



Ethics Central

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

WINTER/SPRING 2022

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FROM THE DIRECTOR
MELISSA STIMELL

Continuing Our Work in Challenging Times

As we are about to mark the two year anniversary of the global pandemic, I remain hopeful with the recent positive developments.

In these uncertain times, our work is more important than ever. We continue to use academic scholarship to help solve complex problems for communities at the local, state, national and global levels. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of this ongoing work.

Toni Shapiro-Phim continues to work with Indigenous people. She curated a campus exhibit of work by Canadian Indigenous artist Jaime Black. The REDress Project called attention to violence against Indigenous women and girls across North America with the installation of empty red dresses in outdoor spaces across campus accompanied by, between us, an exhibition of Black's poems, photographs, and video inside the Kniznick Gallery. (See page 7.)

Leigh Swigart's research is generating new knowledge about how international students on English language-dominated campuses use the linguistic resources at their disposal and respond to language challenges in their academic and social lives. The "Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus" joint research project at Brandeis University is partnering with Macquarie University in

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Ethical Engagement at Brandeis and Beyond

For 24 years, the Ethics Center has offered distinctive approaches to ethical engagement, exploring and addressing issues of pressing concern with partners on the Brandeis University campus, in local communities in Waltham and Massachusetts, across the United States and around the world.

Across the Ethics Center's diverse programs – in recent years focused on peacebuilding and the arts, questions of justice broadly defined, and legislative processes in US states – the Ethics Center has embodied strong commitments to civic engagement, ethical practices, and the values of reciprocity and listening. It has worked in contexts of rapid change and ambiguity, recognized the dynamics of power, and embraced an obligation to work toward justice and equity. In the process the Center has addressed legacies of colonialism, past and present, and advocated for actions that minimize risks of harm.

The Ethics Center's three major current program areas continue to embody these commitments:

The Ethics Center designed and leads the innovative Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and its related minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social



The Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex, the Brandeis campus home of the Ethics Center

Photo: David J. Weinstein

Transformation (CAST), both of which are collaborating with and being recognized by partners across the globe, ranging from intergovernmental organizations and funders to grassroots cultural organizations on every continent, as they explore how ethically crafted artistic and cultural initiatives can make uniquely potent contributions to communities' efforts to address complex 21st century challenges (See pages 6-8.)

The Language Culture and Justice Hub, an initiative of the Ethics Center's Programs in International Justice and Society, is currently leading a group of Brandeis students as they collaborate with students and faculty in Australia and the UK to research the linguistic experiences of international students and how language differences may lead to bias and exclusion

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Continuing Our Work —
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Sydney, Australia and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom to gather information on the experiences of international students across the globe. (See page 3.)

ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, is the Ethics Center’s national, non-partisan program engaging undergraduates in the state legislative process. ENACT has trained Faculty Fellows at diverse colleges and universities in all 50 states. The Brandeis ENACT class, “Advocacy for Policy Change,” is in its 13th year and will focus on such priorities as voting, immigration, health care equity, climate change, and workers’ rights. With the help of the ENACT Faculty Mentorship Initiative, experienced faculty fellows are supporting new fellows as they develop and teach their ENACT courses. (See page 4.)

The Ethics Center’s program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, under the direction of Cynthia Cohen, is launching IMPACT, Inc., an independent, global, non-profit organization committed to strengthening the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation. IMPACT continues its work in Cyprus, Colombia, Senegal and elsewhere. Cindy recently presented this work to the UN Secretary General and the senior management group. (See page 6.)

The efforts of the VoteDeis Campus Coalition, led by David Weinstein and Leigh Swigart, helped Brandeis University increase student voter participation to 70 percent, a 13 percent increase since the 2016 presidential election, earning the University a Gold Seal recognition from the national ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. (See page 4.)

There is much more to come this semester. We look forward to collaborating in person and virtually. Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

■ **Ethical Engagement** —
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on campuses. (See page 3.) Practitioners and scholars and interested members of the public subscribe to the Ethics Center’s “International Justice in the News” for a monthly selection of news about the people involved in the work of international courts and tribunals, significant developments in international justice, and publications and resources of interest.

ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, a non-partisan program developed and led by the Ethics Center, recently completed its expansion to every state in the country with a mission to teach students about democracy through active civic engagement in the state legislative process on such issues as health care equity, voting, climate change, and criminal justice. ENACT’s faculty fellows teach in a wide range of institutions, and adapt approaches from Brandeis and colleagues from other states to their own particular contexts. (See page 4.)

