as Chair of the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence (PAX) program. At the annual meetings of the Peace and Justice Studies Association at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in October, Gordie made two presentations:

- On a panel on Gender, Conflict, and Peace, Gordie presented a paper called “A Theory of Domination: Race, Class, Gender, and the Missing Fourth Term”
- On a panel on Working for the Greater Good: Strategies for Launching a Career in Peace and Justice. Gordie presented updates on peace and justice careers of eight recent PAX graduates. Gordie has been urged to add to that list and publish their stories, which he hopes to do soon.

With Brandeis Sociology PhD C.J. Churchill, who is also a practicing psychoanalyst, Gordie co-authored an article to appear in April this year in the *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*, called "Sociology and Psychoanalysis in the Liberal Arts."

**Karen V. Hansen** has had an active year in research, publishing, and administration. In addition to being chair of Sociology for another year, she has taken on the directorship of the Women’s Studies Research Center as of 1 July 2017, after Shula Reinharz’s retirement. Her research on immigrant and indigenous landowning has taken her to Norway, Sweden, Nebraska, California, and Germany for conferences. With the editorial leadership of Samantha Leonard (PhD student) and two co-panelists, our Norwegian-American Historical Association conference paper has turned into an engaging dialogue with colleagues about Native Americans, Jews, and immigrants: “Immigrant Land Taking and Deepening Indian Dispossession” (under review). Two related articles have appeared: “[Gendered Entanglements: Dakotas and Scandinavians at Spirit Lake, 1887-1930](#),” in a special forum on “Gender and Indigenous-Immigrant Encounters and Entanglements,” *Women’s History Review* (2017): 1-16 and the other engages methodological issues in studying the collision between indigenous communities and settler colonists: “Entangled Encounters and the Oral Archive: Notes from the Field,” in *Concurrent Imaginaries, Postcolonial Worlds: Toward Revised Histories*, edited by Diana Brydon, Peter Forsgen, and Gunlög Fur, pp. 183-202 (Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Rodopi, 2017). A forthcoming article written with Grey Osterud and Valerie Grim makes a theoretical argument about power and women’s resources based on comparative historical evidence: “‘Land was one of the greatest gifts’: Women's Landownership in Dakota Indian, Immigrant Scandinavian, and African American Communities” (*Great Plains Quarterly*, forthcoming summer, 2018).

**Laura Miller** finished her term of office in December as Director of Graduate Studies for the Sociology Department. Her book, *Building Nature's Market: The Business and Politics of Natural Foods*, was published in November 2017 by University of Chicago Press. During the last year, she also published an article in *Radical Philosophy Review* and presented papers at the American Sociological Association annual meeting, as well as at the Joint Annual Conference of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society. During the Spring '18 semester, she will be on sabbatical working on her latest book project, which examines the publishing history of vegetarian and vegan cookbooks in the United States in order to trace changing meanings attached to a vegetarian way of life and the advocacy of vegetarianism. In 2017, Miller and her collaborator on this project, Brandeis alumna Emilie Hardman, received the Bibliographical Society of America-Pine Tree Foundation Fellowship in Culinary Bibliography to support their research.



**Chandler Rosenberger** - In April, Chandler was awarded a Provost Research Fellowship to study contemporary Chinese nationalism. With the help of Brandeis Sociology PhD candidate Jing Huang, he is now examining the rhetoric of leaders such as Xi Jinping and Wang Qishan, politicians who have used nationalism as a justification to crack down on both corruption and dissent. He hopes to use this material in a book tentatively titled *The New Nationalism*.

In May and June, Chandler traveled to China on a Whiting Fellowship. The fellowship is designed to help professors better understand countries they teach about, so Chandler took the chance to visit historical sites, such as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, as well as many museums, temples, and tea markets. Chandler's trip took him down China's eastern coast; starting in Beijing, then moving on to Hangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. In each city Chandler also had the chance to visit with many Brandeis students, alumni, and their families. He came away from the trip with a deeper understanding of why Chinese students seek an education in the United States and the many sacrifices families make to pursue it. He returned to campus determined to find ways for students from the U.S. and China to forge the kind of bonds on campus that will later enrich their lives and careers.



**Sara Shostak** has been happily advancing her research agenda, which focuses on questions about food, health, community, and contemporary urban life. In 2017, she published an edited volume -- [\*Food Systems and Health\*](#) -- as part of the [\*Advances in Medical Sociology\*](#) series. This volume brings cutting-edge sociological research to bear on multiple dimensions of food systems and their consequences for health policy, health politics, and the lived experiences and life chances of individuals and communities. It includes an excellent paper by Professors Jane S. VanHeuvelen (HSSP & SOC, 2008 - Sara's first senior thesis student!) - and Tom VanHeuvelen entitled "[Rich Foods: The Cross-National Effects of Healthy Eating on Health Outcomes](#)." Sara's empirical contribution to the volume is "[Grounded in the Neighborhood, Grounded in Community](#)": [Social Capital and Health in Community Gardens](#)" which she co-authored with Norris Guscott, based on their collaboration with The Food Project.



Sara's other recent publications include peer reviewed articles in *Environmental Sociology* (with co-authors Laura Senier, Phil Brown, and Bridget Hanna) and *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine* (with co-author Stefan Timmermans) and an essay in *Sociological Forum*. Meanwhile, she continues to work on her next book, tentatively titled ***Cultivating the City: Nature, Neighborhoods, and the Emergence of Urban Agriculture***, which is under contract with Rutgers University Press (Nature, Society, and Culture Series).

This past summer, Sara received a grant from the [Merck Family Fund](#) for a project that will examine the mission and outcomes of urban agriculture (as understood by community-based urban agriculture organizations), present data on how evaluation is currently being conducted (largely as a consequence of funders' requirements), demonstrate what is not well represented in these (mostly quantitative) approaches, and identify approaches to evaluation that may more effectively assess social justice impacts. After consultation with an advisory board of representatives from MA urban agriculture organizations, the [MA Food System Collaborative](#), and the [Conservation Law Foundation](#), she began data collection for this project in the Fall.

In July 2017, Sara concluded four years as Chair of the thriving Health: Science, Society and Policy (HSSP) program. She continues to serve the University through her work with the Task Force on General Education, the Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program, and the Posse Scholars Program.

**Carmen Sirianni** has been finishing a book, *Sustainable Communities in American Democracy*, which covers the period 1945-2016. He has continued as faculty affiliate at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard, has served on the selection committee for the Innovations in American Government Award for 2017, and has served as a consultant to the Obama Foundation on its civic engagement strategy.

**Michael Strand** has two articles forthcoming this year, one titled "Public Health as a Matter of Concern: Victorian England, 1834-1848" in *Science Technology & Human Values* and the other "The Main Varieties of Practice Theory" in *History of the Human Sciences*. He also continues work on a book manuscript with the tentative title *The Victorian Burden: Morals, Markets and the Birth of Social Justice*. He is currently teaching a graduate seminar on economic sociology, the first offered through the sociology department at Brandeis. He also received an honorable mention for the ASA Theory Prize for Outstanding Article in 2017, with this "Beyond World Images: Beliefs as Embodied Action in the World" co-authored with Omar Lizardo.

**Gowri Vijayakumar** is working on her book project, *Viral Politics*, an ethnographic study of HIV/AIDS programs and sex worker activism in India and Kenya. In the past year she has presented parts of the project at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Tufts, and Wheaton, and next month she will speak at BU and Bowdoin. An article on part of this research was published in *World Development* in January, and another is forthcoming in *Qualitative Sociology* later this year. This past fall, she received a Mandel grant to co-teach an interdisciplinary sociology and history undergraduate seminar on Gender and Sexuality in South Asia with Hannah Muller, and she is excited to be teaching a new graduate seminar on gender, sexuality, and transnational perspectives this spring. As a final project, students in her Gender and Human Rights course this fall made podcasts on feminist activists around the world. The podcasts are scheduled to broadcast on a community radio station this spring.

**Derron Wallace** was recently named the 2017 recipient of the Michael L. Walzer '56 Prize at Brandeis University - a coveted award given to "a tenure-track faculty member who combines superlative scholarship with inspired teaching." Derron also earned recognition for his research from the British

Sociological Association, which named his paper, "Reading Race in Bourdieu? Examining Black Cultural Capital Among Black Caribbean Youth in South London" a top article for 2017 in its prestigious flagship journal, *Sociology*. He also published three additional works in 2017: an article entitled, "Distinctiveness, Deference and Dominance in Black Caribbean Fathers' Engagement with Public Schools in London and New York City" in *Gender & Education*, "Cultural Capital as Whiteness? Examining Logics of Ethno-Racial Representation & Resistance" in *The British Journal of Sociology of Education* and an edited collection on masculinity and aspirations published by Routledge Press. His new co-edited volume, *International Perspectives on Theorizing Aspirations: Applying Bourdieu's Tools* is slated to be published in early 2018. Finally, Derron has another set of articles forthcoming in the journals *Race, Ethnicity & Education*, *Disability & Society* and the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*.

