



Department of Sociology

Notes from the Chair ~ Laura Miller

Dear Brandeis Sociology Community,

What a difference a week can make! I write to you at the end of March from my home office, where most of my Brandeis work now happens. The last days/weeks have been a whirlwind as we all seek to establish new work and personal routines while trying to absorb and make sense of the changed circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid all the chaos and concern, this has also been a time of gratitude. I am so impressed by how the Sociology faculty and staff have quickly pivoted, in some cases learning overnight how to conduct classes online. This is one very resourceful bunch of people. Our undergraduate students are now scattered far and wide, but are attending real-time and time-delayed classes and discussion sections with the use of software such as Zoom.



Our graduate students are sharing technical and other practical skills, and helping to keep undergraduates engaged, all while readjusting their own research and education plans. I have been especially heartened by all the Brandeis alums I have heard from in the past couple weeks, just checking in to say hello and to make sure that I and others here are okay.

While there is no question that much has and will continue to change, it is valuable to look back on the past year's events reported in this newsletter. They remind us of what we intend to reclaim when this crisis has receded, and they suggest just how important a sociological perspective can be for understanding the present situation and for finding ways to move forward towards a better place.

Among the highlights of this past year has been the hiring of a new faculty member, Sarah Mayorga, who will join us in Fall 2020. Professor Mayorga's research is in the areas of racial inequality, urban neighborhoods, and Latinx migration. You will no doubt hear more about her in next year's newsletter. On a more bittersweet note, two of our longstanding faculty announced their impending retirements. Carmen Sirianni completed his many years of teaching in December 2019, and Gordie Fellman's last semester of teaching will be Fall 2020. It is hard to do justice to the years of service they have given to Brandeis, all the students they have guided and inspired, and the scholarship they have produced. I am happy to report that Carmen is in the thick of a new project, and Gordie has a long list of plans for when he steps down from teaching.

In these turbulent times, it is perhaps more important than ever to stay in touch. Please send us your news, grand or mundane. I wish you good health and good spirits.

Best wishes,
Laura Miller



Faculty and Staff Notes

~ Department of Sociology Faculty ~

Wendy Cadge is serving as the Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives as well as the Social Science Division Head this year. She continues to teach Introductory Sociology and to build the [Chaplaincy Innovation Lab](#). She loves partnering with students on research and including them in her writing and research projects which include:

- Forthcoming. “Training Chaplains and Spiritual Caregivers? The Emergence and Growth of Chaplaincy Programs in Theological Education” with Irene Elizabeth Stroud, Patricia K. Palmer, George Fitchett, Trace Haythorn, Casey Clevenger. *Pastoral Psychology*
- Forthcoming. “Caring for the Whole Student: How Do Chaplains Contribute to Campus Life?” with Rebecca Barton and Elena van Stee. *Journal of College and Character*
- Forthcoming. “Mapping Chaplain Diversity: A Baseline Description” with Kelsey White, Marilyn Barnes and George Fitchett. Submitted to *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*
- Forthcoming. “Education for Professional Chaplaincy in the US: Mapping Current Practice in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)” with Casey Clevenger, Irene Elizabeth Stroud, Patricia K. Palmer, Trace Haythorn, George Fitchett. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*
- Forthcoming. “Clergy Working Outside of Congregations, 1976-2018 with Cyrus Schleifer. *Review of Religious Research* 61, 411-429.
- 2019. “Training Healthcare Chaplains: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” with George Fitchett, Trace Haythorn, Patricia K. Palmer, Shelly Rambo, Casey Clevenger, Irene Elizabeth Stroud. *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*. 73(4):211-221.
- 2019. “Perspectives from the Edge: Chaplains in Greater Boston, 1945-2015” with Katherine Wang* and Mary Rowe. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 58(6): 269-286.
- 2019. “The Effects of Chaplaincy Visits in an Elder Care Setting: An Analysis of Existing Data” with Qian Zhang,* Jess Shenkel,* Sara Paasche-Orlow, Margaret Bryan, John Morris. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*. April (19):1-14.
- 2019. “Humanizing Agents of Modern Capitalism? The Daily Work of Port Chaplains” with Michael Skaggs. *Sociology of Religion* 80(1):83-106.
- 2019. “Interprofessional Spiritual Care Training for Geriatric Care Providers” with Julia Bandini,* Mary Martha Thiel, Elaine Meyer, Sara Paasche-Orlow, Qian Zhang,* *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 22: 1-7.

Current grant funded research:

- 2019-2021 Henry Luce Foundation. Project title, “Educating Effective Chaplains: Building a Network and a Field” with Shelly Rambo (\$500,000).
- 2019-2020 Lovell Foundation. Project title: “Spiritual Generalist Training for Healthcare Providers” with Carol Damm, Mary Martha Thiel and Sara Paasche-Orlow (\$84,955).
- 2019-2020 E. Rhodes and Leona B/ Carpenter Foundation with matching funds from the Cleveland Clinic, the Association for Professional Chaplains, Mount Sinai New York, and the National Association for Catholic Chaplains (\$145,310).

