



[Test] Brandeis GSAS Faculty Newsletter for March 2024

Brandeis University GSAS <gsas@brandeis.edu>

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Brandeis

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

GSAS Faculty Newsletter

March 25, 2024

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Dear Colleagues,

The chill in the air still feels a little wintry, but the calendar doesn't lie and we're now just a bit over a month away from April break and then an unusually quick turn-about to finals. Personally, this is one of my favorite times of year as our clocks leap forward, the sun is still up at the end of the work day, and as flowers begin to emerge the campus shakes off the grays of winter for the polychrome showiness of spring. It's all very celebratory - and foreshadows the great celebration of commencement to come. In that same spirit, I invite you to read closely our March newsletter, which celebrates all that is going on across campus led with, by, and for our graduate community. As always, we welcome you to participate in our on-campus happenings, and hope you enjoy reading about all that our current students and grad alums are doing.

Yours,

Charles Golden

1. Academic Announcements

Early Capstone Completion Policy

GSAS would like to remind faculty of the early dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project completion tuition waiver policy, which would apply to students who plan to complete an August degree. All students must register for the term in which they plan to complete their

degree. PhD students should register for CONT 500 (in fall or spring) or CONT 250 (in summer), and master's students should register for CONT 200 (or the department equivalent). If a student completes their dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project within ten (10) business days of the [first day of classes for that term](#), or, in the summer, within ten (10) business days of Commencement, they will receive a full tuition waiver. Completion is defined as follows:

For a PhD dissertation or a master's thesis: Deposit of the dissertation or thesis to ProQuest ETD. For more information about this process, visit our [Thesis and Dissertation Guide](#).

For a master's paper or capstone project: Acceptance of the paper or project by the program. Students should immediately [notify Abigail Arnold](#) once the paper or project is accepted.

Students should complete the [application to graduate](#) as soon as it is available for the semester.

Conference on Community-Engaged PhDs

The Anthropology Department is hosting a conference, open to all, on community-engaged PhDs on **April 12 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the Mandel Reading Room (303)**. Please join them for a one-day conference on community-engaged and/or public-facing PhD research. Organized by Professor Jonathan Anjaria, the conference will feature ten Boston-area PhD students--including Brandeis Anthropology's Moriah King, Gowthaman Ranganathan, and Kalie Jamieson--who will share their ongoing work that is collaborative, innovative and experimental in both content and form. Visit the department website for the [full conference schedule](#).

Drop-In Tutorials with ELP

Students should [contact Vinodini Murugesan](#) if they would like an individual tutorial on Writing or Oral Communications. Tutorials can be drop-ins or regular weekly meetings, whichever students prefer, until their assignment is complete. Tutorials will be available until April break.

AI Surveys

A campus Working Group on AI has been working since the fall of 2023 and now invites all members of the campus community to provide input about their use and perceptions of AI. Please complete the 7-minute survey which corresponds to your role on campus:

[Faculty AI survey](#)

[Staff AI survey](#) (please encourage staff members to fill out)

[Student AI survey](#) (please encourage your undergraduate and graduate students to fill out)

Your responses will be valuable as the Working Group develops recommendations for the University's leadership on developing a framework of generative AIs at Brandeis, including support and professional development for the campus community.

Library Announcements

Support as You Update Your ScholarWorks Profile in Preparation for FAR

As you update your ScholarWorks profile in preparation for this year's Faculty Activity Report (FAR), please [contact the library publishing team](#) with questions or [schedule an appointment with Scholarly Resources and Services](#).

Library Research Excellence Prizes

[The Library's Research Excellence Prize](#) recognizes students who apply sophisticated information literacy skills to the selection, evaluation, and synthesis of sources for a research project. They have prizes in nine different categories, including prizes for graduate student research, community-engaged research, digital projects, research related to racism and anti-racism, climate change-related research, and research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections. Please encourage your students to apply! The application deadline is **May 14, 2024**.

Digital Scholarship Support

The Library is offering new ways to [participate in the Digital Scholarship Lab](#)—explore their offerings or encourage your students to participate! They have regular training sessions to get approved for swipe access to the Lab, and they're also offering once-a-week drop-in sessions. You can also [contact Natalie Susmann](#) to make an appointment at the Lab.

Exploring AI for Teaching at Brandeis

At this hybrid event, Brandeis faculty and teaching staff from various disciplines will share their experiences of integrating AI tools into their courses, both to enhance student learning and to support their teaching. The event will take place on Friday, April 12 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the library's Rapaport Treasure Hall. Please [RSVP to the AI event](#) for in-person or online attendance to help the organizers plan.

2. Student Life Announcements

Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, April 1-5

GSAS is looking forward to celebrating national [Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week](#) (GPSA Week) from **April 1 through 5**! To highlight and thank graduate students for their invaluable contributions to teaching, research, and the Brandeis community, the Grad Engagement group is planning a series of activities. Additional details are available on the [Office of Graduate Affairs' website](#).

Send a Note of Appreciation to Your Students!