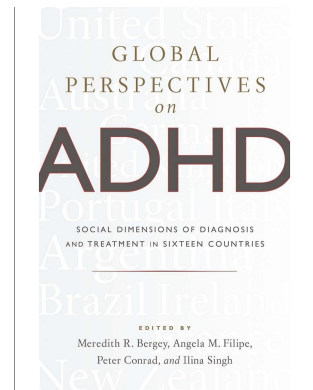
### ~ Faculty Retirements in 2017 ~

**Peter Conrad** retired in June 2017 after 37 years at Brandeis. Peter served nine years as Chair of the Department and ten years as chair of the HSSP program. In March, we had a terrific retirement event



honoring Peter; over 80 faculty, colleagues, staff, and former PhD students came and participated in an afternoon Forum about their Sociological work which culminated in a festive grand evening dinner celebrating Peter and his work. Peter is co-editor, with Meredith Bergey (PhD 2015) and others, of a new book: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ADHD: SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN 16 COUNTRIES, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018. He is currently assembling and arranging a collection of his articles related to medicalization

published in the past decade. The book is tentatively titled STUDIES IN MEDICALIZATION and, when completed, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press. With Caitlin Slodden (Brandeis PhD alum), Peter is engaged in a study of the experience and management of Parkinson's Disease. Peter is now an esteemed Professor Emeritus. Please see Peter's reflections under the "*Department Tidbits*" section of this newsletter. He presented this talk at his retirement event in 2017. *We wish Peter all the best in his future adventures!*



**Shulamit Reinhartz** - After 35 years at Brandeis on the Sociology faculty, Shula retired on June 30, 2017 after a whirlwind year of celebrations, special art commissions and major fundraising. A Festschrift consisting of two issues of the journal *Nashim* is being prepared, under the editorial direction of Professor Sylvia Barack Fishman. Next followed a trip to the Galapagos, which proved extremely interesting environmentally, a topic she discussed in a July op-ed for The Boston Globe. Shula's article on the stages of genocide was published in August, and on October 3rd, she flew to Oxford University to begin her 3 month residency. While there, she was a Visiting Research Fellow at International Gender Studies of Lady Margaret Hall. Shula gave two talks here - one on methodological problems in research to date concerning women in the Holocaust, and one on Gender Roles in Bavaria in the 1920's and early 1930's. The purpose of her residency was to continue her work on the book she is preparing on her father's memoir, living in Germany and the Netherlands from 1921 through 1945 when he was liberated by the Canadian army. In late December, after Shula's return from the UK, she will go travelling to Curacao and in early February, she gave the keynote address at a conference at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel concerning innovations in qualitative research. In June, Shula will be presenting at the Israel Studies Association in Berkeley. She is in the concluding phase of her latest book: *Today I am a Bride: Jewish Women's Voices from Around the World* (Indiana University Press). *We wish Shula all the best in her future adventures!*





## Current Graduate Student News

**Julia Bandini** (PhD Sociology student) received a Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year for her dissertation, "Beyond the Hour of Death: End-of-Life Decision-Making and Family Experiences of Bereavement." Over the course of 14 months, Julia observed in two cardiac intensive care units and conducted over 100 interviews with families and clinicians on end-of-life decision-making and family bereavement and grief. Published this year was "The Role of Religious Beliefs in Ethics Committee Consultations for Conflict Over Life-Sustaining Treatment" in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* along with Andrew Courtwright, Angelika Zollfrank, Ellen Robinson, and Wendy Cadge. Julia was also the recipient of the 2017 Berkowitz Award in Sociology and will be working at RAND this summer as a graduate student summer associate. Photo: Julia Bandini and Peter Conrad.



**Becky Barton** (PhD Sociology student) received her joint Master's in Sociology and WGS in May 2017. She is now finishing up her third year at Brandeis and is taking her last course ever this spring. She is busy preparing for her QPDs, which she hopes to defend in the fall of 2018. As always, her cats, her partner, and her cohort are keeping her afloat with their support and encouragement.

**Sarah J. Halford** (PhD Sociology student) - In March 2018, The Center for Artistic Activism (New York, NY) will be publishing *Creative Resistance: The Podcast Mini-Series*, written and produced by Sarah. As part of her Master's thesis at NYU, the podcast is made up of five episodes on the philosophy and tactics of artistic activism, which include audio recordings from several of the ~25 artist interviews that she conducted during her research. (Release date TBD, will be available free at [c4aa.org](http://c4aa.org) and on iTunes)

**Jenny LaFleur** (PhD Sociology and Social Policy student) - In October, Jenny and her fellow Heller PhD student, Robbie Dembo, presented at the Northeast Education Research Association. They were on a panel about special education and shared the results of an ongoing project that looks at how neighborhood resources are associated with outcomes for children with disabilities. At the conference's poster session, Jenny also displayed the results of a GIS analysis examining how a proposed private school voucher program was likely to have differential impacts on historically underserved populations because of racial and economic residential segregation. In related news, the proposal that Jenny LaFleur and Robbie Dembo submitted to the Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI), "Community contexts and school outcomes for historically underserved students: Developing a geospatial data set to explore neighborhood effects" was awarded a 2018 BARI seed grant. Seed grants are awarded to graduate students conducting original research on the Boston area at the intersection of research and policy that either: a) develops a novel digital data set; or b) develops, implements, or evaluates new programs that incorporate research insights into policy or





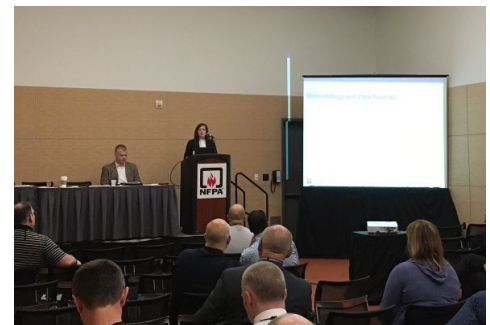
practice. Their project will combine several sources of data about students, schools, and communities. The culminating data set will include both tabular data and shapefiles, and will be publicly available for researchers and practitioners interested in exploring the geography of opportunity and child wellbeing in the Boston area.

**Samantha Leonard** (PhD Sociology student) continues to be excited to be at Brandeis. Last May, she completed the joint M.A. in Sociology and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. She is currently finishing coursework and working through the QPD process in the areas of theory, social movements, and gender, race, and class. In addition, she continues to work as a research assistant for Professor Karen Hansen and her ongoing work on homesteading and land loss on Indian reservations.



Sam was grateful to help present on this work at the Norwegian-American Historical Association conference last June in Stavanger, Norway. *Photo: Samantha Leonard and Mikal Eckstrom (graduate student at the University of Nebraska) at the Norwegian American Historical Association Conference (NAHA) in Norway*

**Rachel Madsen** (PhD Sociology and Social Policy student) had a few events this past year that marked the culmination of a three-year collaboration with the National Fire Protection Association: the release of the final report she co-authored with Hylton Haynes, “Wildland-Urban Interface: Fire Department Wildfire Preparedness and Readiness Capabilities”, our joint presentation of the research findings at the NFPA Convention in June, and the publication of our journal article (with Sarah McCaffrey), “Wildfire Risk Reduction in the United States: Leadership Staff Perceptions of Local Fire Department Roles and Responsibilities” in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. Much of the rest of the year was spent collecting and analyzing data for her dissertation study, looking at the local dynamics of affordable housing development and sustainability planning.



**Alexis Mann** (PhD Sociology and Social Policy student) received a grant that builds from her dissertation research from the [Boston Area Research Initiative and the Boston Indicators](#). Her grant is titled: “Understanding How City-Level Processes Shape Economic and Social Mobility Outcomes” and Alexis will be working with the City of Boston to understand how researchers and policymakers can best understand social mobility at a local level. She will be examining the literature and methods used to study this subject in order to advance a clearer understanding of the processes around social mobility, and to propose the structure of an Economic Mobility Dataset that could serve such efforts moving forward. She will also generate questionnaire items pertaining to social mobility for the soon-to-be-implemented BEACON survey. The Boston Area Research Initiative hopes that her project will lay the groundwork for valuable resources for the study of social mobility in Boston.

**SOCIOLGY**



Brandeis University

*Meet Our Newest Sociology Faculty Member:*  
**Professor Gowri Vijayakumar**



**1. Tell us a bit about yourself and what brought you to Brandeis?**

My family (including one-year-old me) immigrated to the US from India, and moved to the Boston area when I was in kindergarten. After college I lived in London, Bangalore, Nairobi, and Berkeley for ten years before making it back to Massachusetts. When I was lucky enough to be offered a job at Brandeis, the choice was easy—I was drawn to the social justice orientation, feminist legacy, passionate students and faculty, and close-knit graduate program the department offered. And I loved all the big windows and natural light in the offices in Pearlman.