- 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).

Gordie Fellman continues to serve as Chair of the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence (PAX) program. After a short 60 years of university teaching, 55 of them at Brandeis, Gordie is going to retire from teaching at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. Gordie exclaims: “It’s been a great roll!” Gordie will miss the classroom like crazy but is eager to turn to nearly full-time writing. Four books are currently in the works and two or three more are planned. Gordie will remain on the faculty until June 2022 and is looking forward to celebrating his pending retirement.

Karen V. Hansen, as director of the Women’s Studies Research Center, continues to run a research group on Cascading, the process of falling from a particular social location in ways that precipitate additional declines. This interdisciplinary seminar meets monthly to present work-in-progress and, using an intersectional lens, attempts to map the contours, causes, consequences and meanings of downward mobilities in the U.S., India, and other countries. Along with *Michael Strand* and *Samantha Leonard*, she has written a working paper, “Cascading: Gender and Race in an Age of Precarity,” that explores the social, financial, interpersonal, and aspirational dimensions of cascading.

Karen received the 2019 “Merit Award” from the Eastern Sociological Society, which ESS describes as honoring “distinguished scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the discipline, the profession, and the ESS.” She continues to work on the collision of immigration and Native American land dispossession in the early twentieth century. In the fall, she traveled to the University of Bergen, Norway, to work with a group of art historians on their project, “Bringing Separate Visions into One Frame,” which reinterprets photographs of migration to the U.S., analyzing indigenous representations and absences. Also, in extending her analysis of land taking beyond the Spirit Lake Dakota Reservation, using her database of reservation homesteading across the northern Great Plains, she is publishing an article about Fort Berthold Reservation (home of the Three Affiliated Tribes) in a collection, *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*.

Laura Miller continues as chair of the Sociology Department. She has also been part of a committee working to develop a new Brandeis undergraduate major in Communication and Media Studies, which could be approved and launched in the next two years. Laura has continued her research project on the relationship between vegetarian cookbooks and vegetarian movements in the United States. Related to this work, she presented a paper at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference in Amherst, co-authored with Brandeis alum, Emilie Hardman, titled “The Autonomy of the Amateur: Self-Publishing in Vegetarian and Vegan Cookbooks.” During the past year, Laura was interviewed by several press and public affairs outlets, including the *BBC Forum*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and *Slate’s Decoder Ring*.

Chandler Rosenberger spent the end of August in Hong Kong, where he interviewed pro-democracy protesters, including leaders of the banned Hong Kong independence, as part of his continuing work on contemporary nationalism. His research in Hong Kong was supported by a Norman grant. A book on contemporary nationalism coming out later this year will include a chapter of Chandler’s on the ideology of Chinese president Xi Jinping. In June he will present a paper comparing Hong Kong and Ukrainian

democracy advocates at the Human Rights Joint Conference on Human Rights & Foreign Policy at the University of London. *Photos:* Hong Kong protest art in the Tai Po Market subway station; Protesters in a human chain across Hong Kong, August 23, 2019.



Sara Shostak's research focuses on the intersections of food, health, community, and contemporary urban life. With generous support from the Merck Family Fund, she continues to collaborate with urban agriculture organizations in MA to develop strategies for evaluation that reflect their missions of advancing community resilience, equity, social justice, and environmental stewardship. Her latest grant funded project, with co-investigator Catherine Sands of [Fertile Ground](#), includes partnerships with the [Urban Farming Institute of Boston](#) (led by Brandeis alumna, [Patricia Spence](#)) and [Gardening the Community](#) in Springfield, as well as a state-wide survey.

Sara's research agenda shapes and informs her teaching. A recent [article in *Teaching Sociology*](#), with co-authors Ann Ward, Alex Willett, and Margarita Corral, highlights the strengths, and challenges, of community-based research as a form of pedagogy for undergraduate capstone classes. In Spring 2020, her HSSP capstone class is conducting research to support the [Healthy Incentives Program](#), in partnership with the [Massachusetts Food System Collaborative](#).

Sara serves the University through her work with the Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program, the Posse Scholars Program, the Community Engaged Scholars Program Committee (which she chairs), and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. She also serves as Member-At-Large of the Council of the American Sociological Association, to which she was elected in 2018.

Over the holidays, her family and friends proclaimed this [salted maple pie](#) to be the best thing she's ever baked.

Carmen Sirianni has finished his book, *Sustainable Cities in American Democracy*, which will be published by the University Press of Kansas later this year. He has retired from teaching and is at work full time on his project, The Civics of a Green New Deal, which focuses on those dimensions of federal policy design that can strengthen community capacities, civic professional and environmental justice practices, and various intermediary and institutional networks to respond to the challenges of sustainability and resilience in an ambitious Green New Deal, or some similar set of policies. The project is also concerned with the differences and potential synergies with climate protest movements. His project will be housed at Tufts University's Tisch College for Civic Life as part of its 20th anniversary and is jointly directed with Professor Peter Levine, with research assistance of Ann Ward (Brandeis Sociology PhD student). They will convene scholars and practitioners, develop various proposals, and produce a book and more accessible papers for wider audiences and policy entrepreneurs. The framing paper is available on the Tisch college website.

