# Ethics Central

News from The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University

SUMMER/FALL 2020

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### FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR MELISSA STIMELL

### Moving Forward in Challenging Times

hope that you and your families are safe and healthy.

These are extraordinary times. The Ethics Center continues to work on the myriad challenging current events through the lens of civic engagement, peacebuilding and the arts, and international justice.

Under the umbrella of ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, the Center is helping to coordinate VoteDeis. VoteDeis is a non-partisan coalition of Brandeis University students, faculty and staff focused on increasing voter registration and participation in the Brandeis community. VoteDeis has launched a webpage to serve as the centralized hub for information on voting. A vibrant social media campaign is underway. (See article at right.)

With the help of The Teagle Foundation's "Education for American Civic Life" initiative, ENACT continues to reach across the country to its cohort of Faculty Fellows to teach students about our democracy through engaging with the state legislatures. Even in these times of virtual gatherings, students continue to advocate with state legislators on such important issues as health equity, climate change,

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## Why Brandeis Votes: the VoteDeis Coalition supports registration and voting

s they prepared to convene the first meeting of what became VoteDeis, the Ethics Center's Leigh Swigart and David Weinstein knew a lot was being done at Brandeis to support voter registration and voting participation. They were seeking to coordinate those existing efforts, as an initiative of ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.

"We partnered with the Office of the Dean of Students and the library, and when we began reaching out, we discovered that even more efforts were underway than we realized," says Swigart. "Student groups were running registration drives; library staff were notarizing absentee ballot applications; Heller School staff were organizing events; faculty members were discussing voter registration in class."

"As word spread about the VoteDeis initiative," adds Weinstein. "even more individuals and organizations asked to join the effort."

The nonpartisan coalition has brought this growing group together through meetings – including a few in-person pre-

### HOW BRANDEIS VOTES

It's important to make a plan for registering to vote and casting your ballot, and to figure it out early, especially given the challenges of the pandemic. It's not difficult:

- Go to Vote.org to check if you are registered to vote, get help with registration, locate your polling place and even sign up for election reminders.
- Plan to vote absentee or by mail? Vote.org can help you with that, too.
  If you need stamps, envelopes and/ or notary services to send in your ballot, ask at the Brandeis library.

Questions? Find out where to get help at: go.brandeis.edu/VoteDeis

pandemic – and an active listserv. Coalition members support and amplify each others' efforts, share best practices, and innovate to create new efforts.

VoteDeis is organized by ENACT and supported by the Office of the Dean of Students, which hosts the website go.brandeis.edu/VoteDeis.

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Eliza Welty '22, Miriam Berro Krugman MA '20, MBA/MPP '22 and Elaina Pevide '20 (l-r) staff a voter registration info table at "Voting and Democracy in 2020 Beyond." (See p.5.)

## Photos: bottom left David J. Weinstein; top right: Stephanie Grimes

### VOTEDEIS—continued from page 1

"Voting is a key component of democracy" says Brandeis Government Information Librarian Aimee Slater, who has developed a LibGuide and provided lots of other support to Brandeis students seeking to register and vote. "But voting can be complex.

Rules are different from one jurisdiction to another – and many in the Brandeis community will be registering and voting for the first time this year. We are here to help."







Top left: David Weinstein and Zosia Busé '20 at the first BostonVotes conference, at Harvard's Institute of Politics. Bottom left: Busé presenting with a BostonVotes panel on campus voter engagement. Above: Brandeis students gather for a socially-distanced presidential debate watch party hosted by VoteDeis.

### **VoteDeis in Action**

- Convenes a broad nonpartisan coalition of students, staff and faculty.
- Provides stamps, envelopes, notary services, and information at the Brandeis Library.
- Supports the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge signed by President Ron Liebowitz – one of only 264 college and university Presidents to do so.
- Launched the "Why I Vote" video series featuring Pres. Liebowitz, University Professor Anita Hill, students, alumni, other faculty and staff, created with the Brandeis communications team and shared on social media
- Hosts voter registration events and debate watch parties online and (safely) in person (see photo above).
- Is an active member of BostonVotes, a network of students and administrators at Greater Boston schools dedicated to amplifying campus voter engagement and sharing best practices (see photos above).
- Brings elected officials and academics to campus for conversations about elections and democracy (see p. 5).

### WHY I VOTE

"I vote for my mother and my grandmothers, as well as for my father and grandfathers. For all of the years they couldn't vote, I vote." – Anita Hill, University Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies



"I vote because it's one of

the most important effective ways to participate in a democracy, something we should never take for granted."