**2. How are you involved on campus and what are some of your favorite classes you have taught here?**

I teach graduate and undergraduate courses on social movements and gender and sexuality, and I'm associated with WGS and affiliated with South Asian Studies. I'm also on the SJSP steering committee.

It's hard to say what my favorite classes have been in such a short time—each one has been a learning experience. Teaching Social Movements in the immediate aftermath of Trump's election was an exciting challenge, and I was really inspired and energized by my students. Last semester I co-taught a Mandel seminar with Hannah Muller in history, focusing on gender and sexuality in South Asia from colonial to postcolonial periods, and I loved the interdisciplinary conversation we were able to foster. My Gender and Human Rights class did some amazing work last semester producing podcasts on prominent feminists and then connecting them to issues closer to home at Brandeis. And I've loved both of the graduate seminars I've been able to teach so far.

### ***3. Who are some of your Sociology inspirations and mentors?***

This is another tough one. Patricia Hill Collins' writings were really influential for me early on in developing a feminist perspective on sociology, and in making sense of what it means to be a woman of color in the academy. Other than that, to the extent we can call them "sociologists," Marx and Gramsci maybe most obviously, for the political immediacy of their work, their historical method and materialist analysis, and their revolutionary vision. DuBois, especially for pushing the boundaries of sociology into art, memoir, and a vision of racial liberation. I also love Stuart Hall. More specific to my research, I really like Deborah Gould's work on ACT UP; Sanyu Mojola and Claire Decoteau's work on HIV in western Kenya and South Africa, respectively; and Javier Auyero's work on the state and social movements in Argentina. Outside of Sociology, I find the work of Svati Shah, Ashwini Tambe, and Prabha Kotiswaran incredibly useful, among lots of others.

I have had some amazing mentors. I was lucky enough to become part of a long tradition of sociologists of gender and politics at Berkeley, and to be mentored by Raka Ray, who bridges the worlds of gender, social movements, labor, postcolonial theory, and South Asian Studies effortlessly. My work is deeply influenced by her and by the network of sociologists of gender and sexuality she has mentored over many years. Peter Evans for his intellectual clarity and endless optimism about the transformative potential of transnational social movements. And Michael Burawoy for his approach to ethnography and his awe-inspiring teaching. This list could go on and on...

### ***4. We know you are passionate about your research. Can you share with us some of the research you are working on currently?***

Most of my work right now is focused on writing a book based on the research I did in graduate school—a study of HIV/AIDS programs in India and Kenya and the ways in which donor and state approaches shaped, and were shaped by, social movements of sex workers and sexual minorities. I've also been working on a couple of pieces that are offshoots from this work—one an analysis of how racialized and gendered hierarchies emerge in the relationships between Indian and Kenyan HIV/AIDS programs, and one a closer analysis of 50 in-depth interviews I conducted with sex workers in India on how poor women move across different sectors of the informal economy. Next year I have plans to start a project in collaboration with an activist group in India on how grassroots sex worker organizations have adapted now that HIV/AIDS has become less of a priority for international funders and the Indian state.

### ***5. What are some of your interests/hobbies when you are not teaching or working on your research?***

I try to be as involved as I can in feminist activism. Most recently, I've been working with a group called MASWAN (Massachusetts Sex Workers' Ally Network), a network of academics, social workers, and sex workers working to support marginalized sex workers in the Boston area through advocacy. I'm also an Indian classical dancer, and I'm part of a collaborative dance group called NATyA—I performed with them for the first time last summer. I love novels and cooking experiments, and I try to see as much theater, dance, and film around Boston as I can, including a healthy amount of Bollywood. Finally, I'm not sure if this counts as a "hobby," but it certainly has taken up a lot of my time—I'm expecting a baby, forthcoming in April 2018.

*~ A special thank you to Gowri for sharing her thoughts with us ~*



Brandeis University

**Department of Sociology ~ Tidbits**

**Congrats to our Recent Sociology Graduates ~ 2017:**



**Masters in Sociology:**

*Margaret Clendenen Minkin*

*Deveraux Powers*

**Joint MA in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:**

*Rebecca Barton*

*Christina Hutson*

*Samantha Leonard*

*Amity Pauley*

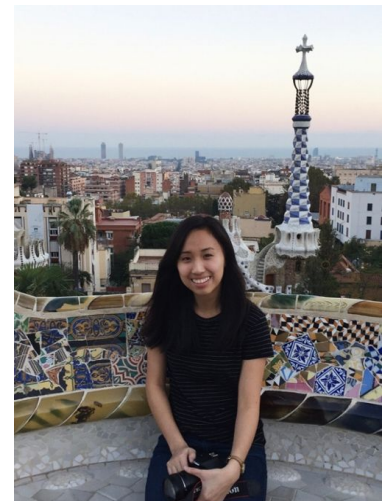


## 2017-2018 Sociology Undergraduate Department Representatives (UDRs):



*The Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDR) program was first established by the Student Senate in the early to mid-1990s, and reestablished in the fall of 1998 by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the suggestion of faculty and undergraduate participants of "Creating a Welcoming Campus Environment" meetings. The program is designed to open avenues of communication between undergraduates and departmental/program faculty.*

**Sharon Cai** ('18) is a senior from Brooklyn, NY majoring in Sociology and Health: Science, Society & Policy. On campus, she is a Head Community Advisor and a 2018 Midyear Orientation Core Committee Member. She is also involved with Food Recovery Network, a chapter of a national food waste and hunger awareness organization dedicated to recovering uneaten dining hall food and donating it to local shelters; and Brandeis Pluralism Alliance Steering Committee, which is committed to providing grants to individuals or organizations working to promote unity, inclusion, and pluralism on campus. Her studies mostly focus on food access; social determinants of health and illness; and inequalities in healthcare. She spent summer 2016 in the "Health, Law & Justice" Justice Brandeis Summer program and studied Public Health abroad fall 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



**Allison Plotnik** ('18) is a senior from Rochester, NY majoring in Sociology and Education Studies. In addition to being a UDR, she is the Managing Editor and treasurer for The Brandeis Hoot. Within the field of sociology, she is focused on education and inequalities in the education system. Last semester, she studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. After returning to the US, she worked as the assistant program director at a summer camp in Upstate New York. Feel free to [email her](#) with any questions about sociology or anything else!

## 2017-2018 Sociology Colloquia Series:

### **Julia Chuang**

Assistant Professor in Sociology at Boston College

Citizenship, Welfare, and the Making of a Rural Land Market

*China has pivoted away from export-oriented development towards a strategy of domestic urban and infrastructural construction. This pivot is especially visible in rural China, where migrant laborers withstand uniquely low wages by relying on subsistence farming practices. Yet, at the same time, this low-waged labor system is disrupted by an ongoing urbanization boom which terminates rural land-use rights. Julia Chuang, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston College, argues that China's localized welfare policies and decentralized fiscal system prop up contradictory developmental dynamics.*



### **Omar Lizardo**

Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame and fellow at the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies

Social Position and the Complexity of Schemas for Cultural Objects

*Omar Lizardo is a member of the Interdisciplinary Center for Network Science and Applications. His research deals with various topics in sociology, social psychology, cultural sociology, network theory, and cognitive science.*

### **Miranda Waggoner**

Assistant Professor at Florida State University

*Miranda Waggoner is also affiliated with FSU's Center for Demography & Population Health. Her research focuses on the social and cultural dimensions of medicine, science, and public health, with an emphasis on the politics of gender, reproduction, and maternal and child health.*



## Reflections from Peter Conrad:

### **It Takes a Village: Reflections of a Life in Sociology**

*Written by: Peter Conrad*

*~ March 4, 2017 ~*

First, I want to thank you all for coming. I am truly touched by and appreciative of your joining us in the event. There are only a couple of times in one's life a person is able to bring together the people who are important to their lives, when you retire and after you die. Since I don't expect to be around for the latter, I decided I would like us to get together for my retirement.

After 37 years at Brandeis (and 46 years altogether teaching), I want to take this moment to reflect on my academic life in the world of Sociology. One could do this by perusing a CV, the academic gold standard for career summary. The CV approach would show I have published a dozen books (written and edited), over 100 journal articles and chapters, presented an untold number of talks and papers, held offices in professional organizations, and received several notable awards. Perhaps more atypically, one could do it in terms of numbers of students. For me this can be approximated as teaching over 5000 students in nearly 200 courses plus chairing about 30 Ph.D. dissertations. As an interesting note, the undergraduate students I taught at Suffolk University 1971-2 while I was still a graduate student at Boston University are now about 65 and probably readying for retirement themselves. Or one could consider the time and energy invested in nearly 20 years chairing my department and a large interdisciplinary program. But looking back it's not just the output that make a sociological career, one can find much of that on an academic CV. But the human, interactional and intellectual life that underlie the academic experiences and accomplishments remain obscure and typically unrepresented. Here I want to reflect on these life and professional experiences that underlie the usual measures of output. Let me say straight out I feel fortunate to have had a very satisfying career at Brandeis and in Sociology. I hope my reflections will show what has made it that way.