Michael Strand had an enjoyable 2018-19. He published a few articles and chapters: "The Political Unconscious of Practice Theory: Populism and Democracy" in *Thesis Eleven*, "Public Health as a Matter of Concern" in *Science, Technology & Human Values*, "Practice Theory and Conservative Thought" in *History of the Human Sciences* and "Cognitive, Practice and Learning in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" in the edited volume *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Right at the end of 2019 he also got an article accepted at *Theory and Society*, "Sociology and Philosophy in the United States since the Sixties: Death and Resurrection of a Folk Action Obstacle." He also submitted his book manuscript for review entitled *The Victorian Burden: Markets, Morals and the Birth of Social Justice*. He enjoyed teaching a graduate seminar on *Culture* for the first time and enjoyed (sort of) narrowly missing a Sawyer Seminar grant with Karen Hansen and Sam Leonard on our collective project "Cascading: Gender and Race in an Age of Precarity."

Siri Suh traveled to Dakar, Senegal in July 2019 to begin a new research project (with support from a Provost Research Grant) that explores how an abortifacient drug, Misoprostol, is transforming the clinical, epidemiological, professional, technological, and political landscape of reproductive health care. Misoprostol is currently available in Senegalese pharmacies under the brand name Misoclear (*see photo*) and may be used by health professionals for multiple obstetric indications, including labor induction, management of post-partum hemorrhage, and treatment of incomplete abortion. Due to legal restrictions on abortion, health workers are forbidden from prescribing the drug for the purpose of pregnancy termination. Yet, in Senegal, as in many other countries with restrictive abortion laws, women are using the drug to terminate unwanted pregnancies. The new project will investigate authorized and off-label utilization of Misoprostol by women and health professionals in formal and informal sectors of the healthcare system.



Siri's book manuscript, titled "Dying to Count: Post-Abortion Care and Global Reproductive Health Politics," is currently under review with the Medical Anthropology Series on Health, Inequality, and Social Justice at Rutgers University Press. In addition to completing the book manuscript, she published two papers in *Social Science & Medicine*, one in *Advances in Medical Sociology*, and a book review in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. Siri presented her research at annual meetings of the American Sociological Association (August 2019) and the American Anthropological Association (November 2019). For the first time, she attended the annual meeting of the National Women's Studies Association (November 2019) and gave an invited talk as part of a plenary session on the global politics of reproduction.

Publications:

- Suh, Siri. 2019. "Post-abortion care: a promising terrain for sociological research on abortion in the global South." Special Issue on Reproduction, Health and Medicine, Eds. Armstrong, Elizabeth, Susan Markens and Miranda Waggoner, *Advances in Medical Sociology* (20): 19-43, ISSN: 1057-6290.
- Brunson, Jan and Siri Suh. 2019. Introduction for "Behind the Measures of Maternal and Reproductive Health: Ethnographic Accounts of Inventory and Intervention," Special Issue with *Social Science & Medicine*, DOI: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112730](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112730).
- Suh, Siri. 2019. "What post-abortion care indicators don't measure: global abortion politics and obstetric practice in Senegal." *Social Science & Medicine*, DOI: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.03.044](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.03.044)
- Suh, Siri. 2019. Review of *Fistula Politics: Birthing Injuries and the Quest for Continence in Niger*. Heller, Alison, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2019, 250 pp.. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 33: e22-e24.

Conference Papers:

- Invited speaker at Plenary Session on “Laboring and the Politics of Re/Production” at the *National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.
- “The limitations of reproductive rights: toward an evidence-based necropolitics of obstetric care.” *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, BC, November 2019.
- “Disposable bodies: race, gender, and class and the global necropolitics of reproductive governance.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, New York, NY, August 2019.

Gowri Vijayakumar enjoyed a semester of Norman Leave this past fall, and used the time to finish her book manuscript on AIDS and the politics of sexuality in India and Kenya while hanging out in New York City. In October, she was fortunate to be able to host a workshop on the manuscript at Brandeis with senior scholars. In addition, she is working on a co-edited volume showcasing emerging scholarship in the sociology of South Asia, under contract with Palgrave MacMillan. She has a new article on the transnational relevance of intersectionality theory, analyzing interviews with sex workers in urban India, that will be published in *Political Power and Social Theory* later this year. This summer, she conducted fieldwork in India on a collaborative project on sex workers’ experiences of motherhood, work, and activism as they grow older, and she recently presented initial findings from the project at the Mandel Center for the Humanities. This year, she was excited to become a core faculty member in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis. Her toddler Kavi will be two in April and is more talkative every day.