“What these diverse activities share is a commitment to the direct engagement of students with critical institutions and real-world problems, requiring them to gain new skills, adopt alternative perspectives, and think about how societal change occurs,” says Leigh Swigart, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society.

“For nearly a quarter century the Ethics Center has provided a campus home for many students, faculty, and alumni that includes and extends beyond the particular programs it sponsors and the events it hosts,” adds David Weinstein, Assistant Director of Communications and ENACT.

“The Ethics Center has a special constellation of experience, expertise, partners and supporters in a context of innovation, experimentation, and grounding in principles of ethical engagement. As the Ethics Center continues to evolve it will offer socially responsible, coherent, and well-guided experiences for students as they prepare to face critical 21st century challenges.”

An Incubator for the University

Since 1998 Ethics Center has served as an incubator for initiatives that have had a transformative impact on Brandeis University and on individuals and in professions around the globe. Many initiatives nurtured at the Ethics Center have been signature components of the education of Brandeis students, and have been touchstones for alumni and for campus partners, including:

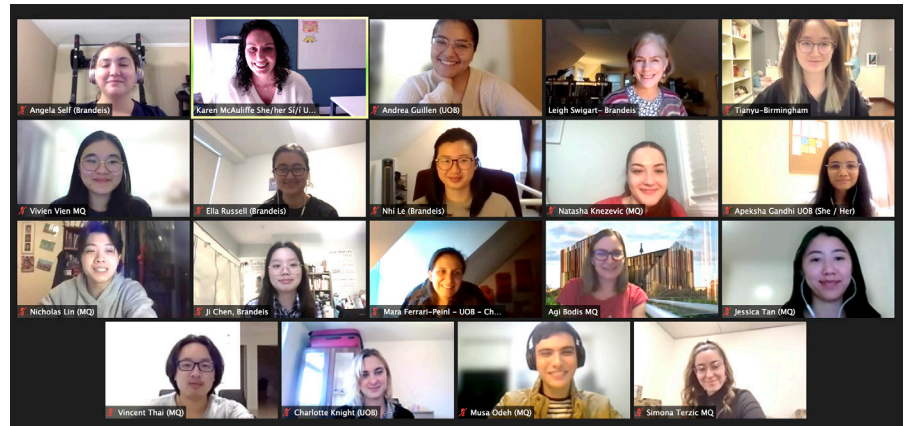
- **The Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence**, now a part of the Heller School.
- **The DEIS Impact Festival of Social Justice**, now at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- **The Sorensen Fellowship**, concluded in 2017 after 20 years of collaborating with and strengthening internship experience programs at Brandeis.
- **The Minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST)**, administered by the Ethics Center and governed by an advisory committee.
- **The Brandeis Institute for International Judges**, which for 16 years convened the only regular gathering of judges from national and transnational courts across the globe and produced an enduring body of scholarship and resources on the role of ethics in this realm.
- **IMPACT: the Imagining Together Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation**, developed by the Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts with partners, is now being launched as a global non-profit organization. (See page 6.)

Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus: Phase Two

An Ethics Center-sponsored research project, being carried out by a group of Brandeis undergraduate and graduate students, continues into its second phase during the Spring 2022 semester. “Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus: exploring the linguistic experiences of international students in English language-medium universities” aims to shed light on how, in a space that is predominantly English-speaking, international students use all the linguistic resources at their disposal and respond to language challenges and opportunities in their academic and social lives.

The team of Brandeis undergraduate and graduate student researchers, Ji Chen '23, Nhi Le MA '23, Anh Nguyen MA '22, Ella Russell '22, Angela Self '22 and Will Simmons '22, developed a survey in the fall designed to elucidate various realities and challenges experienced by international students. A publicity campaign resulted in over 300 Brandeis undergraduate survey takers, a substantial response rate that has yielded a significant amount of data.

The team is current analyzing



October 2021 Zoom meeting of the Brandeis, Macquarie and Birmingham research teams.

this data and selecting respondents for follow-up qualitative interviews. The findings of this research project, including recommendations for how Brandeis can be a welcoming campus for international students, will be presented in a public event in late April 2022.

Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus is enriched by running alongside parallel projects at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Both universities, like Brandeis, are English

language-dominant spaces with large international student populations. The three teams meet and share insights and best practices in designing and administering surveys, as well as on qualitative interview techniques.

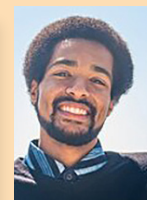
Read more about the transnational aspect of this project and hear from the faculty leads at the partner institutions in the Summer/Fall 2021 *Ethics Central*. See page 1: “Multilingual Life on Monolingual Campuses.”