To accomplish this, I want to use the metaphor 'it takes a village...' as in 'it takes a village to raise a child.' The origin of this metaphor is a proverb widely used in Africa reflecting the importance of family and community in life-rearing. A couple of decades ago Hillary Clinton used this metaphor to articulate her vision of children in America. Here I'm going to loosely use this metaphor to propose it takes a village to make a sociologist and a satisfying sociological life, focusing on biography, people and experiences. Happily for me, many of you here today are part of my village and the sociological journey it has allowed me to take.

How did I come to sociology? I went to SUNY at Buffalo in 1963 as a Business Administration major and after three mediocre to poor semesters concluded that I wanted to do something better with my life. So I applied to Peace Corps and was accepted to go to Berkeley for for training in the summer. Upon acceptance I figured I may as well finish the year and registered for an Intro. Sociology course, not really knowing what Sociology was. As soon as I started the course, I realized, wow here is a discipline that asks questions about things I thought were important. The teacher in the Intro. class was not himself particularly inspiring but the sociological perspective was so enlightening to me (especially compared to Business) and the textbook, The Social Order by Robert Bierstadt, so well written that I was truly intrigued. I perused the Sociology section of the bookstore, and to my amazement, there were many books I would want to read on my own. I decided to postpone Peace Corps training, took a couple of Sociology courses in summer school, declared a new major. I have often said, I discovered sociology and I was saved.

By the time I was a senior, I decided to apply to graduate school. I limited my applications to Boston and California, less interested in the particular program than the locale, especially after 4 years in frigid Buffalo. I received a few acceptances and decided to go to Northeastern because it was in the

center of cultural Boston and the California schools, with Ronald Reagan as governor, had reduced the availability of graduate stipends. Northeastern offered me a nice stipend as well. Graduate school also was a good option since it still provided a deferment from the draft. I arrived in Boston in September 1967 and began the graduate program. I was completely charmed by the culture of Boston and its intellectual opportunities, though I was ambivalent about the graduate program; but it was here I learned the value and skills of qualitative sociological research. I especially benefited from courses with Blanche Geer on qualitative field methods and symbolic interaction. Blanche had worked on the ground-breaking Boys in White study and was a devoted qualitative researcher. It was these skills and perspective that underlie the dissertation research I would do several years later and the inductive orientation that has infused all my academic work.

In 1968, the Selective Service ended graduate deferments and so I successfully applied for and received Conscientious Objector status. For my alternative service I worked as an occupational therapy assistant for two years at Boston State Hospital in Mattapan. This was a fascinating time to be working in mental health with the push for deinstitutionalization and the hopes of community psychiatry. My experience in the mental hospital changed my interests in sociology. I became fascinated by what I would later see as the sociology of mental health, and even read some sociological works, by people like Erving Goffman and Morris Schwartz. This was beginning to help me understand the crazy world of mental institutions.

When I returned to graduate school for my PhD, I went to Boston University where I discovered they had considerable strengths in medical sociology. I took one medical sociology seminar with Mark Field and became familiar with the work of Sol Levine and John McKinlay. But when it came to my dissertation, I selected a deviance oriented professor, Jim Teele as my chair.

While I was still finishing my coursework at BU, I obtained a full-time teaching job as an instructor at Suffolk University. Full-time meant 4 courses a semester. I did this for four years while completing my graduate course work, doctoral exams and my dissertation. Even when I look back on it, it seems like the image of walking to school, uphill both ways! These kinds of full-time teaching opportunities aren't available for graduate students these days, which is probably a good thing. But I learned a couple of valuable things as well: how to be organized, how to delve into new areas (I taught courses in population studies, urban sociology, community, and social stratification, as well as my own developing interests, which broadened my sociological knowledge in numerous directions).

In 1973, after considering several dissertation topics, I defended my proposal with the mundane title "Factors in the Identification of Hyperactive Children." This was essentially a labeling theory study of identifying and labeling hyperactive children. I became interested in the topic for several reasons, it combined my interests in deviance, mental health and qualitative methods interviewing and observation. The actual dissertation question came out of a Deviance class I was teaching at Suffolk, when we were having a discussion about where were the hyperactive kids in the late 1950s when I was in elementary school? There at least weren't any identified or labeled at that time; I should know, because due to my restless, disruptive and inattentive behavior I surely would have been labeled one. Teachers were more likely to see me as a disruptive discipline problem. What I have recently called "sixth grade misfits." The question of identifying hyperactive kids morphed into my dissertation topic. I'll skip the details of the actual study here, except for saying a couple of things. When I was halfway through the study a colleague at MIT suggested I read a couple of articles by a Brandeis professor named Irv Zola, who I had never heard of. When I read these articles, I was introduced to the concept "medicalization", and the lights came on. That's what I'm studying, the medicalization of deviant behavior. Now I saw my research a new way and this insight and shift not only reshaped my dissertation, but changed the trajectory of my career. As many of you know I have been studying aspects of medicalization, on and off, for about 40 years. It also led to my first publication in Social Problems and the beginning of a public sociological life.



In 1975, my “partner” and eventually spouse, Libby Bradshaw, got into medical school in Des Moines, Iowa and I decided I would go as well. After writing letters to all schools in commuting distance from Des Moines, I was offered a couple of adjunct courses at Drake University. As luck would have it, one faculty member in the department (Sally Hacker) was offered a postdoc at MIT and with good fortune I was able to slide into a one year visiting post. In terms of my village, the most important aspect of my three years at Drake was meeting Joseph Schneider. Joseph had been at Drake for a couple of years and showed me the ropes, but more importantly we shared some interests, particularly in deviance and social problems. We began having some discussions over lunches, particularly about medicalization. After my dissertation was published as a book, I felt I knew a lot about the medicalization of hyperactivity (as a case) but not very much about medicalization of deviance as a widespread social phenomenon. After a few meetings we decided we would do a larger, somewhat comparative study together. This book changed both of our sociological lives. It was published in 1980 as Deviance and Medicalization: From Badness to Sickness. In 1983 we published another piece of joint research, Having Epilepsy: The Experience and Control of Illness. Our names and work became solidly joined in the sociological world. After three years I left Des Moines, partly because “You can take the boy out of the East but you can’t take the East out of the boy.”

In 1978 we moved to Park Slope in Brooklyn near where Libby did her medical internship and I finished Deviance and Medicalization with Joseph. The second semester I taught as a visitor at NYU and had the good fortune to have some interactions with Eliot Freidson. At NYU, I also served on the dissertation committee of Barbara Katz Rothman, who has become a life-long colleague. Following our year in New York, Libby and I set off to return to Boston and I came to Brandeis.

But before I reflect on my time at Brandeis, I wanted to make an observation about specific parts of the village who were important to this sociological life. Diana Crane wrote a book many years ago about invisible colleges in academia. Analogous to that, we might say there are invisible elders not directly in your village that have an enormous impact. For me these elders shaped the kind of sociological perspective I brought to Brandeis and for the most part still remain with me. I never took a course with any of these professors and only met several of them when I was long out of graduate school. These include Howard S. Becker for his work on deviance and field methods, Eliot Freidson whose book and perspective transformed medical sociology, and Joseph R. Gusfield for his work on social problems. I not only admired what these scholars said, but how they said it, and incorporated this into my own sociological vision. What all three of these outstanding intellects had in common is that they each earned their Ph.Ds. in Sociology from the University of Chicago in the 1950s and to more or less degree were influenced by Everett Hughes, who later was on the Sociology faculty at Brandeis for 9 years, but left before I arrived. The fourth member of this invisible college was not so invisible, as Irving K. Zola was my colleague at Brandeis for nearly 15 years. I might add that after Eliot, Irv and Joe died, I had the privilege of publishing tributes to their life and sociological work.

We moved to Lincoln in 1979 and I was hoping to get some kind of academic employment in Boston. I connected with a number of contacts I had in the Boston area. I heard from a few, including Irv Zola at Brandeis. It turns out that Irv was moving half-time to the Heller School and the Sociology Department would need someone to teach Irv’s undergraduate classes. I had an informal interview with four faculty early in the summer and was offered a halftime post in the Sociology Department. That Fall I taught “Health, Community and Society” for the first time, a course I would eventually teach every Fall I (except when I was on leave) for 37 years. Fittingly, it was the last course I taught this past Fall semester.

The following year, due to faculty leaves, I received a one year visiting position and in 1981 the department did a search for a tenure track Assistant Professor in medical sociology. After a national search and interviewing 5 candidates, I was offered a tenure track Assistant Professor position, which I eagerly accepted. After the two years visiting, I already knew Brandeis was a great match for me in terms of community and sociological orientation.