Derron Wallace made several presentations in summer 2019 at the annual conferences of the American Sociological Association, the Association of Black Sociologists and the Society for the Study of Social Problems based on sections of his book monograph, *Ethnic Expectations: The Politics of Schooling Black Caribbean Youth in London and New York City*. This book is now formally under contract with Oxford University Press as part of its innovative new series on Global and Comparative Ethnography. Over the course of the last year, Derron published scholarly articles in *Race, Ethnicity & Education*, *International Studies in Sociology of Education* and *Cultural Sociology*. His paper in *Cultural Sociology*, “The Racial Politics of Cultural Capital: Perspectives from Black Middle-Class Pupils and Parents in a London Comprehensive,” was selected by the journal editors as a top article for 2019. *Photo: Derron and a former student, now pursuing a PhD in Education, at the Comparative and International Education Society Annual meeting.*



~ Emeriti Faculty ~

Shula Reinharz recently published two pieces in *Moment Magazine* - one is her personal list and explanation of the 5 books essential for Jewish knowledge; and the second is a review of the late Israeli novelist, Ronit Matalon's book, *And the Bride Closed the Door* (New York: New Vessels Press, 2019). She spoke about early women sociologists' contributions to social change, on a presidential panel at the American Sociological Association in New York in August 2019. She spoke in Belgrade, Serbia at a European Jewish feminist conference, and in Jerusalem in November 2019 as the introduction to a play about Manya Wilbushewitz Shohat, a woman whom she studied for many years. She also gave a talk in New York in November 2019 on "Gender Equality in Israeli Schools." She does a lot of book reviewing for publishing houses and academic journals. Many former students and colleagues ask for assistance and she tries to be helpful. She has finished the writing the book about her father's life until the end of the Holocaust (when he was 26) and is now editing and revising for publication. Her other two major writing

projects are a study of the variation in Jewish weddings from around the world, from the brides' points of view, and a renaming of all the chapters of the Old Testament (Torah) to bring out alternative meanings. She serves on numerous boards in Israel and the United States. She gets a lot of physical exercise. Her two grandchildren are 7 and 3 and visit often from Portland, Maine.

~ **Staff** ~

Cheri Hansen is the Senior Academic Administrator. She manages the busy Sociology Office and provides administrative and technical support to the department. Cheri and Lauren work together on several departmental projects. Both are part of the Climate Change Initiative Group for staff. Cheri's daughter, Abby, will graduate this May from Brandeis. Cheri looks forward to riding her bike this summer!

Lauren Jordahl is responsible for supporting Sociology graduate admissions, the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies program (PAX), and the Social Justice and Social Policy program (SJSP). Lauren is also responsible for grants management and creating this annual newsletter as well as the weekly newsletter to students, faculty, and staff. On campus, Lauren serves on the Brandeis University Staff Advisory Committee (BUSAC) and is involved in the Climate Change Initiative. Off campus, she serves on several non-profit boards and loves to stay active!

Leah Steele is a Department Coordinator in the English Department, Sociology Department, and the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS). She is also assisting the Asian American and Pacific Islander studies (AAPI) Program. She enjoys working with the English and Creative Writing Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDRs) on their podcast series and other initiatives. She creates the English and Creative Writing weekly newsletter and the NEJS weekly digest along with other creative projects for the websites she maintains. She runs a series on the Sociology Instagram account called "Sociologist of the Week" and supports other social media accounts and communications for the departments/programs. Leah is a creative person and loves to read fiction and write both fiction and poetry.





CURRENT Graduate Student News

Thomas Bertorelli (*PhD Sociology student*) received a Bachelor of Science (Neuroscience) and a Bachelor of Arts (Music) from Muhlenberg College and a Master of Arts (Social Science) from the University of Chicago. His general research interests include science, technology, culture, health, and the environment. His previous work focused on psychiatric attitudes towards the promise of neuroimaging in clinical practice. He is currently working on a project that examines how biotechnology is (or is not) being integrated into forest conservation and restoration efforts.

Lauren Crosser (*PhD Sociology student*) moved to Boston from a small town called Santa Cruz in California during the summer of 2019. She is a first-year PhD student in the Sociology Department. Within the field of sociology, she is most excited about histories of social movements, the intersections of race, class, and gender in maintaining and building movements, gender and labor, and political economy. She's also taken the plunge into learning the German language, as she's interested in German social theory and the contrast between the American and German economies. She eventually aims to do dissertation research in Germany (she's going there this summer for over a month, so hopefully when she's there she can become more clear on what she's trying to do!). Outside of academia, she goes to a lot of concerts, and she plays guitar and drums. She is also a visual artist. She really enjoys living in Boston. The music scene here is much, much better than it was in Santa Cruz.

Sanchita Dasgupta (*PhD Sociology student*) presented her paper titled "It's Your Turn: Division of Domestic Labour among Mixed-Gender Roommates" at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Philadelphia in Feb 2020. The study is an ongoing piece of research that interrogates the gendered dimension of non-romantic households as it relates to household work.