Building a Culture of Peace: The 2021 Karpf and Hahn Awards

Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf and Ari Hahn's family generously award funding to Brandeis undergraduate and graduate students who wish to work on peace, conflict resolution, and coexistence projects. The faculty and student members of the Karpf and Hahn Steering Committee are convened annually by the Ethics Center to select the recipients of these grants. The awards, which range from \$100 to \$3,000, are meant to enhance peace culture as it evolves in our society and elsewhere in the world. The winning projects are listed at right. Congratulations!

Read about the projects and learn how to apply for the Karpf and Hahn Peace Awards: brandeis.edu/ethics/core-programs/campus-programs/awards/karpf-hahn

Hadeer AbdElRahman '21
(Heller):
“Building a Community Voice Action Group for Peacebuilding”



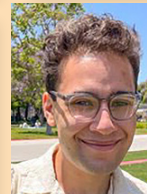
Christopher Reynolds '22
(Heller):
“The Robbins House Restorative Justice Project Guide Publication”

Brandeis Climate Justice:
“Community Talk and Art Build for Indigenous Futures” Pictured l-r: Selah Bickel '24 and Ellie Ross '22



Alex Ross '22:
“Our Day Will Come”

Neh Meh '24
(Heller):
“Peacebuilding through Education”



Parker Thompson '23:
“Always Been”

Student-to-Student Support: The ENACT Student Delegates

“How do I figure out what legislation to support?” “What’s the hardest thing about meeting with a legislator?” “How did you use this experience to help you find a job?”

Students in some of the 16 ENACT classes being taught around the United States this spring have asked these questions and more of ENACT Student Delegates Elaina Pevide '20 and Alison Cantor '22 during their Zoom-based class visits.

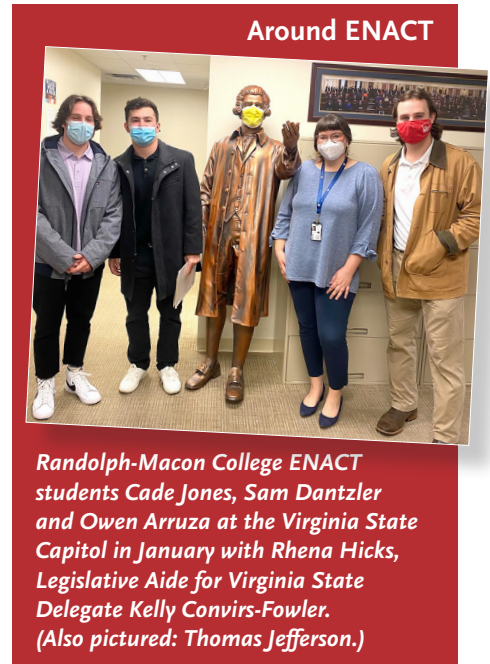
“I’ve had the opportunity to join Elaina and Alison for many of these visits,” says ENACT Assistant Director David Weinstein. “Students are eager to hear how they managed the intimidating experience of meeting with policymakers and legislative aides. Alison and Elaina are fielding thoughtful questions about this process and responding with insightful, practical advice.”

Elaina Pevide is serving her second year as an ENACT student delegate, while working as Special Projects and Media

Coordinator for the mayor of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts. Alison Cantor is a Brandeis senior majoring in sociology and minoring in social justice and social policy. Both draw on their experiences in the Brandeis ENACT course, “Advocacy for Policy Change” (LGLS 161b), taught by ENACT’s Academic Program Director and Ethics Center Director Melissa Stimell.

Pevide and Cantor are also helping ENACT students and faculty fellows tap into ENACT’s national network of people, resources and events. This includes enactnetwork.org, designed and supported by Brandeis computer science students under the guidance of Prof. Tim Hickey; guest speakers hosted by ENACT classes around the country; and a LinkedIn group open to students and alumni of ENACT courses.

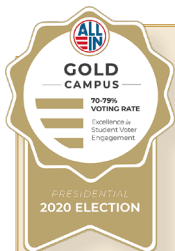
This year, Pevide and Cantor have organized an ENACT Networking Night during which current students can speak with alumni studying and working in a range of fields, and they have recruited



Randolph-Macon College ENACT students Cade Jones, Sam Dantzler and Owen Arruza at the Virginia State Capitol in January with Rhena Hicks, Legislative Aide for Virginia State Delegate Kelly Convors-Fowler. (Also pictured: Thomas Jefferson.)

a robust cohort of ENACT Student Ambassadors, building on a small program piloted last year. The Student Ambassadors each represent their ENACT class and campus, and are working alongside Pevide and Cantor to explore new ways of strengthening ties between ENACT classes.