The Brandeis Sociology Department I joined had for me three strengths that aligned with my interests: Commitment to Qualitative Methods, A Critical Orientation and an emphasis on Medical Sociology. I'll say a little about each of these.

When I arrived in the department had a reputation as being one of the bastions of qualitative oriented research in sociology. In fact, the department often prided itself in identifying itself as doing sociology in the University of Chicago Sociology tradition. But much to my surprise there was at the time very little specific or rigorous training in qualitative methods for graduate students, even though some mastered it on their own. In my second year, I taught a qualitative methods course and in 1982 Shula Reinharz joined the department and began to regularly teach a graduate seminar in qualitative methods. Reflecting our resurgent interest Shula and I co-edited the journal Qualitative Sociology for five years. In between the regular issues we together had the good sense to co-edit the first compendiums on the potential of computers for analyzing qualitative data and on international perspectives qualitative sociology. In subsequent years various faculty offered a number of different qualitative methods courses adding substance what has long been an attraction to the department.

The department had and has a long tradition in emphasizing medical sociology as a research and graduate specialty. Faculty had included Everett Hughes, Morris Schwartz and Irv Zola. Even before I arrived numerous graduate students had launched their medical sociological careers here (including the likes of Donald Light, Phil Brown and Marcia Millman). So I joined an environment that appreciated and nurtured my interests. In the many years I have been in the department medical sociology has one of the main department strengths with faculty like Stefan Timmermans and Sara Shostak and others with allied interests like Wendy Cadge. The successful and academically fruitful Ph.Ds. that the department has produced in the past two decades bears witness to the richness and nurturance of our training here.

The third attractive characteristic of the department was its critical orientation understanding and changing society; studying what is was not enough. In the 1960s and 1970s this had meant a direct relation of scholarly work and social change activities. By the 1980s it had mostly morphed to an appreciation of sociology with a critical orientation, but with a strong infusion of feminist sociology. I found this welcoming since part of me had always identified as in part a social critic in my sociological work. This is especially true in my research on medicalization, ADHD and behavioral genetics and in my classroom teaching. While my work was more sociologically discipline oriented, I welcomed (and continue to welcome) the department's openness to a critical orientation.

My life at Brandeis has been more than satisfying. Looking back, many of the most gratifying achievements have gone beyond individual scholarship or teaching or even beyond the Sociology department. I'll mention a couple here. About 20 years ago, Janet Giele, a sociologist in the Heller School and I began discussing a joint Ph.D. program between Sociology and Heller. With distinctive programs with different requirements this was much harder than one might imagine. After nearly two years of negotiations we got a program passed and in operation. In the years since, the program has produced about 15 joint Ph.Ds. 9 tenured or tenure track professors, 2 additional full-time academic faculty, 3 high level posts in research organizations, and one unknown. There are 5 students currently writing their Ph.Ds. in the program. The second achievement I need to mention is the "Health: Science, Society and Policy" (HSSP) program. This interdisciplinary major was developed by a multi-disciplinary committee over a summer and was charged with exploring the development of a program that would build on three strengths of Brandeis: the life sciences, the social sciences of health, and the Heller School's expertise in health policy. This program has succeeded beyond anyone's expectations and has become the third largest major in the university, a reason undergraduates come to Brandeis, and has nurtured engaged faculty relationships between the life sciences, social sciences and perhaps most especially the Heller School. I had the privilege of chairing the program for ten years and have seen the shift begotten by HSSP connections. Without the cooperative faculty in the sciences and Heller this program could not thrive. Perhaps that's why this particular undergraduate configuration doesn't exist elsewhere. Both of

these programs solidified my connection with Heller, where I held a joint appointment for the last 15 years.

As I come to a close there are four other aspects of my sociological experience I want to highlight. Each of these is a collective, village related experience of different sorts. First, as all faculty know sabbaticals are one of the great traditions of academic work. I have been fortunate to have had several, including spending significant time at Harvard Medical School, in Yogyakarta Indonesia, London and Belfast Northern Ireland. Each of these introduced me to new colleagues and orientations, but one expanded the village image further. When I completed my sabbatical in London, one of my hosts, Professor Mike Bury, suggested we produce something more lasting from my years visit. After discussion we developed a plan for what is now called the “U.S.-UK Medical Sociology Conference.” The goal of this conference would be to bring together colleagues and graduate students from the two largest medical sociology communities in the world. The keys to the conference were that it was residential, small (max. 100), with participants dining together, meeting several times in small working groups, and emphasizing interaction rather than giving papers to one another. The first conference was in London in 1999, and there have been subsequent conferences every 3 years or so in Edinburgh, Boston, Belfast and Iceland. There is currently another in planning for 2018 in Philadelphia. I am gratified when participants say “this is the best conference I’ve ever attended.”

One unplanned expansion of my village has been my relationship with Queens University-Belfast in Northern Ireland. Following a semester’s Fulbright Fellowship at Queens in 1997, for 17 years I had an invitation to spend about a week as a visiting professor in the School of Sociology, consulting with faculty, occasionally teaching, and making faculty connections. Over this period I made several close friends among colleagues and witnessed some unexpected changes. When I first came to Belfast, it was a city typified by armed soldiers patrolling the streets, tension in Protestant and Catholic communities and the remnants of two decades of conflict. Over my yearly visits I had the opportunity to see Northern Ireland move from a conflict ridden country to what colleagues refer to as a post-conflict society, maybe typified by Belfast becoming a tourist attraction complete with world class museums, international restaurants, and visiting cruise ships. This is the only transformation I know, however imperfect, that provides any hope for the seemingly intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Returning to home, we have a small Sociology Ph.D. program at Brandeis, typically about a total resident graduate population of 10-12 at any moment. But we are fortunate to attract talented students who are a good match for our departmental strengths. For the past two decades we have developed a stronger mentorship tradition. Numerous departmental faculty have jointly authored publications with graduate students and post-graduates. Since 2000 I have co-authored over 25 articles and chapters with about 17 different graduate students. A good number of these now have tenure or tenure track positions. With this my hope is they too join the village that has nurtured me.

Last year in talking about my impending retirement, a colleague asked me what was one of my quintessential moments at Brandeis. Nobody ever asked me that before. After a few moments thought, I said that one moment does come to mind. In 1992, the University President summoned me to his office. I had no idea why. When I arrived, the Provost and Dean were present. Had I done something wrong? The President sat me down and handed me an envelope. I opened it and it said ‘Congratulations, you are appointed the Harry Coplan Professor of Social Sciences.’ I certainly appreciated the recognition but was a bit stunned. A few weeks later, I looked into the history of the chair. Two professors had occupied it before me: Professor Lewis Coser from 1957-68 and Professor Egon Bittner from 1968-92. I was a bit awed by the company. Professor Coser had been an eminent sociological theorist and past president of the ASA and Professor Bittner was arguably the outstanding sociologist of the police and policing in the world. That was pretty distinguished company and I hoped I could live up to those individuals. But in some kind of symbolic way at least they became elders in my village without even their knowledge.

As I go into retirement I am not riding into the sociological sunset. As some of you know in October 2014 I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. So far it seems early and mild but it has a

progressive trajectory. I didn't choose Parkinson's, Parkinson's chose me. Surely I could use my sociological skills to explore social aspects of this somewhat mysterious illness. I've recently begun a study, together with one of my former PhD. Students, Caitlin Slodden, on the experience and management of Parkinson's Disease. To repeat a useful adage, when you are given lemons make lemonade. The esteemed sociologist Robert Merton declared, "if I have seen further it is because I stood on the shoulders of giants." For me it's a little different. If I have succeeded in making a contribution and having a rewarding career it is because I have worked together with a range of people I see as academic villagers who have helped make my work and professional life rich, productive and satisfying. I might call myself a "serial collaborator", getting pleasure out of the balance of working by myself and especially with others. I take this moment to recognize and appreciate this and thank all for contributing to this enriched sociological life.

I especially want to thank all of my Brandeis Sociology colleagues and staff for their ongoing support and inspiration over the years and for helping develop this wonderful retirement celebration. In addition, I want to thank Marty Krauss for her continued support and enthusiasm over the past several decades. They too are part of my village.