– Brandeis President Ron Liebowitz

"I vote because it is one of the easiest and most effective ways to make our elected officials accountable to us rather than to special interest groups with millions of dollars." – *Eliza* Welty '22





"I believe that every vote counts and that my voice should be heard within our government." – Norah Khadraoui '24 "I vote in normal times because politics helps to distribute power and advantage and disadvantage, and now in crisis times, it becomes a matter of survival."

– Professor Daniel Kryder, Louis Stulberg Chair in Law and Politics





"The fight for the right to vote is still unfinished. For me voting is a powerful way to protect the lands and lives of the very people in whose homelands I dwell as a guest."

– Professor ChaeRan Freeze, Frances and Max Elkon Chair in Modern Jewish History

"[T]here are still people all over the United States whose voices are still not heard and so I vote for them. I vote to use my privilege and use the right that my great-great-grandmother fought for to vote and I hope that you will join me in voting."

– Jessye Kass '13



See the Brandeis community "Why I Vote" video series at **go.brandeis.edu/VoteDeis** 

## IMPACT'S Growing Global Reach

he IMPACT (Imagining Together Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation) initiative, administratively housed within PBA, dove into a year of global interchange and activities in 2020, with support from the Community Arts Lab/Porticus Foundation, building on an earlier planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In April, IMPACT designed and hosted a two-day global "Virtual Learning Exchange" held in both Spanish and English, during which more more than 700 people from five continents conversed in writing about perspectives and experiences related to central themes in the arts, culture and conflict transformation ecosystem. The United Nations High Commission on Human Rights (UNHCHR) requested a summary of aspects of the online discussions focused on cultural rights and COVID-19.

In another connection with international human rights and education organizations, several members of IMPACT are part of a UNESCO/UNHCHR Art-Lab project team gathering case studies of exemplary arts initiatives in contexts where human rights are abused. They are identifying ethical practices that both mitigate risk to vulnerable communities, and strengthen human rights practices.

In early September, IMPACT hosted a virtual learning exchange focused on creative approaches to gender-based violence across Africa. Held in both French and English, the two-day conversation involved nearly 200 participants from throughout the African continent and Diaspora. In addition, IMPACT is collaborating with the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival, whose 2020 theme is displacement. IMPACT is advising on and contributing monetary support for a new "Thinking Partners" program. Festival artists pair with "Thinking Partners" – scholars, activists, professionals in a range of fields – who contribute to the development of the artistic work through the sharing of their respective expertise, which ranges from immigration to ethnology to visual arts to dramaturgy and conflict transformation.

### **CAST News**

The Creativity, Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) Minor celebrated graduating students, and welcomed visiting artists and scholars to courses, both in person and online. (See page 7.)

## Songs of Resistance and Hope: a new video podcast series

### "For the part of you that's afraid to hope... But ready" – Jane Wilburn Sapp

Singer, songwriter, cultural activist and educator Jane Wilburn Sapp believes that songs communicate ideas in ways that can move people to act on their visions for the world. Songs can plant seeds in our collective memory and energize movements for social justice. They have the ability to give voice to a moral conscience and a moral imagination.

In the video podcast series *Songs of Resistance and Hope,* Jane Sapp offers specific songs to the current movement for racial justice and shares her perspective

on the role of music in this moment. The eight episodes, which are each 7 to 15 minutes in length, were produced by IMPACT Program Coordinator Armine Avetisyan MA '19 and the Ethics Center's Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, in partnership with ReCAST, Inc.

View Songs of Resistance and Hope: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/ jsapp/podcast.html.





Frames from Songs of Resistance and Hope episode 2: "Someone Sang for Me." Pictured at left: Jane Sapp.

Sign up for the "Peacebuilding and the Arts Now" e-newsletter and view the archive: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/newsletter

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Moving Forward

#### continued from page 1

immigration, women's reproductive health, criminal justice reform, and the rights of low-wage workers. (See p. 8: "New Publication.")

With a major grant from The Porticus Foundation, Peacebuilding and the Arts' IMPACT – Imagining Together: Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation – hosted a virtual learning exchange focused on creative approaches to genderbased violence across Africa involving participants from throughout the African continent and Diaspora. This event builds on an April 2020 virtual learning exchange which provided The United Nations High Commission on Human Rights information on cultural rights and COVID-19. (See p. 2.)