More about the ENACT Student Delegates and Ambassadors: brandeis.edu/ethics/enact/people/student-delegates



Voter Participation Earns Brandeis National Gold Seal Recognition

Seventy percent of Brandeis University students who were eligible voted in the 2020 presidential election, earning the University a Gold Seal

from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a national, nonpartisan initiative of Civic Nation, which strives for a more inclusive democracy.

The work to achieve this milestone – an increase of 13 percent from the previous presidential election – was spearheaded by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition, organized by Leigh Swigart and David Weinstein of the Ethics Center in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students. VoteDeis is a nonpartisan initiative that since 2018 has brought together students, staff and faculty to

coordinate, plan, and share information and resources for voter registration and participation.

In the run-up to the 2020 election VoteDeis hosted in-person and virtual debate watch parties, shared voting information and resources, and created the “Why I Vote” video series featuring Brandeis students, staff, faculty and alumni, and President Ron Liebowitz signed the ALL IN Presidential Commitment, committing Brandeis to actively working towards the goal of full student participation in elections.

The Work Continues

VoteDeis is not done! The coalition will be hosting an event this spring discussing the campus registration and

voting data from Brandeis and other schools collected by the Tufts University-based National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement; and Brandeis students have begun organizing a VoteDeis club.

“I got involved with VoteDeis ahead of the 2020 election to boost voting rates amongst the Brandeis community,” says Gabriella Lieberman '23, a lead organizer of that effort. “Since that time VoteDeis has inspired an energized student campaign to change the mindset surrounding the culture of civic engagement at Brandeis University.”

Learn more, join the VoteDeis listserv and view the “Why I Vote” videos: go.brandeis.edu/votedeis

Crops With No Plow: Racial Literacy as Antidote – Not Cure – to Racial Threat

Howard C. Stevenson, the Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education, was the 2020 winner of the Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize. The Gittler Prize recognizes outstanding and lasting scholarly contributions to racial, ethnic and/or religious relations. It is hosted by the Ethics Center on behalf of the Office of the President. Dr. Stevenson’s residency at Brandeis, cosponsored by the Education Program, took place November 17 to 19, 2021 (rescheduled from 2020 due to the pandemic).

At the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education, Dr. Stevenson serves as executive director of the Racial Empowerment Collaborative and directs Forward Promise, a national philanthropic office that promotes a culture of health for boys and young men of color, to help them heal from the trauma of historical and present-day dehumanization, discrimination and colonization.

Dr. Stevenson has led two mental health research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health to examine the benefits of racial literacy. He is the author of the bestselling book *Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences That Make a Difference*, which offers solutions to reduce racial threat reactions in face-to-face encounters.

“Professor Stevenson has ensured his work is useful not only to academics but to the worlds of policy and practice,” said Dr. Leah Gordon, Harry S. Leviton Director of Education and Associate Professor of Education at Brandeis, in her introduction to the presentation of the prize.



Dr. Stevenson in conversation with Professor Leah Gordon.

Photos: Heratch Ekmekjian

The following is excerpted from Dr. Stevenson’s November 18, 2021 lecture. Full video of the lecture and of Dr. Stevenson in conversation in conversation with Professor Joseph Reimer and Maria Madison, Associate Dean of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, and Director Institute for Economic and Racial Equity at the Heller School are online: brandeis.edu/gittlerprize/videos

If you have a child that you’re worried will go out into the world and be misunderstood as a monster, you can’t wait [for systemic to change].

You need something now about how to navigate this space not only for you, but for them.... Legal remedies are important, but they won’t heal the emotional trauma that people go through daily and ... we are

interested in the notion of competence, not just character....

Children tell us all over the country: “They tell me to be proud, but I don’t know what I’m supposed to do when somebody is coming after me in a hostile way and it’s affecting my body, my mind and my heart.”

Racial literacy is an attempt to bring more skills, social and emotional regulation around these moments. We’ve defined

racial literacy as the ability to *read*, *recast*, and *resolve* racially stressful encounters....

Reading is seeing the racial moment, *recasting* is managing the stress of the racial moment and *resolving* is around making a decision in this

encounter that’s not an under-reaction or over-reaction.

...I don’t know if any of you have had moments where it was going to be your “drum major for justice” moment like King talked about, and ... [you] were going to stand up and speak up – and instead of standing up you tripped up and fell down... I think all of us have.

Resolving is around where do I get the skill set, where do I get the practice, to be able to speak up in that moment – whether it’s around harassment, race, or gender, doesn’t matter – but it’s around assertively speaking up.