**The Department of Sociology has established a fund [in honor of Peter Conrad](#):**

**The fund will be used to help graduate students with their research projects.**

**To make a gift to this fund:**

**Visit [Support Brandeis](#) and click on "Give Now"**

**Choose "Other" from the designations menu, and write "Sociology Department"**

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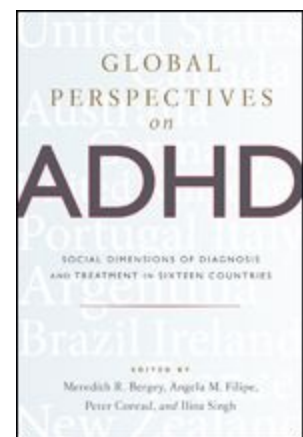






## PhD Alumni

**Meredith Bergey** (PhD 2015) enjoyed her second year teaching at the University of Virginia where she worked with students to create a Health Leads inspired program to address social determinants of health for vulnerable populations. She is excited to now be joining the faculty at Villanova University's Department of Sociology and Criminology as an Assistant Professor and to have her edited volume, *Global Perspectives on ADHD: Social Dimensions of Diagnosis and Treatment in 16 Countries* (Johns Hopkins University Press) - co-edited with Angela Filipe, Peter Conrad and Iliana Singh - recently published. In addition to being lead editor on the project, Meredith co-authored two chapters, including one with Peter Conrad on "The Rise and Transformation of ADHD in the USA." Other recent publications include a chapter on "The Changing Drivers of Medicalization" in the *International Handbook of Critical Mental Health* (Cohen 2017); "The Impact of an Electronic Medication Administration Record (eMAR) and Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) on Nurse Extender and Unit Clerk Staffing" (Robinson et al. 2017); and "Arginine Vasopressin, Copeptin, and the Development of Relative AVP Deficiency in Hemorrhagic Shock" (Sims et al. 2017). Meredith has been involved in talks - organizing and participating on health-related panel discussions at UVA and presenting at the British Sociological Association meeting in Manchester, UK.



**Alison Better** (PhD 2010) received tenure at Kingsborough Community College, CUNY. She published an article with colleagues from the ASA Task Force on Community College Teaching (Brown, Sonia, Stacye Blount, Charles A. Dickinson, Alison Better, Margaret Weigers Vitullo, Deidre Tyler and Michael Kisielewski. 2016. Teaching for Social Justice: Motivations of Community College Faculty in Sociology. *Teaching Sociology* 44(4) 244–255.) and serves as a council member for the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning.

**Janet Mancini Billson** (PhD 1976) has been traveling across Canada interviewing refugees for a new book, *Refugees in the Canadian Mosaic: The Journey to Resettlement and Integration*. The study includes refugees from different cultures who arrived in Canada in different periods: Vietnamese, Nepali-speaking Bhutanese, Rohingya, Haitians, Syrians, Colombians, and Congolese. She is also working on a book on one of the earliest refugee groups in Canada, *Toil and a Not So Peaceful Life: The Doukhobors of Southern British Columbia*. The Doukhobors, originally from Russia, were exiled to Georgia and persecuted for their pacifism and rejection of orthodox religious practices. Interviews with their grandchildren, now in their 80s and 90s, will provide a chapter for *Refugees in the Canadian Mosaic*, as well. Janet has escaped from the Maine winters to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Come on down!

**Phil Brown** (PhD 1979) was part of a group that organized the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (EDGI) in response to the Trump election. Since November 2016, EDGI has grown to well over 100 members and has worked to document, contextualize, and analyze changes to environmental data and governance practices in the U.S. EDGI projects include archiving data sets, monitoring federal environmental agency websites for changes in access and context, and interviewing EPA and OSHA

employees about conditions inside those agencies. EDGI has also written "rapid response research" papers on how the EPA is being undermined, current threats to environmental justice, and the Trump administration's pattern of removing or altering important web-based environmental information and resources. EDGI has also published academic articles and op-eds, and has been featured on many national media outlets. See the website at [envirodatagov.org](http://envirodatagov.org).

Phil organized a highly success national conference on per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFAS, also known as perfluorinated chemicals) held June 14-15, 2017 at Northeastern, with 180 attendees. This is the most significant set of contaminants now being discovered daily in hundreds of sites around the US and internationally. Linda Birnbaum, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, was keynote speaker. Leading activists, scientists, local, state and federal officials, lawyers, journalists, and social scientists made this a great interdisciplinary event. A national consortium of activist groups emerged from it, with a 2018 conference planned, and the overall conference planning committee is working on another national conference for June 2019. With the Environmental Working Group, Phil's PFAS Lab created an interactive map of PFAS contamination data throughout the US. The PFAS Lab has a very extensive website, continuously updated with research news and media accounts; see [pfasproject.org](http://pfasproject.org).

This year Phil has published or has in press the following articles: Jennifer Carrera, Phil Brown, Julia Green Brody, and Rachel Morello-Frosch, "Research Altruism: Why People Agree to Research Participation in Biomonitoring and Household Exposure Studies" *Social Science & Medicine*. In press; Phil Brown, Stephanie Clark, Emily Zimmerman, Mark Miller, and Maria Valenti, "Health Professionals' Environmental Health Literacy." In press in Symma Finn and Liam O'Fallon, eds. *Environmental Health Literacy*. Springer; Julia Green Brody, Phil Brown, and Rachel A. Morello-Frosch, "Returning Chemical Exposure Results to Individuals and Communities." In press in Symma Finn and Liam O'Fallon, eds. *Environmental Health Literacy*. Springer; Dianne Quigley, Alana Levine, David Sonnenfeld, Phil Brown, Qing Tian and Xiaofan Wei. "Ethical Challenges for Field Practices in Environmental Research" *Science and Engineering Ethics* in press; Lindsey Dillon Dawn Walker, Sara Wylie, Nick Shapiro, Rebecca Lave, Megan Martenyi, Vivian Underhill, and Phil Brown, "Environmental Data Justice and the Trump Administration: Reflections on Forming EDGI" *Environmental Justice* in press; Latanya Sweeney, Ji Su Yoo, Laura Perovich, Katherine E. Boronow, Phil Brown. and Julia Green Brody, "Re-identification Risks in HIPAA Safe Harbor Data: A Study of Data from One Environmental Health Study" *Technology Science* in press; Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, and Julia Green Brody "Democratizing Ethical Oversight of Research through CBPR." In Nina Wallerstein, Bonnie Duran, John Oetzel, and Meredith Minkler, eds. *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health: Advancing Social and Health Equity*, 3rd Edition. New York: Wiley 2017; Jennifer Ohayon, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Brody, Phil Brown, and Elicia Cousins, "Researcher and Institutional Review Board Reflections on the Benefits and Challenges of Reporting Back Biomonitoring and Environmental Exposure Results" *Environmental Research* 2017 153:140-149. Photo: Phil Brown and other members of Environmental Data and Governance Initiative at "Making and Doing" presentation at annual meeting of Society for Social Study of Science, Boston August 2017.

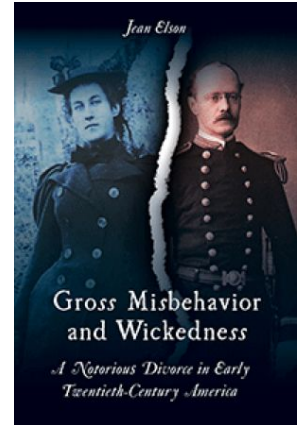


**Jean Elson** (PhD 2000, MA 1996) is Emerita at the University of New Hampshire and has had a wonderful year. Her new book, [Gross Misbehavior and Wickedness: A Notorious Divorce in Early Twentieth-Century America](#), was published in June 2017 by Temple University Press. This book tells the story of the troubled marriage and acrimonious divorce between Nina and James Walker, descendants of

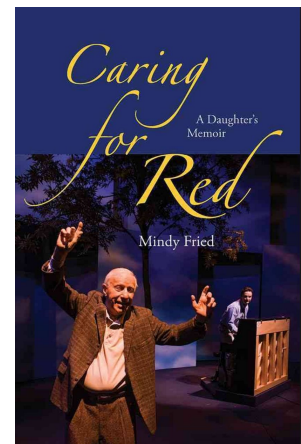
prominent families, which took place during the American Progressive period. Although the Walker case drew widespread attention at the time, Elson's book is the first to recount what happened, shedding light on a critical period in the evolution of American culture. [Gross Misbehavior and Wickedness](#) is based upon court documents, correspondence between the principals, the wife's journal, and interviews with descendants. Jeany spoke about her book in a special session at the SSSP Annual Meeting in August, "Feminists Telling Stories After Retirement." Jeany also participated in the ASA and SWS annual meetings in Montreal and enjoyed catching up with fellow Brandeis alums and faculty at the Brandeis reception there.

Jeany presented several programs about [Gross Misbehavior and Wickedness](#) this year, including as guest lecturer at the historic Pickering House in Salem, Massachusetts, guest speaker at the Sarasota-Bradenton NCJW Membership Luncheon, and panelist at the UNH Women's Studies Tea and Book Celebration. She had book signings at Barnes & Noble and local bookstores. More book talks and signings are planned. [Check-out her website.](#)

Jeany and her husband Tom split their time between Durham, New Hampshire and Boca Raton, Florida. They also enjoy traveling to Asia, South America, and Europe. For those of you who remember Jeany's children, here's an update. Her son Dave received a PhD in genetics from Stanford Medical School and now works at a genetics research company in northern California. Jessy, her daughter, works in media management in L.A. And provided the year's climax in November when she gave birth to Jeany's first grandchild, Max.