Immigration will be the focus of The Language, Culture and Justice Hub. Organized by the Center's Programs in International Justice and Society, The Hub will host a learning exchange to explore diverse language challenges facing migrants as they journey toward their desired destinations: "Rights, Rules and Rhetoric: Exploring Language for and about Migrants in Australia, Europe and North America." (See article at right.)

Ethics Center faculty are teaching numerous courses to our undergraduates including; Global Justice and Societies in Transition; Introduction to Creativity, The Arts, and Social Transformation; and The Ethics of Community Engagement. (See p. 8.)

As we continue to dedicate ourselves to our work in engaging students in the democratic process, peacebuilding and the arts, and justice here and abroad, we are cognizant of both the strength and frailty of our community of supporters. We wish you all good health in the upcoming challenging months. Please continue to reach out to us via email.

We are here.

### INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

### Rights, Rules and Rhetoric: Exploring Language for and about Migrants in Australia, Europe and North America

igrants face many language challenges on their respective journeys. On November 17th and 18th Brandeis University's Language, Culture and Justice Hub, based at the Ethics Center, is hosting "Rights, Rules and Rhetoric," an online learning exchange that will explore these challenges using an innovative interface. Participants will include scholars, researchers, activists, practitioners and policymakers from diverse fields, as well as refugees, asylum seekers, and voluntary migrants such as international students.

"Rights, Rules and Rhetoric" seeks to explore and compare diverse languagerelated facets of the migration experience across Australia, Europe and North America, which can be grouped along three axes:

- the rights enacted through laws or directives ensuring procedural fairness for migrants, including their ability to access critical information in their languages through translated documents or interpretation;
- the everyday rules, written and unwritten, of language provision and practice in processes of migration, which may fall short of formally guaranteed rights and reflect common, if sometimes misguided, understandings of how language works; and
- the problematic or demonizing rhetoric about migrants and their communities of origin, and the obstacles such rhetoric may create for people on the move.

This learning exchange will also examine the impact of the pandemic on the availability and adequacy of language services, now largely provided remotely through technology; and on public narratives about migrants from regions described, often inaccurately, as sources of the coronavirus.

"Rights, Rules and Rhetoric" will use an online platform called Platform4Dialogue, developed by UK-based organization Peace Direct. To accommodate participants across multiple time zones, the exchange will be written and asynchronous, using multiple discussion threads, and Platform4Dialogue's computer-generated translation feature will allow participants to offer and read contributions in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The desired outcomes for the learning exchange are varied yet interconnected: 1) to compare linguistic aspects of the migration experience in three distinct geographical zones with varied migrant populations; 2) to identify the language challenges faced by migrants and discern best practices for addressing them; 3) to articulate future paths in research, policymaking and activism in the area of language and migration; and 4) to build networks across spheres of engagement.

Language, Culture and Justice Hub creator and leader Leigh Swigart, the Ethics Center's Director of Programs in International Justice and Society, says this last outcome is of particular importance: "The 'Rights, Rules and Rhetoric' learning exchange will be a rare opportunity to bring into conversation individuals who would not necessarily interact in other forums – due to distance, regional differences, or simply because they do not attend the same conferences or even read the same resources," says Swigart, "including individuals who have themselves undergone a migration journey."

To learn more about or register for the "Rights, Rules and Rhetoric" learning exchange contact lcjhub@brandeis.edu.

AT BRANDEIS

## Voting and Democracy in 2020 and Beyond

On March 9, only days before the Brandeis campus began cancelling events because of COVID-19, the Ethics Center's ENACT program hosted a panel discussion on voter engagement, access and suppression, with Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch '01. Student volunteers ran a voter registration table at the event with support from the library. In addition to discussing longstanding concerns about voting and voter participation, the conversation touched on the impact of the burgeoning pandemic on voting and democracy.

Former Massachusetts State Representative **Jay Kaufman '68, MA '73**, Ethics Center Board member and Founding Director of Beacon Leadership Collaborative, moderated the conversation, which began with introductory remarks by **John Shattuck**, Ethics Center Board Chair, Professor at the



Lydia Edwards, John Shattuck, Becca Rausch and Jay Kaufman (l-r)

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. "... [V]oting is really the cornerstone of democracy. ... without it you can have no democracy," said Shattuck as he framed the conversation, later suggesting that voting "is a nonpartisan, perfectly legitimate role of civic engagement, that needs to be promoted by universities which claim to be so actively involved in giving opportunities for students to work in communities and do various kinds of things."