Sarah Halford (*PhD Sociology student*) was asked to join a panel at the "Developing Solutions for Conspiracy Beliefs, Fake News, and Misinformation" conference, hosted by the University of Miami. There, she will present on her paper on conspiracy movements, which she will send out for publication sometime this spring. Additionally, she received a certificate in digital pedagogy from Brandeis's Center for Teaching and Learning and used those skills to teach SOC-1A, Order and Change in Society, online during the summer of 2019.

Jenny LaFleur (*Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy student*) presented a roundtable paper on the links between privatization and school segregation at the 2019 ASA meeting. Jenny published a paper on students with disabilities and school discipline in Youth Services Review with fellow Heller doctoral student, Robbie Dembo. She also participated in a conference on the reconfiguration of social space at Technische Universität Berlin in February of this year. Jenny will be teaching social statistics in the Sociology Department at UMass Boston during the coming fall semester. *Photo: Jenny visiting Herbert Marcuse's grave in Berlin!*



Samantha Leonard (*PhD Sociology student*) is in the midst of fieldwork for her comparative study of feminist antiviolenence movements in Boston, USA and Buenos Aires, Argentina. She's very grateful to have received the Berkowitz Award from the department and it has been very helpful with fieldwork costs. In addition, she's grateful for support from the LALS department Jane Grant for summer research. This year she has had the opportunity to continue working as a research assistant for the Cascading: Gender, Race, and Downward Mobilities workshop. Sam also started a term serving as a grad student representative to the Sociology of Culture section of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

Ann Ward (*PhD Sociology Student*) Ann is currently in the midst of completing her fieldwork. Her dissertation looks at the Youth Climate Movement and asks how environmental activists manage emotions around climate change, with a particular focus on narrative. She is also working on a project with Carmen Sirianni that explores the civics of a Green New Deal in collaboration with the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.





Brandeis University



Department of Sociology ~ Tidbits

May 2019 Commencement:

A festive day for our graduate students!



CONGRADULATIONS to our Recent Sociology Graduates!



Sociology PhD

Alexandria Vasquez

Misfit: The Impact of Mismatched Jobs on Creative Workers
and the Organizations that Employ Them

Joint PhD in Social Policy and Sociology

Kimberly D. Lucas

“We Have to Do It All”: How Family Child Care Providers
Negotiate The Boundaries of Care

Joint PhD in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Sociology

Rachel Minkin

Constructing Jewish Lives: Emerging Adults and the Jewish Cultural Toolkit

Joint MA in Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Jessica Sarah Shenkel

2019-2020 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 re-established 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.

Ali Hagani ('22) is a sophomore from Woodbridge, CT majoring in Sociology and minoring in Social Justice and Social Policy, Legal Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Outside of her work as a UDR for Sociology, Ali is a Peer Advocate and Violence Prevention Educator at Brandeis' Prevention, Advocacy, and Resource Center (PARC), as well as a representative with The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII). Ali is particularly passionate about using Sociology and her minors to improve public policy and to inform her prospective career in legal advocacy. Last summer, Ali lived in New York City while she interned at the Legal Aid Society in their Immigration Law Unit. There, she helped Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients renew their status and assisted with case work. Ali strongly believes that Sociology equips individuals with the knowledge, insight, and empathy to positively change the world.

Miriam Berro Krugman ('20) is a senior from Long Beach, California majoring in Sociology and minoring in Social Justice and Social Policy, Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. In addition to being a UDR for Sociology and Social Justice and Social Policy, she is a Kindness Day Co-Coordinator and a member of Up The Octave a capella. She is using her minors to focus her sociological studies on social justice, conflict transformation, and women's issues, and plans to do social justice work in the future.



2019-2020 Sociology Colloquia Series

Dr. Manya Whitaker

Overcoming Whiteness in Higher Education

March 2020



Dr. Manya Whitaker is an Associate Professor and Chair of Education at Colorado College. She is a developmental educational psychologist with expertise in social and political issues in education. She researches the stability of teachers' diversity-related belief systems across time and settings, and how those beliefs can be intentionally disrupted and re-structured through teacher training. She is an author and the founder of Blueprint Educational Strategies, an education consulting business. Her talk focused on specific strategies to work towards institutional change, including collective mentoring, policy revisions, professional network development, and program development!

Dr. Ellen Berrey

Rights on Trial: How Workplace Discrimination Law Perpetuates Inequality (or Why #MeToo Can't Win in Court)

April 2020



Dr. Ellen Berrey's research engages multiple sociological subfields, particularly law, inequality, race and diversity, culture, and organizations, with an emerging interest in environmental sociology. Her work is centrally focused on the politics and paradoxes of solving social problems. She asks: how do organizations interpret and implement policies aimed at addressing social problems, such as racial discrimination and environmental devastation? How do they navigate legal constraints and political opposition? She has a particular interest in how cultural ideals—such as diversity, fairness, and sustainability—get mobilized, institutionalized, and contested by decision-makers, organizational actors, and activists.

Her projects to date have examined diversity discourse, affirmative action politics, inequality in higher education, employment discrimination law, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability politics. In addition to her appointment at University of Toronto, she is an affiliated scholar of the American Bar Foundation.