GSAS is gathering messages of appreciation for graduate students from staff and faculty to share on our social media throughout GPSA Week. Your message can be a personal anecdote, a reflection on their achievements, or simply a heartfelt "thank you." Your words can uplift, inspire, and motivate our graduate students, reminding them their efforts are noticed and deeply valued. Please share your message by completing this [appreciation form](#) by **Friday, March 29**.

3. Funding Opportunities

Faculty Application: Social Justice and Social Policy Grants

To celebrate the mission of the Brandeis University program in Social Justice and Social Policy (SJSP), SJSP is offering \$1,000 grants to Brandeis faculty for student-focused programs/events that support the mission of educating students on issues of social justice, social policy, social service, and/or social research. All funds must be used by **May 31, 2024**, according to the submitted budget. The proposal deadline is **April 1, 2024 at 9:00 PM EDT**; proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis leading up to the deadline. Faculty must submit a brief reflection on the success of the event/program by the end of the current academic year, **June 30, 2024**.

Priority will be given to proposals that support SJSP's mission of educating students on issues of social justice, social policy, social service, and/or social research, broadly construed; contribute to an enduring impact on the Brandeis University campus and/or in the surrounding broader communities; and are open to all members of the Brandeis community.

Funds may be used for purposes including travel expenses for students; honoraria for guest speakers; admission fees to museums, plays and special events; and end-of-year special events.

All proposals must include: faculty name, department/program, and contact information; one-paragraph explanation of how the program/event supports the mission of SJSP and contributes to an enduring impact on campus and/or in the broader communities; and an itemized budget, including information about grant money from other sources.

Please [email all proposals to Lauren Jordahl](#). [Contact Melissa Stimell](#) or Lauren Jordahl with questions.

Immigrants Rising Scholarship and Fellowship Database

Founded in 2006, Immigrants Rising is a San Francisco-based organization that transforms individuals and fuels broader changes around the country. They believe that with the right resources and support, undocumented people are able to get an education, pursue careers, and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities. They have curated a [list of scholarships and fellowships](#) that don't require proof of U.S. citizenship, which is a very real and challenging barrier for undocumented and international students. The database can be filtered by general application eligibility requirements, including education level, region/state, and immigration status (e.g. DACA, TPS, in-state tuition eligibility). It can be a bit overwhelming at first, so the [Academic Fellowships](#) team encourages students to meet with them if they have questions about how to navigate the database, want to clarify other eligibility criteria, or just want to chat about an opportunity that interests them.

4. Professional Development Events

Three Minute Thesis

Brandeis GSAS is excited to be hosting GSAS's third annual Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT). [The Brandeis 3MT Competition](#) is a university-sponsored speaking competition designed to showcase GSAS student research in three-minute talks to a general audience. This is an opportunity for graduate students engaged in original research to develop communication and presentation skills while sharing their work with faculty, staff and students across Brandeis University.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 5, 2024 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM** to see the Final Round of the 3MT Competition in **Spingold Theater**. Finalists will present, judges will deliberate and prizes will be awarded.

5. Student and Alum News

GSAS Alum to Receive Honorary Degree

Roy DeBerry '70, MA '78 and PhD '79 in Politics, and 2017 Alumni Achievement Award winner, will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters at the [2024 University Commencement](#).

Connected PhD Profile: Eric Miller

Politics PhD student [Eric F. Miller](#) was awarded a Connected PhD summer experience grant to attend three workshops at UMass ISSR (Institute for Social Science Research). He gained experience in qualitative methodologies, R programming software, and social network analysis.

Jinmin Lee, PhD '14, Shares Philosophy Tales With Children

[Jinmin Lee](#) earned her PhD in Politics from Brandeis in 2014. Since then, she has written several successful Korean books. Her most recent book, *Philo and Sophie Leave the Cave*, came out in 2023. The book is aimed at teaching children about famous philosophers and their ideas.

Geeking Out With...Jillian Franks

In this installment of Geeking Out With..., a series in which we talk to GSAS students about their passions, [Psychology PhD student Jillian Franks](#) talks about her research into empathy and the surprising ways in which her love of theater has informed it.

A Transformative Journey: An Interview with Marcie Brewer, AGS '19 and EdM '20 in Teacher Leadership

When [Marcie Brewer](#), AGS '19 and EdM '20, first decided to apply for Brandeis's Teacher Leadership program, she was at a crossroads in her career. She saw the program as an opportunity to build leadership skills and see if administration was right for her. Brewer ultimately decided that being a teacher leader was "the best of both worlds," allowing her to be in the classroom with students and also lead initiatives. In the process, she got more out of her experience at Brandeis than she ever expected to.

6. Upcoming Events

GSAS Events

- [Navigating Difficult Conversations Lunch and Learn](#), Tuesday, April 2, 12:00-1:30 PM, Lurias Room, Hassenfeld Conference Center. [Register for the Lunch and Learn here.](#)
- [Three Minute Thesis Competition](#), Friday, April 5, 4 PM, Spingold Theatre
- Commencement Cocktail Reception, Thursday, May 16, 5-9 PM, Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. Invitations will be emailed to graduating students.

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