"We have done a miserable job for the last two generations of reminding people that the role of [public] education...is to train us all for our roles as part of this democracy," added Kaufman. "[Public] schools have failed at that completely," he said, and called for the effort to redress that to begin at Brandeis. The following are excerpts from the conversation.

State Senator Becca Rausch '01 "...I am absolutely thinking about the impact of public health on voting. And I think that has a lot of potential ramifications. For example, one of the things that both the Democratic and the Republican Parties do is hold caucuses. ... [W]e are in the midst of caucus season. It's where local people in each town and city in the Commonwealth - and this happens across the country – get together and decide on ...delegates from their town.... And we vote at those caucuses for the delegates and then the delegates at the state conventions in ... nominating years, vote for candidates who are running for statewide office, and then the party endorses whoever wins that race.

So this year, the [Massachusetts] statewide election is the US Senate [primary] race between Ed Markey and Joe Kennedy. And caucuses are happening all around. And everyone is worried about COVID-19. I don't know what COVID-19 might do to decrease turnout at those caucuses that then impacts whatever the state party decision will be – or what this what the impact of this public health real crisis will be on that state convention. Things are getting canceled all over the place. ...

But part of the negative ramifications of failing to have strong state-level policies and protocols and systems to activate in these moments – it's not one of the things that people are really talking about – is in fact a negative impact on our democracy and our "small d" democratic engagement."

### Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards

"I represent East Boston, Charlestown and the North End. [My] district is about 70,000 people. ...[Only] 15,000 people came out [to vote in the last election], because in many cases, people don't think that the city council or the municipal level is really worth coming out for. Meanwhile, literally most aspects of your lives I'm in control of, at least in my district. Whether your streets get clean, your potholes, your schools....Are we developing actual affordable housing? ....Can you afford to come in? I'm on it. ... How we hold the police accountable for brutality, for monitoring and coming after or targeting people of color. All of those things we do during our budget hearings.

... [I]t's important to understand, then how you can disenfranchise without actually

doing anything legal, with communities of color. You just make them feel there's nothing that they can do to change anything, that your vote doesn't matter, so you don't bother to vote. If the ballots aren't in more than one language, you don't understand what you're voting for.

...So we went knocking on doors... we began to have meet-and-greets in the projects. We had meet-and-greets in Spanish. We met people where they were, and we were engaging them, and it was beautiful to see those folks come out to vote in record numbers.... And that's how I became a city councilor. We engage, we engage, we engage.

... [T]he system has checkpoints, but it can't completely legally stop people from voting. So it has to make voting painful for enough people so that they can influence an election. ... And the only way you're going to get enough of us to get through is to engage, to organize, and get people excited, to make a celebratory culture. We had a barbecue in the housing projects. We had breakfast by the polls. ... [W]e were doing everything we could to remind people, this is something to do, something exciting to be a part of."

## Online Innovation: Computer Science Meets Civic Education with New ENACT Collaboration Platform

y the time the pandemic began shifting classes around the United States online in March, ENACT students and faculty had been using online tools including Zoom, Slack and Google Drive for years. The nationwide ENACT online community, launched in 2016, includes more than 440 students, alumni and faculty who share materials, collaborate in dedicated channels, and come together for online events.

Yet connecting students and alumni who have worked on various sides of the same issue by sharing resources and fostering conversation has been both an ENACT goal and an ENACT challenge.

When the New York-based Teagle Foundation awarded a multi-year grant to enable ENACT to complete a national expansion, it recognized that strengthening the ENACT online network as a forum for conversation, collaboration, research dissemination, and comparative study would be a critical component of the success of this expansion, and dedicated a portion of the grant to this effort.

It was time to design and build a custom solution that would meet the needs of a one-of-a-kind program.

ENACT reached out to the chair of the Brandeis Computer Science Department, Tim Hickey, who recommended the



Nicole (Huiyan) Zhang '21

program work with two of his top undergraduate students to build the from scratch. Hangyu Du '21 and Nicole (Huiyan) Zhang '21 jumped at the chance.

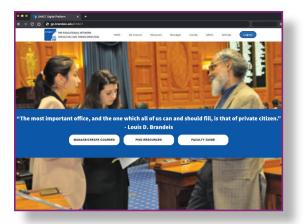
Using the latest software development techniques, Hangyu and Nicole iterated multiple versions of the platform. They met weekly throughout the summer with ENACT staff, Faculty Fellows and ENACT alumni, built new features, tested, revised, built more features, tested again, revised again.