Please refer to our website for details on our [Colloquia Series](#)

Sociology PhD Alumni

Jim Ault (PhD 1981) is in the midst of completing two documentary films—one on a brilliant thinker of Christianity in Africa, the late Kwame Bediako (a fellow phenomenologist) and another on a great Zimbabwean musician, Machanic Manyeruke, considered the founder of gospel music there. And he's just finished follow-up filming for a documentary on the impressive work of Esperanza in North Philadelphia, a Latino enterprise doing exemplary educational work with inner-city kids, among its other extraordinary community-strengthening work there. He discusses the important role of sociology in his documentary film work in an essay published this year in a book entitled *Where Wisdom May Be Found*. It's a volume on the liberal arts for Christians, though he titles his essay, "Sociology for People of Faith... and Anyone." It has an autobiographical thread (documentary filmmaking turned all his writing to character-driven storytelling), including a discussion of relationships with both faculty and fellow students at Brandeis contributing in critical ways to his work. Jim shares reflections on time spent in our Department on his [website](#).



He recently came across this picture of him with his dear colleague and friend from Brandeis Sociology days, the late Fatima Mernissi, a pioneering feminist in the Arab world. It's from his visit with her in her home in Rabat, Morocco, circa 2000, the last time they saw one another. He still remembers walking to some radical political gathering with Fatima in the early 1970s and her sharing with him, in confidence and good humor, ways in which their feminist colleagues wouldn't let her speak because of her "politically incorrect" views of gender. It helped alert him to ways in which the cultural narrowness of our "women's movement" at the time would enrage anti-feminist women like the Phyllis Schlafly's of the world helping fuel the culture wars which have come to paralyze our nation's politics. A decade later it was other close friends from Brandeis, Karen Fields and Nancy Jay, with their profound understandings of religion, that gave direction to his first award-winning documentary film, *Born Again*, an intimate portrait of a fundamentalist Baptist/"Moral Majority" church, and ultimately to his own deeply cross-cultural approach to documentary filmmaking. The above essay describes some of the fundamental lessons Nancy, Karen and he all learned from their most important teacher at the time, Egon Bittner. He will be forever grateful to the Department for gathering them all together in a supportive and caring culture of shared learning that nourished profound intellectual growth in us all.

Julia Bandini (PhD 2019) started as an Associate Behavioral/Social Scientist at RAND in the Boston office in the summer 2019. Recent publications include:

- 2020. Bandini, Julia I. "[Negotiating the 'Buffet' of Choice: Advances in Technology and End-of-Life Decision-Making in the Intensive Care Unit Setting](#)." *Sociology of Health & Illness*.
- 2020. Bandini, Julia I. , Andrew M. Courtwright, Emily Rubin, Kimberly S. Erler, Mary Zwirner, M. Cornelia Cremens, Thomas H. McCoy, and Ellen M. Robinson. "Ethics Consultation Related to Opioid Use Disorder." *Psychosomatics* 61(2): 161-170.

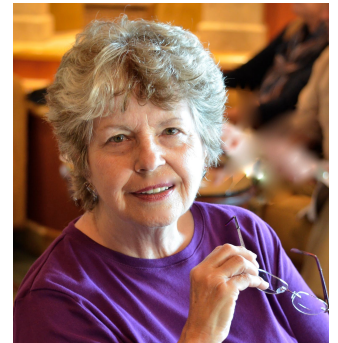
- 2019. Bandini, Julia, Mary Martha Thiel, Elaine C. Meyer, Sara Paasche-Orlow, Qian Zhang, and Wendy Cadge. "Interprofessional Spiritual Care Training for Geriatric Care Providers." *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 22(10): 1236-1242.

Meredith Bergey (PhD 2015) is enjoying her third year at Villanova University and her second year serving as Co-Chair for SSSP's Division of Health, Health Policy, & Health Services. One of the activities she has enjoyed most in the latter role was organizing a Critical Dialogue session, entitled "(Re)framing the Health Agenda: Pressing Questions and Future Directions." The event brought together esteemed scholars Drs. Valerie Leiter (Simmons University), Peter Conrad (Brandeis University), Deborah Carr (Boston University), William Cabin (Temple University), Eric Wright (Georgia State University), and Barbara Katz Rothman (CUNY) who shared their insights and reflections on the state and trajectory of the field, and provided inspiring strategies for navigating and addressing contemporary health challenges. Meredith also presented current research (co-authored with Giuseppina Chiri, Nikki Freeman, and Thomas Mackie) at the APHA conference and additional projects at the ESS and SSSP meetings. She recently published an article with colleagues Jennifer Goldsack, and Edmondo Robinson in *Social Science & Medicine*, entitled "Invisible work and changing roles: Health information technology implementation and reorganization of work practices for the inpatient nursing team."