In several projects we’ve been applying these skills working with teachers and students and school districts around the country.



“[Children say] ‘They tell us to be proud, but I don’t know what I’m supposed to do when somebody is coming after me in a hostile way and it’s affecting my body, my mind and my heart.’”

Peacebuilding and the Arts launches new non-profit with global reach

IMPACT, Inc. will strengthen the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation

Around the world, individuals and organizations in the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation often work in isolation from one another. Opportunities to learn from each other, share best practices, and collaborate can be rare, especially in situations of particular precarity or danger.

Yet it is networks of support that fortify efforts to safely and ethically engage in work that addresses and counters pressing local and global injustices, oppressions and violence.

Towards an Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation “Ecosystem”

In recognition of this, in 2017 the Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts (PBA), began the IMPACT initiative (Imagining Together: Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation), in collaboration with the Baker Institute of Peace and Conflict at Juniata College, and Maseno University in Kenya.

Funded by an 18-month planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, IMPACT created a global network of practitioners, organizations, educators and policymakers to support the arts, culture and conflict transformation “ecosystem” and enable it to think, act, and advocate collectively to support efforts to creatively engage with intractable conflicts and with complex 21st century challenges.

Led by Cynthia Cohen, director of PBA at the Ethics Center and executive director of ReCAST, Inc, a nonprofit organization also engaging in this work, the project began in 2017 by interviewing 160 scholars, artists, and policymakers from six



Photo: Carole Kane, Facilitating Artist

"Petals of Hope," an image made from paper handcrafted from flowers left at a memorial for victims of a 1998 bombing in Omagh, Northern Ireland (1999).

continents, and hosting three global online “learning exchanges” that engaged over 150 participants.

In September 2018, a three-day “design lab” at Brandeis University convened 25 participants from 13 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Cyprus, Israel, Kenya, and Pakistan to further develop the contours of this field.

Since then, IMPACT has partnered with artists and cultural workers,

policymakers and funders, as well as intergovernmental organizations around the globe.

People working in this field are now better networked. They are sharing ideas and resources. They are successfully advocating for stable funding at the levels needed to do critical long-term work.

And some people are able to take on projects they otherwise could not. For example, award-winning theater director Dijana Milošević was able to undertake transformative work bringing Serbian voices to post-war Kosovo because she knew there were others around the globe supporting her as she entered that challenging context.

Taking the Next Step

The Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts (PBA), the executive committee of the IMPACT initiative and the board of directors of ReCAST, Inc., are thrilled to announce the next step in this work of strengthening the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation: the launch of IMPACT

■ *continued on p. 8*

Nourished by Support at Brandeis and Beyond

Thank you to the many Brandeis faculty, staff, and students who have been deeply engaged in bringing IMPACT to life, including the Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST) minor, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, and Brandeis’ Sillerman Center for Philanthropy.

Many supporters have enabled IMPACT to reach this important milestone. In addition to the Mellon Foundation planning grant, IMPACT is grateful for the support of the Max and Sunny Howard Foundation (with inspiration from Naomi Sinnreich P’13), the Fresh Sound Foundation (through the efforts of John Burt), and the Porticus Foundation’s Community Arts Lab. ReCAST, Inc., in partnership with the Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, has been supported by Elaine Reuben ’63, the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice, and Amy Merrill ’68.

The REDress Project and *between us* at Brandeis

Two recent exhibits curated by Toni Shapiro-Phim

This fall, people crossing the Brandeis campus encountered empty red dresses mounted in outdoor spaces.

All were a part of The REDress Project, an installation of empty red dresses – often in public spaces, sometimes in galleries – that calls attention to the horrific levels of violence against Indigenous women and girls across North America. The absence of bodies in the dresses alludes to the presence that has been denied these women and their families and communities, and, indeed, all of us, into the future.

Last spring, the Women’s Studies Research Center invited Toni Shapiro-Phim, Assistant Director of the Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and Chair of the Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) program, to curate an exhibition in the Kniznick Gallery for late 2021. Professor Shapiro-Phim proposed working with Canadian Indigenous artist Jaime Black, of Anishinaabe and Finnish descent, whose REDress Project she had admired for years.

Shapiro-Phim had previously introduced students to the REDress Project in several classes. Each time, those who had been educated in U.S. high schools had been aghast that they had no idea about this violence. All students were moved and compelled to find out more.

A Student-designed Installation

So, this past fall, the “Introduction to CAST” (CAST 150b) students designed and put in place a public installation of dresses on the Brandeis campus, and further amplified Jaime Black’s art and message by contributing to *between us*, an exhibition of Black’s other work (poems, photographs, video) inside the Kniznick Gallery. The exhibition, incorporating both an absence and a presence of bodies, highlights the potency of Indigenous women’s relationship with the land.