"In the past three months, Hangyu and Nicole have gone from the idea of a platform to modernize the way ENACT community members share data resources to a fully functional and welldesigned app, custom-built for the needs of ENACT faculty and students, being piloted in courses this spring," says Hickey, who has continued to consult on the project.

Using the new online platform, ENACT students can search student-created materials reaching back to the first ENACT course at Brandeis in 2010 by topic, state, year, and type of resource – and they can send a message through the platform to the resource creators. They can also access videos of ENACT speakers and student presentations.

Faculty can share teaching resources, original research, syllabi, readings, and more in a faculty-only section of the platform, and will soon be able to access a calendar of events in ENACT classes across the U.S. and join events (via Zoom) with their students. The public can access selected resources as well, and can search by topic for resources on bills across the country.

"This is what can happen when universities recruit top-notch computer science students to work with creative and innovative faculty, staff, and alumni in other disciplines," says Hickey. "The nation will



The ENACT platform homepage

reap the benefits as students from around the US use these ENACT resources to connect across political divides and more effectively lobby state legislatures on the most important issues of the day, and legislators respond appropriately with more thoughtful and effective laws."

"It's a good feeling to work on a really meaningful project," says Nicole. "And it has been a valuable experience to have a programmer/client relationship where I need to understand what the client wants, find technical solutions, and explain the technology to a general audience. I also have learned more about the US and what Americans are concerned about in society. As an international student majoring in computer science and economics I hadn't explored these areas as much before."

"The most exciting part of this journey is that it is more than just programming," adds Hangyu. "I need to think from multiple types of users' perspectives to make design choices. As I worked with the team, I realized that ENACT has already impacted civic education across the United States and is still growing. My goal is to make the platform easy to use, and bring our users a little bit of happiness while using it."

### More about ENACT: go.brandeis.edu/ENACT

### AT BRANDEIS

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**ZOË ROSE** 

3-6 PM EST; May

IA R'NANA BCHIRI HANGIL RYU

## Setting the Stage for Reflection and Exploration: the CAST Capstone Presentations

reativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST) students typically share their capstone projects in a celebratory spring event on campus. In May, responding to a semester that was anything but typical, CAST moved to an online format, presented as part of the multiday Create@Brandeis: Living Room Fest sponsored by the Arts Engagement team of the Division of Creative Arts.

At the Zoom-based event, hosted by Quinn Weiner '21, graduating CAST minors Haia R'nana Bchiri, Anna Cass, Emily Eidler, Rasheed Peters, Zoë Rose and Hangil Ryu shared their independent ventures, which included short films, poetry and recipes, an elementary school curriculum, a one-woman show and stand-up comedy.

"In their work, these students reflected – and reflected on – the learnings they amassed in their years with CAST courses and programs," said Toni Shapiro-

Phim, Assistant Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, and Associate Professor of CAST. "They also set the stage for further exploration of issues and situations of particular concern."

### HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS

### **JANUARY**

The Ethics Center convened the first meeting of what is now **the VoteDeis Coalition**. (See p. 1).

The Ethics Center; the Office of Study Abroad; the Gender and Sexuality Center; and the Intercultural Center hosted the 9th annual **"Year Abroad Queer Abroad"** LGBTQIA+ returnee panel and discussion.

### **FEBRUARY**

"Broadsides to Brandeis: An Evening of Artistic Response" marked the official opening of the CAST and Creative Writing exhibition space, outside the CAST Creativity Lab in the Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex, and featured Professor Elizabeth Bradfield, founder of Broadsided Press. Co-hosted by the CAST and Creative Writing Undergraduate Departmental Representatives.

### MARCH

A two-day, multi-event CAST program, **"Voices of Comedy,"** conceived of and produced by student Anna Cass '21, brought standup comics from diverse backgrounds with different comedic styles together for a show, a standup workshop, and an open mic.

**"Voting and Democracy in 2020 and Beyond"** featured Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch '01. (See p. 5.)

### Dance and Migration

Dance and Migration (CAST 110b), taught by Toni Shapiro-Phim, welcomed guests throughout the semester: Cambodian dancer Huy Serey Phousita and other members of the Angkor Dance Troupe; Choreographer,

performer and scholar Ananya Chatterjea, Ananya Dance Theater; social justice activist and jazz tap dancer Germaine Ingram; Betsayda Machado – The Voice of Venezuela (as part of a MusicUnitesUs residency), pictured above, and Liberian singer and dancer Fatu Gayflor.