Alison Better (PhD 2010) is the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

Janet Mancini Billson (PhD 1976) - Janet's latest participatory research using focus groups and key informant interviews centers on refugees in Canada. Two books will go to press in 2020. The first one, *People of Peace: The Doukhobor Search for Freedom* (University of British Columbia Press)—is based on several years of research with the descendants of pacifists who were sponsored by Leo Tolstoy and the Quakers to leave Russia for refuge in Canada; over 7,500 "spirit wrestlers" arrived between 1899 and 1902. The second book, *Canadian Mosaic: The Refugee Journey to Resettlement and Hope* (Lexington Books), includes the resettlement challenges and barriers to social/economic integration of eight refugee groups: Nepali-speaking Bhutanese, Columbians, Congolese, Liberians, Kurds, Rohingya, Syrians, and Vietnamese.



This year, Janet served as keynote speaker for the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociologists (AACS) Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon (October). The written speech, being historical, was given as a handout: "A Positive Climate for Sociological Practice: Forty Years Later." The delivered speech (looking forward) was "Sociology in Practice: The Sustainable Development Goals," both of which will be published in the January 2020 volume of the *Journal of Applied Social Science* (JASS). Janet also presented several papers at AACS: "Sociological Concepts and the Sustainable Development Goals, or, Do We Really Have a Role in Changing the World?" and "Refugee Camps as Inherently Marginalizing Settlements: Critical Policies and Essential Outcomes." Janet is the new Managing Editor of the *JASS* (Sage).

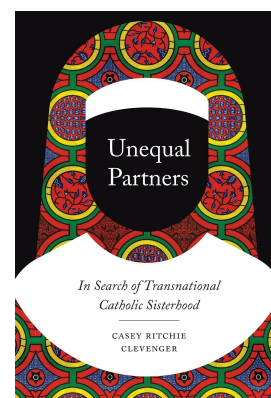
For the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States Annual Meeting held in November in Ottawa, Canada, Janet presented "Kurdish Refugees in Canada: Struggling for Identity, Peace, and Freedom." This spring, she is planning to present "The Rohingya of Myanmar (Burma)—Persecuted,

Isolated, Hopeful” as part of the 2020 World Affairs Council Evening Speaker Series (Hilton Head Island, where she happily lives).

Sara Chaganti (PhD Sociology & Social Policy 2018) recently joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as a Senior Policy Analyst in the division of Regional and Community Development. She will be doing research on job quality and the racial wealth divide in New England and nationally. She is thrilled about this new chapter and hopes to connect with other alums in downtown Boston.

Christian J. Churchill (PhD 2000), after completing 18 years on faculty at St. Thomas Aquinas College (2001-19) where he was professor of sociology, in 2019 CJ accepted the position of Director of the Psychoanalytic Training Institute of the Contemporary Freudian Society of New York. He also has a full-time practice in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in midtown Manhattan. In 2017, CJ and Gordie Fellman published their co-authored article "Sociology and Psychoanalysis in the Liberal Arts" in the journal *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*. Further in the spirit of Brandeis sociology, in May 2020 CJ will give a talk at the conference of the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work titled " 'Surrender and Catch' as a Path to Truth in the Psychoanalytic Situation" using Kurt Wolff's ethnographic theory to explore clinical psychoanalytic technique. With a colleague, he is working on a book critiquing the role of assessment in American higher education.

Casey Clevenger (PhD 2016) published an article, “Constructing Spiritual Motherhood in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” in *Gender & Society*. Her book *Unequal Partners: In Search of Transnational Catholic Sisterhood* is forthcoming this May with University of Chicago Press. She recently finished working on a project for the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) studying the training of healthcare chaplains. This research will be published in the *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy*, *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, and *Pastoral Psychology*. Casey lives in Chicago with her family.



Deborah J. Cohan (PhD 2005, Soc/WGS MA 2002) published her first book *Welcome to Wherever We Are: A Memoir of Family, Caregiving, and Redemption* (Rutgers University Press, February 2020). A sought after speaker, Cohan is available for talks, readings and workshops related to intimacy



and relationships, gender-based violence and trauma, grief and loss, body image, sexuality, and race, as well as creative writing and issues related to the landscape of higher education. Cohan is a professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, a contributing writer for *Psychology Today* online, a frequent contributor to *Inside Higher Ed*, and is regularly featured as an expert for national media on a range of social issues. She has been cited in: CNN, MSN, *Real Simple*, *Good Housekeeping*, *USA Today*, *US News & World Report*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Martha Stewart Weddings*, *Brides*, *Elite Daily*, *Utne Reader*, *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *TODAY*, *Bankrate*, *Vox*, *Slate*,

Vice News, *Huffington Post*, *Bustle*, *Romper*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*.