Multi-layered Engagement

In teams, students created publicity, a postcard for gallery visitors, a corner display of their own aesthetic responses to the context of Jaime Black’s work, a short video sharing their behind-the-scenes preparation, and a website specifically for the Brandeis exhibition with educational materials about North American Indigenous communities, ways to take action in the face of racialized and gendered violence, and resources for support.

One team designed and led the class in rituals to honor the exhibition of gorgeous Black art by Marla McLeod that was in the Kniznick Gallery before Jaime Black’s, and to welcome Black’s work, in particular, the dresses.

Meeting with the Artist

The class met with Jaime Black three times via Zoom, and hosted an in-person visit by Emma Slibeck, the president of the Native American Students Association of Wellesley College, who spoke about why the REDress Project is important to her. (Wellesley then hosted the project after Brandeis.) This was an opportunity for invaluable student-to-student connection.

Acknowledging that none of them is Indigenous North American, the CAST students were cautious and respectful all along, receiving continual feedback and

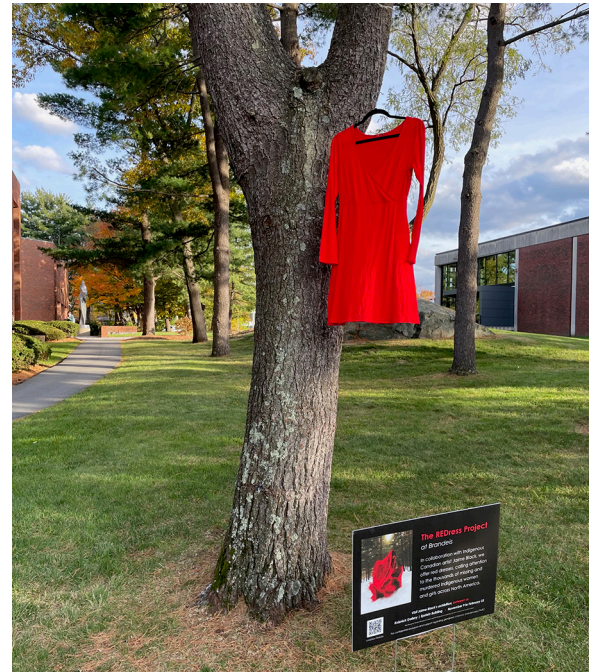


Photo: Toni Shapiro-Phim



Photo: Heratch Photography

Top: One of the dresses in The REDress Project on the Brandeis campus. Above: between us at the Kniznick Gallery, Women’s Studies Research Center

guidance from Jaime Black. The last time she spoke with them, she invited students who felt so inclined to make a “commitment of care” by outlining their hands in charcoal

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■ PEACEBUILDING AND THE ARTS

■ New non-profit — *continued from p. 6*

as an independent, global, non-profit organization.

Recognizing that this work must be supported by a governance structure that reflects a global field, with distributed, globally diverse leadership, IMPACT will merge with ReCAST and function as an independent, global non-profit organization to advance the role of artists in society.

“ReCAST, Inc. and the IMPACT initiative share a commitment to strengthening the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation, and to embodying commitments to diverse and distributed leadership and creative and decolonizing approaches to conflict transformation,” says Cohen. “The missions of both groups are aligned; the capacity of both entities to strengthen work at the nexus of arts, culture, justice and peace will be enhanced by their merger.”

In 2022, during IMPACT’s first year as



Photo: Chilean Art Collective Casagrande

100,000 poems rain down over the city of Guernica, Spain. Seventy Basque and Chilean poets composed pieces that were dropped on this city that had been almost completely destroyed in 1937 by Nazi forces allied with Francisco Franco. Residents balance a traumatic history of the experience of air bombardment with the ability, now, to look to a sky that brings them beauty instead.

an independent organization, a transitional board composed of practitioners and scholars from five continents will focus on issues of governance and resources.

During that period, PBA will lead

the implementation and coordination of IMPACT’s ongoing programs in Colombia, Cyprus, Senegal and elsewhere.

(Read more about IMPACT’s programs.)