Sam Hyun MA '21, a member of the Massachusetts Asian American Commission, spoke on **"Inside the Committee Process"** and Massachusetts State Representative Mike Connolly spoke about **"Policymaking through the Budget Process, A Legislator's Perspective"** in separate Zoom visits to the Brandeis ENACT class.

"Young Political Leadership: An ENACT Forum" featured Massachusetts State Senator Diana DiZoglio, Connecticut State Representative Quentin "Q"



Phipps, and Maine State Representative Harold "Trey" Stewart III. (Pictured above)



APRIL

The students of the Brandeis ENACT course "Advocacy for Policy Change" discussed their work at **Present and Defend**.

IMPACT hosted a **Virtual Learning Exchange** on Acting Together. (See p. 3.)

### MAY

The Ethics Center celebrated graduating students who contributed to the work of the Center at the annual **"UnCommencement"** celebration.

The CAST Capstone Exhibition featured graduating CAST minors. (See above.)

### **SEPTEMBER**

The VoteDeis coalition hosted **presidential debate watch parties** at Brandeis in person and online. (See p.1)

### Black Lives Matter: Revisiting the Words of Gittler and Richman Awardees

Throughout the fall semester, in response to recent events in the United States and in the spirit of supporting the efforts of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Center's weekly newsletter is featuring video clips from the keynotes and interviews of Gittler Prize recipients and Richman Fellows from their visits to Brandeis, where they were hosted by the Ethics Center on behalf of the Office of the President. Each of these scholars and public figures offers significant reflections on critical racial and societal challenges.

To subscribe to Ethics Central Weekly, email ethics@brandeis.edu.

## The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life

Mission: To develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

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Melissa Stimell, Interim Director Daniel Terris, Director Emeritus Armine Avetisyan MA '19, Program Coordinator, IMPACT Cynthia Cohen, Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts Debby Olins, Budget Manager Toni Shapiro-Phim, Assistant Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts Barbara Strauss '02, Senior Department Coordinator Leigh Swigart, Director, Programs in International Justice and Society David J. Weinstein, Assistant Director of

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### ■ IN THE NEWS Staff Highlights

**Cynthia Cohen** presented at the Arts-At-Risk conference in Zurich Switzerland in February. In September, Cohen convened and presented in the conversation/ presentation series Creative Approaches to Transitional Justice, based on a special issue of The International Journal of Transitional Justice that she guest edited. In the spring semester **Melissa Stimell** taught the 11th iteration of her course "Advocacy for Policy Change" (LGLS 161b), the model for ENACT, shifting online due to the pandemic.
Leigh Swigart represented Brandeis and VoteDeis at the Boston Votes conference in July. David Weinstein co-hosted online presidential and vice presidential debate watch parties at Brandeis in September and October.

### **New Publication**

### 2019-2020 Academic Year Report of The ENACT Labor Network

The ENACT Labor Network (ELN) was a deep dive into labor issues supported by the Ethics Center's ENACT program in partnership with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis. ENACT Faculty Fellows in Arkansas, Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts mentored students who explored current state labor issues, and met with advocates, experts and state legislators.



The ENACT Labor Network was supported by the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice, which is funded in part by Ethics Center Board member Jules Bernstein '57 and his wife, Linda Lipsett; as well as Bringing Theory to Practice, an independent national initiative

operating in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities and supported by The Endeavor Foundation and the S. Engelhard Center. View or download the report: **brandeis.edu/ethics/pdfs/ENACT/enact-labor-network-report-2019-2020.pdf** 

### FALL 2020 COURSES SUPPORTED BY THE CENTER

#### Introduction to Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST 150b)

*Instructor: Toni Shapiro-Phim (remote)*. How can music, theater, dance and visual and other arts contribute to community building, coexistence, and nonviolent social change? In the aftermath of violence, how do artists help communities reconcile? Students explore these questions through interviews, case studies, and projects.

### Ethics of Community Engagement (CAST 181b - Capstone Practicum)

*Instructor: Toni Shapiro-Phim (hybrid: remote and in person).* Combining theory and practice, this course supports students in the Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) minor as they imagine and undertake their required capstone project or CAST course projects that require engagement beyond the campus.

#### Global Justice and Societies in Transition (LGLS 129a)

Instructors: Cynthia Cohen, Melissa Stimell and Leigh Swigart (remote). This course introduces the concept and practice of transitional justice, a growing interdisciplinary field of study placed at the intersection of international law and justice, conflict and peace studies, human rights and politics. For more on this topic see the Center's 2011 symposium Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence: brandeis.edu/ ethics/events/JustPerformance.html.