**Mindy Fried** (PhD 1996) - Following the publication of Mindy's new book, *Caring for Red: A Daughter's Memoir* (Vanderbilt University Press), she has been taking it on the road, to independent bookstores, universities (including @ Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center) and book festivals. [Here's her article in ASA's Footnotes about the book tour,](#) and [here's a link to media coverage with some pics from various talks around the country.](#) In addition, Mindy continues her work as [Principal of Arbor Consulting Partners,](#) where she evaluates various nonprofit programs. Current projects include a leadership program in NYC, and a Wage Theft Campaign based in Greater Boston. Mindy is also the Co-Director of [Hoopla Productions,](#) which among other things, produces Jamaica Plain Porchfest (to be held on July 14, 2018 this coming year). She and her Hoopla Co-Director also produce a series of events under the rubric "ResistARTS" throughout the year. Her daughter, Sasha, who spent a fair amount of time hanging out at Pearlman Hall (many years ago!), now runs the concert series at *Sixth and I*, an historic synagogue that has extensive programming – music, lecture series, podcasts, and more – spanning Jewish and cultural traditions. In her "spare time", she heads up her band, Lotion Princess.



**Amanda Gengler** (PhD 2014) is still on the tenure track at Wake Forest University. In 2017 she was awarded Wake Forest's teaching innovation award and published an article with co-author Matt Ezzell forthcoming in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* titled "Methodological Impression Management in Ethnographic Research." In April she gave birth to her son, Matthew Joseph, who had a great time at the Brandeis alumni reception in Montreal!

**Hank Greenspan** (PhD 1986) - 2017-18 marks the 25th anniversary of the first production of his play REMNANTS, which is based on forty years of interviews/conversations with Holocaust survivors that began as part of his doctoral dissertation at Brandeis (PhD '86). REMNANTS was initially produced for



radio and distributed to NPR stations nationwide. Twenty years ago, Hank began presenting it as a one-person show which he's now done at over 300 venues in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He is honored that the piece has become well known both in his field - Holocaust and genocide studies - and in oral history/performance and general theatre contexts. During the Fall semester, Hank brought it to several venues in Michigan as well as to Williams College, UMass-Amherst, University of Virginia-Charlottesville, and an American Jewish Literature conference in Miami. Presentations always include post-performance discussions that often last at least as long as the performance itself. [Watch a segment of the piece as performed at Williams this past April.](#) Hank would love to bring REMNANTS "home" to Brandeis some day!



**Lynda Lytle Holmstrom** (PhD 1970) is still at Boston College as Professor Emerita. For folks who missed the ASA meeting in Montreal, Lydia just wanted to mention that there was a session devoted to the legacy of Everett Hughes who was so important in the development of the Sociology Department at Brandeis. Also there is now a book, touted at the session, titled “The Anthem Companion to Everett Hughes.”

**Donald W. Light** (PhD 1970) is excited to announce that he has a grandson, Jeremy Robert! In other news, Don was invited to Rome for an amazing, frightening closed conference on the social pathologies of big pharma. Illustrated talks on their fusion with major universities, and the neoliberal logic leads to asking (in the name of individualism and choice): Why does one need departments (let assemblages form and dissolve as they wish)? Certainly tenure is a dated obstacle. In fact, why have faculty, or at least most of them. Individuals choose what they want to learn, how, from whom, on the net. Returning back to Pharma U, why bother doing or funding research that is not patentable? So... all this has led to put in for funding to study the moral economy of innovation. Meantime, work with MSF (Doctors Without Borders) finally came out, showing Gardasil can be priced with profits at a fraction of current prices. But does it prevent cancer, at any price? Read more about Don's worries in the [Institute for Advanced Study Letter](#).



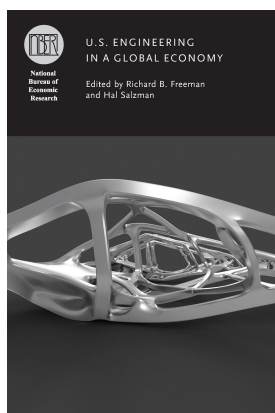
**Debbie Potter's** (PhD 2007) article that continues an area of research interest she first pursued as a graduate student made it to print in October. “Acting Out at the Medico-Legal Borderland: Conduct Disorder and the Medicalization of Children’s Deviant Behavior” is an invited chapter (Chapter 34) in *Routledge Handbook on Deviance* edited by Stephen Brown and Ophir Sefiha. In her other passion in life, she and both of her agility dogs (Dylan and Java Joe) again competed in the 2017 North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) national Championships in Ohio, where Dylan made it to finals.

**Rubén G. Rumbaut** (PhD 1978) completed a year as Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York in June 2017, working on a book in progress with Cynthia Feliciano tentatively entitled *Legacies of Inclusion: The Immigrant Second Generation from Adolescence to Middle Adulthood*. He presented some of the results of this 25-year-long longitudinal research as the Wallace Foundation Distinguished Lecture, “[From Middle School to Middle Adulthood: Education and the Social Mobility of the Immigrant Second Generation in an Age of Inequality](#),” at the 2017 AERA meetings in San Antonio. In August 2017 he received the Julián Samora Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association's Latina/o Sociology Section at the ASA annual meetings in Montreal. In

October 2017 he gave the keynote address to the *IV Coloquio Internacional del Programa de Estudios sobre Latinos en los Estados Unidos*, “Socialización de Latinos en los Estados Unidos: Educación, Religión y Medios Masivos de Comunicación,” Casa de las Américas, La Habana, Cuba. Among his publications this year are: “[De la gran inclusión a la gran expulsión? / From the Great Inclusion to the Great Expulsion](#)”, published in *El País*, January 15, 2017 (on the eve of the Trump inauguration, in Spanish and English versions); and the co-edited volume, [Crossings to Adulthood: How Diverse Young Americans Understand and Navigate Their Lives](#), published by Brill in June 2017. Rubén’s then 9-month-old grandson, Zane, flew from California to San Antonio for the occasion, where he attended the Wallace Lecture and reconnected with his “Abo”.



**Hal Salzman** (PhD 1986) is a professor at Rutgers, E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. He’s been pursuing a diversified research portfolio, with research on high tech labor, including a forthcoming co-edited book with Richard Freeman on engineering (University of

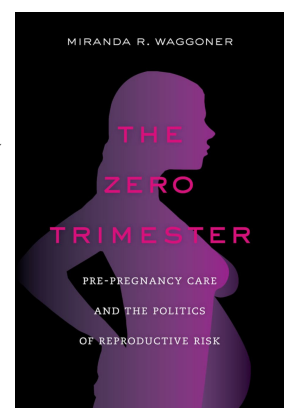


Chicago Press/NBER, 2018); policy research on the IT workforce, STEM education and guestworker policies, including testimony before Senate Judiciary Committees and commentaries in a range of policy and popular media, including PBS Newshour website, *Nature*, and various newspapers; and conducting research in the arctic on socio-economic sustainability of remote rural communities (on issues such as natural resource development, corporate diversification, and whaling), with a short film from his research on the debates and dilemmas for native communities of offshore oil development ([short video](#)).



**Bert Useem** (PhD 1980) is a professor of sociology at Purdue University, where he served as department head for five years. He received his PhD in 1980, writing his dissertation on the Boston anti-busing movement. Egon Bittner was the chair of his committee.

**Miranda Waggoner** (PhD 2011) published her book *The Zero Trimester: Pre-Pregnancy Care and the Politics of Reproductive Risk* with University of California Press in 2017.



**Karen Werner** (PhD 2004) received a 2017-18 Fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. She is developing *Strange Radio*, a seven-episode sonic ethnography exploring the stranger and Holocaust postmemory in Vienna, Austria. Episode 6 of *Strange Radio* (titled *HAUS, part 1: Covenant of the Tongue*) is a sound installation in the Tonspur passageway at the Museums Quartier in Vienna from December 3, 2017-February 23, 2018. The piece opened on Dec. 3, 2017 with an introduction by Dr. Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, former Chief Curator of the Jewish Museum of Vienna. Episode 7 of *Strange Radio* will be the focus of an exhibit at MAG3 in Vienna from February 23-March 24, 2018.



These episodes of *Strange Radio* will be broadcast on the Austrian national radio network (ORF) as part of Kunstradio in April 2018. Throughout 2017 and 2018, Karen has also been an artist-in-residence with the Mobile Art Lab, a project of the Fine Arts Academy in Katowice, Poland, developing a series of experimental radio broadcasts about memory and ghosts with students. For an international conference in Katowice on the future of the art academy, Karen gave a keynote talk in November 2017 titled, "Ghost's Radio: Art, Research, Possibilities" about the rich connections between avant-garde documentary forms, knowledge production, and transformative pedagogy. Karen has been publishing about radio and autoethnography in the *International Review of Qualitative Research* and is on the faculty at Goddard College. For more info, see [Karen's website](#). Photo: Karen speaking about *Strange Radio* during a MuseumsQuartier artist residency in Vienna, November 2017.