PBA will also advance IMPACT’s advocacy efforts, including its work with UNESCO’s Art Lab for Human Rights and Dialogue, and will disseminate the “Invite | Affirm | Evoke | Unleash: How artistic and cultural processes transform complex challenges” report commissioned by the Porticus Community Arts Network. (See article: [Ethics Central Vol 24 No. 1 page 6.](#))

“It’s thrilling to see IMPACT emerge as an independent non-profit organization after being fledged here at Brandeis, nourished by the infrastructure, ideas, and energy that a university can provide, seeded with funds from private philanthropy,” said Michael Dettelbach, Brandeis University’s Assistant Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Relations. “This is exactly the role that a research university like Brandeis should play in enabling and informing social change. It’s a win for IMPACT, for Brandeis, and for the arts and cultural work globally, and is a critical step in the development of a robust infrastructure for the arts, culture and conflict transformation field and ecosystem.”

■ REDress Project— *continued from p. 7*

on one particular wall in the gallery. Their handprints, now a part of the exhibition, also confirm a commitment to action.

“Students have since volunteered to educate others,” said Professor Shapiro-Phim, “by bringing friends and family

members to the gallery, by sharing online educational resources, and by pointing people to relevant pieces of legislation such as those being debated in the Massachusetts and other state legislatures, for example.”

See it: [The *between us* exhibition is on view and open to the public in the Kniznick Gallery through February.](#)

Deepening the Learning

There were many additional opportunities for the Brandeis community to engage with the context of Black’s art, including these online events:

- A presentation by **Dr. Fannie LaFontaine**, a lawyer and scholar who introduced the concept of cultural genocide as it relates to Indigenous communities in Canada;
- A talk by **Claudia Fox Tree** (Arawak/Yurumein), an educator and affiliate of the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, who spoke about anti-racism from an Indigenous perspective; and
- A Waltham Public Library book club discussion, facilitated by **Dr. Polly Walker** (of Cherokee descent), a scholar of peace and conflict studies, focused on *The Round House* by acclaimed Native American author Louise Erdrich.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS

OCTOBER

Professor **Fannie Lafontaine** presented “Hard truth: Colonial Genocide as a Root Cause of Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People in Canada” in an open class session of “Introduction to Indigenous and Native Women, Gender, and Sexualities” (WGS 107a).

The launch of **Jan Nisbet’s** book “Pain and Shock in America: Politics, Advocacy, and the Controversial Treatment of People with Disabilities” (Brandeis University Press) was sponsored by the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy and cosponsored by the Ethics Center.

Professor Maria Duran hosted an online workshop of *Under the Skin*, a one-person play by **Catherine Filloux** about the artist and human rights activist **Claudia Bernardi**, who both joined the discussion. Funded in part by the Dean’s Research Fund and sponsored by CAST, HISP, LALS, LACLS, and THA.

The Ethics Center’s “Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus” project convened

team members from **Brandeis, Macquarie University** and the **University of Birmingham** for a planning and design session. (See page 3.)

“Anti-Racism from an Indigenous Perspective” featured Indigenous educator **Claudia Fox Tree** (Arawak/Yurumein), affiliated with the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness.

NOVEMBER

between us, an exhibition of the work of Jaime Black, and associated events were curated by Toni Shapiro-Phim and sponsored by CAST, PBA, and the Kniznick Gallery at Brandeis. (See page 8 - Deepening the Learning.)

A lecture by Canadian Métis artist **Jaime Black** (of Anishinaabe and Finnish descent) was sponsored by CAST and the Women’s Studies Research Center.

CAST minors, prospective minors, and friends of the CAST community gathered for a **CAST Anti-Racism Plan Town Hall**, to

provide feedback on the CAST Anti-Racism Plan. CAST-affiliated faculty and staff joined as active listeners.

Dr. Howard Stevenson was awarded the Gittler Prize. (See page 5.) During his Gittler Prize residency Dr. Stevenson visited Dan Kryder’s “Police and Social Movements” course, Melissa Stimell’s “Global Justice and Societies in Transition” course, Leah Gordon’s “Purpose and Politics of Education” course, and participated in a Heller School Sankofa Community Conversation and interactive racial literacy workshop.

DECEMBER

ENACT launched a **Faculty Mentorship Program** to support new Fellows as they join the network and develop ENACT courses.

JANUARY

Dr. Polly O. Walker (of Cherokee descent) facilitated a Waltham Public Library book club discussion of Louise Erdrich’s novel *The Round House*.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

■ In August, **Cynthia Cohen** published a report commissioned by the Community Art Network of the Porticus Foundation, titled “Invite | Affirm | Evoke | Unleash: The contributions of arts and culture to the transformation of complex challenges.” (See page 4.) In October Cohen presented that report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his senior management team.

In the summer and fall of 2021, Cohen participated in the “Art in Mediation” virtual webinar series hosted by the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK and the Zurich-based NGO *artsfoundation for peace*.

Cohen was a panelist at the January launch of the ‘Faces of Kabul’ exhibit sponsored by Heartstone of Glasgow, Scotland.

■ **Toni Shapiro-Phim** presented “Mother, Singer, Survivor of Liberia’s Civil War and Refugee as Community Builder” at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo’s INSPIRE Seminar in September.

In December, Shapiro-Phim presented “Archive and Documentation of Cambodian Dance” at the Angkor International Festival of the Arts/Center for Khmer Studies.

Shapiro-Phim contributed the chapter “Khmer Dancers and the Bassac Theatre” to *Genealogy of Bassac* (Terreform Press).

Shapiro-Phim’s article “A Cambodian Dancer in a Displaced Persons’ Camp” was published in Music & Minorities Vol 1, December 2021.

Shapiro-Phim co-edited, with Naomi Jackson and Rebecca Pappas, the Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance (Oxford University Press).

■ In the fall, **Melissa Stimell** taught “Global Justice and Societies in Transition,” building on her teaching with Brandeis Summer in The Hague.

In the spring Stimell will teach the 13th iteration of “Advocacy for Policy Change,” the model for ENACT.

■ **Leigh Swigart** has been invited to join the scientific committee of the Global Council of Anthropological Linguistics, based at the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies.

Swigart’s paper “The Impacts of English-Language Hegemony at the International Criminal Court” has been accepted for publication in *International Criminal Justice – a Counter-Hegemonic Project* (Asser Press/Springer International Criminal Justice Series).

■ In November, **David Weinstein** was elected to a second term on the Cambridge Massachusetts School Committee.

In December, Weinstein served on the Brandeis interview committee for the Truman Scholarship. He also served on the Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf and Ari Hahn Peace Awards selection committee (see page 3), and the Davis Projects for Peace selection committee.

Thanking Barbara Strauss for 15 Years of Service

In February, Ethics Center Senior Department Coordinator Barbara Strauss '02 leaves the Ethics Center for a new role with the Brandeis English and anthropology departments – in some ways a homecoming for the former Brandeis English major and published author. Since 2007, Strauss has ensured that the many programs and activities of the Ethics Center run smoothly. But her impact has extended far beyond essential

administrative functions. She has enabled complex campus programs and global initiatives to thrive. She has played a key role in the Center's communications. As the Center has evolved, she has collaborated with her colleagues to help shape its work. She has been the face of the Center to the public, and a steady support to the Center's partners on campus and far beyond. She has served as a mentor and guide – and at times, writing coach – to generations of Brandeis students.

"Barbara has done a terrific job holding together all the elements of the Ethics Center and making everyone affiliated feel like a big family," says John Shattuck, Chair of the Ethics Center's International Advisory Board. "We'll miss her, and we send her best wishes as she takes up her new opportunities

in the English and anthropology departments."

"Having the opportunity to work alongside Barbara for many years has been one of the most pleasurable aspects of my position at the Ethics Center," says Leigh Swigart, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society. "She has been infallibly supportive and efficient, as well as patient and good-humored. Her personal skills as a writer and observer of human nature have enriched the everyday spirit of the Center's professional team."

All of her colleagues will miss her. We thank her for her extraordinary work in service to the mission of the Ethics Center and for her friendship.



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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- 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
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COMING SOON

Richman Distinguished Fellow in Public Life Lecture
"From Science to Action on Climate Change"

Peter C. Frumhoff

March 30, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Rapaport Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library

Brandeis University

Free and open to the public.

The longtime chief climate scientist and director of science and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Peter C. Frumhoff led strategies and initiatives to bring robust scientific expertise to bear on informing public understanding and motivating public policies; guided science, equity and innovation post-doctoral fellowships and served as senior liaison with the scientific community, policymakers and the media. He is currently on sabbatical at the Harvard University Center for the Environment, where he is researching the scientific basis for climate litigation against fossil fuel companies and governments.

Dr. Frumhoff's March 29-31, 2022 residency will kick off a year of climate action at Brandeis.

Nominations for the 2023 Richman Fellowship are due March 1.
Details: brandeis.edu/richmanfellow

SPRING 2022 COURSES OFFERED BY THE ETHICS CENTER

- **Advocacy for Policy Change (LGLS 161b)**
Instructor: *Melissa Stimell*
- **Dignity in Motion (CAST 126b)**
Instructor: *Toni Shapiro-Phim*
- **Project Design Practicum (CAST 189a)**
Instructor: *Toni Shapiro-Phim*

For course updates and more info:
brandeis.edu/ethics/core-programs/campus-programs

NEW PUBLICATION: *Advocacy for Policy Change 2021*. See brandeis.edu/ethics/publications