## In Memoriam:



*It is with sympathy that we share the sad news of a former member of our community who passed away...*

### **Charles W. Smith**

1938-2017

Charles Smith, 78, passed away on May 31, 2017, in White Plains, NY. Charles received both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Brandeis, and went on to become a pioneer of contemporary economic sociology. In his research on financial markets, he combined a wealth of insights derived from decades-long practice with astute field observation. He was also a pioneer of sociological research on auctions and valuation processes, and famously worked out variations in the social organization of auctions. Charles is internationally known for his work as a social theorist. He was fascinated by the puzzle of how limited knowledge can underpin, and even make possible human action. His last book, *What the Market Teaches Us: Limitations of Knowing and Tactics for Doing*, Charles wove together ethnographies of financial trading, sports, and surgery in order to show how incomplete knowledge can support human action. In addition to his scholarly work, Charles excelled as the decades-long editor of the *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* (ITSB), turning it into an internationally renowned, interdisciplinary, well-respected social science journal. He served as chair of the Department of Sociology and as Dean of Social Sciences at Queens College, CUNY. He was also active in his synagogue, Temple Israel of White Plains, and various other community organizations.

Charles was known for his enthusiastic support of young scholars, and his enormous intellectual curiosity, kindness, and generosity. Survived by the love of his life and wife of 53 years, Rita; his children

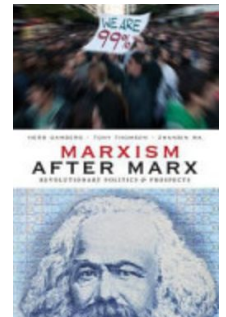
Abigail and Jonathan; and grandchildren Claire, Jonah, Rebecca, and Joshua. He is also survived by three siblings - Ruth Battist, Deborah Weintraub, and David Smith - and a loving extended family. All who knew him will miss his unfailing optimism, humor, and deep engagement with the world and those around him.

## BA and Masters Alumni

**Elina Bravve** (BA 2007) is a City Planner for Baltimore City. Most recently, she presented on her Agency's efforts at Hindsight, an inaugural conference focused on equity in the urban planning profession, and her work was highlighted in [Next City magazine](#).

**Nancy Foner** (BA 1966), Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center, was a Berlin Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin in the fall semester 2017. She was also awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2017-2018.

**Herb Gamberg** (BA 1955) got a PhD in Sociology at Princeton and taught Sociology at University of Pennsylvania, University of Illinois, and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 1965 until retirement. He was introduced to Marxism at Brandeis by Herbert Marcuse, Hans Gerth, and C. Wright Mills. Herb just published a book called *Marxism After Marx*. Herb would love to do a talk on Marxism at Brandeis at any time!



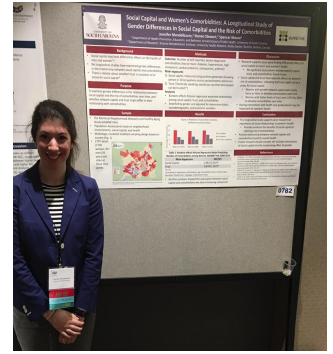
**Samuel Heilman** (BA 1968) published two books this year: “Who Will Lead Us? The Story of Five Hasidic Dynasties in America” and “Hasidism - A New History” and has authored several recent columns in [Haaretz](#).

**Judith Lasker** (BA 1969) is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Lehigh University. She published her book, "Hoping to Help: The Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering", Cornell University Press, 2016. Since the publication of the book she has been speaking regularly on campuses around the US and in other countries as well as at conferences. She has worked with a coalition of leaders from different sectors involved in short-term global health activities (faith-based, university, NGO, and corporate) to carry out research and advocacy designed to improve the quality and value of these activities. At the end of this academic year, Judith will officially be retired although she will continue to work with colleagues at Lehigh University and in host countries to research host views on the influx of foreign students and volunteers and how their visits can be improved.



**Madison Lyleroehr** (BA 2009) was promoted to Senior Research Study Coordinator in the department of Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University, where she has worked for the last 3 years. One of the only Sociologists in her department, she has been working in the last year to develop and enhance the qualitative resources available to faculty and staff and has also started working on some projects as a Qualitative Data Manager and Analyst. In her spare time, she sings lead in a Chicago-area cover band called Shooter McGavin and volunteers as a Client Intake Coordinator for Midwest Access Coalition.

**Jennifer Mandelbaum** (BA 2014) is pursuing a PhD in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior at the University of South Carolina. She presented her work, “Social Capital and Women’s Comorbidities: A Longitudinal Study of Gender Differences in Social Capital and the Risk of Comorbidities” at the Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting in June, where it won a student poster award.



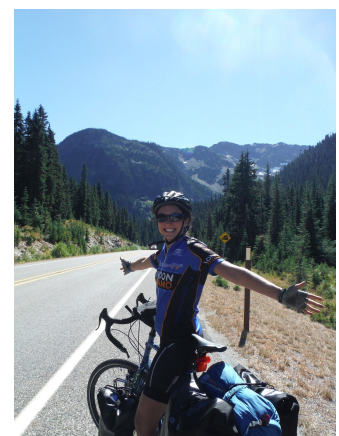
**Claudia Martinez** (BA 2007) is a school counselor in the Boston Public Schools. She has brought her passion for social justice and social change to all of her endeavors. She was the founding chair of the nationally acclaimed group “Unafraid Educators”. A group of educators in the Boston-area working to transform their schools and district into one that welcomes and cherishes undocumented youth and families. Under her leadership she helped to grow the group membership from twelve schools in two districts to fifty-seven schools in six districts. After the 2016 presidential election, educators across the country have been looking for guidance on how to support undocumented students in their offices and classrooms. [Unafraid Educators](#) is providing this guidance.



**Max Fischlowitz Roberts** (BA 2010) has been teaching history full-time at Newton North High School since 2014, and recently earned Professional Teacher Status (the public school equivalent of tenure). Max thinks about his great experience in the Sociology department a lot!

**Joshua Louis Simon** (BA 2007) is currently in production and producing an independent documentary film that explores the story of Jon Burge and the Chicago Police torture scandal and the history of racial and police violence in Chicago.

**Cecelia Watkins** (BA 2011) spent a month traveling across Canada by train this past year from Montreal to Vancouver, BC before dropping down into Washington state. There she purchased a bicycle and embarked on an incredible 2,200 mile solo ride to my childhood home in St Paul, Minnesota. Now that she’s there, she’s begun working with the non-profit Spark-Y, which leverages youth as change makers through sustainability and entrepreneurship education. They do in-school programs for school credit using aquaponics as our cornerstone system to teach STEM and sustainable urban agriculture to kids in grades 2-12. Spark-Y also runs a summer internship program where young people are paid to revitalize their communities and install or maintain a variety of green systems.



**Jonathan White** (BA 1990) continues to serve as Director of the [Bentley University Service-Learning and Civic Engagement center](#) and Associate Professor of Sociology. Recent book chapters include "Generation Y Not: Millennial Activism for Multi-Issue Structural Change," in *Welcome to the Revolution: Universalizing Resistance for Social Justice and Democracy in Perilous Times* by Charles Derber (NY, NY: Routledge, 2017); "A Gluttonous Military Budget Leaves Our Social Welfare In Poor Health" in *Preventing War and Promoting Peace: A Guide for Health Professionals* by William Wiist and Shelley K. White, eds. (NY, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017); Introduction to "Engaged Teaching

and Scholarship Across Disciplines" in *The Cambridge Handbook of Service Learning and Community Engagement* (NY, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017); and a box "Service-Learning as Pedagogy for Peace Activism," in *Preventing War and Promoting Peace: A Guide for Health Professionals* by William Wiist and Shelley K. White, eds. (NY, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017). Jonathan sits on the Board of Directors for several local, national, and global nonprofits including as US Board Chair for [WE](#), the world's largest organization of youth helping youth in social change with 3.8 million youth involved worldwide.

**Heather Stone Wodis** (BA 1999) graduated from Brandeis with honors in Sociology (and African and Afro-American Studies). Since then, she has received her PhD in Disability Studies at University of Illinois at Chicago. Her doctoral dissertation is coming out as a book from Jessica Kingsley Publishing June 21, 2018. "Girls with Autism Becoming Women" is a text-based qualitative study using seven autobiographies. It is already available for [pre-order on Amazon](#), Barnes and Nobles, Google Books, etc. Heather has such fond memories of time spent in the Sociology department and wanted to share this exciting news!