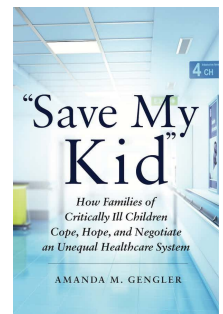
Mindy Fried (PhD 1996) launched her new podcast in October 2019, [The Shape of Care: A Podcast About Caregiving](#). This was featured in an [article in the NY Times](#) by Phoebe Lett who wrote, “The Shape of Care illuminates the costs (financial and otherwise) of hiring (caregivers), the toll on the caregivers and the need for a rethinking of a widening hole in the infrastructure of American health care.” Public radio station, [WBUR, just featured](#) Mindy and one of her podcast guests in a live call-in show. You can now binge all seven episodes of the first season! Mindy is



planning the second season now. In addition to the podcast, Mindy is excited to be working on a project that brings her back to Brandeis! She is heading up the qualitative research component of [C-Change](#), a 5-year NIH-funded project based at the Women's Studies Research Center that is headed up by Dr. Linda Pololi. Mindy is also still producing music and arts festivals and events in Boston! Sasha, who was a Brandeis baby, now works at [Sixth and I](#), a historical synagogue in DC that has a robust arts/entertainment program. She runs the secular programming, which includes a concert series, live podcast events and comedy shows. She also heads up the band, [Lotion Princess](#), which will be touring this spring!

Lewis Friedland (PhD 1985) is the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, affiliated with the department of sociology. Lew is the co-principal of the newly formed Center for Communication and Civic Renewal which recently received a \$1 million award from the Knight Foundation and \$500,000 from UW to support its work. The Center is engaged in the study of political contention and civil society, and is modeling the political communication ecology of the state of Wisconsin over fifteen years, beginning in 2008, including surveys, content analysis, qualitative interviewing across the state, and an in-depth community study, with the goal of better understanding the fracture of U.S. civil society. He is lead author of a forthcoming book from the project for Cambridge University Press, and has recently published articles or chapters on networks and place, an integrated urban sociology of communication, and news and contentious politics. A chapter "Laboratory of Oligarchy," tracing the right-wing takeover of Wisconsin, is in press.

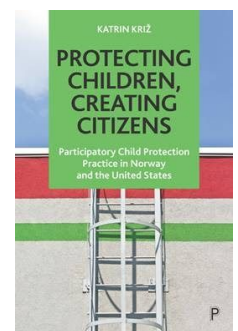
Amanda Gengler (PhD 2014) published her book, *"Save my Kid": How Families of Critically Ill Children Cope, Hope, and Negotiate an Unequal Healthcare System*, with New York University Press. Based on her dissertation research, the book examines the unrecognized, everyday inequalities tangled up in the process of seeking medical care and how families' and physicians' emotional goals--deeply rooted in the culture of illness and medicine in the United States--shape healthcare interactions, medical decision making, and end of life experiences.



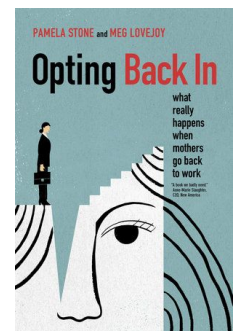
Lynda Lytle Holmstrom (PhD 1970) is still at Boston College as Professor Emerita. She has continued working with the ESS Committee on retirement and also enjoyed attending the ASA and the conference of the Biographers International Organization (relevant to her next project).

Robert Horwitz (PhD 1983) just completed a term as the Chair of the Academic Senate at the University of California, San Diego.

Katrin Križ (PhD 2003) was promoted to Professor of Sociology at Emmanuel College in Boston. She has a book forthcoming with Policy Press in 2020 entitled *Protecting Children, Creating Citizens: Participatory Child Protection Practice in Norway and the United States*.



Meg Lovejoy (PhD 2012) along with fellow sociologist, Pamela Stone, published on October 15, 2019 their book *Opting Back In: What Really Happens When Mothers Go Back to Work*, published by the University of California Press. During 2019, Meg also began working as the Research Program Director for the Worker Well-being Initiative at the Center for Population and Development Studies at Harvard's School of Public Health.



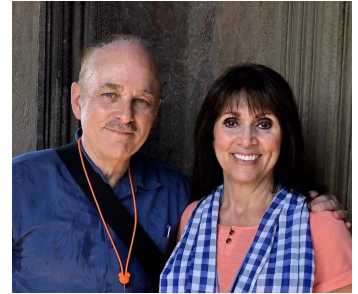
Brad Rose (PhD 1994) continues in his role as an applied sociologist at [Brad Rose Consulting, Inc.](#), a program evaluation and organization development consulting firm founded in 1996, based in Wellesley,



Massachusetts. Brad has three new books of poems ready for release this year, *de/tonations*, from Nixes Mate Books, and *Momentary Turbulence* and *WordinEdgeWise*, from Cervena Barva Press. He was recently interviewed on [Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer](#). His story,

“Desert Motel,” appears in the anthology, *Best Microfiction*, 2019. Brad’s poetry website can be found [online](#).

Rubén G. Rumbaut (PhD 1978) - *Photo*: Rubén and his wife, Irene, in Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Publications:

- [Coming of age before the great expulsion: The story of the CILS-San Diego sample 25 years later](#) (with Cynthia Feliciano). *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 43 (2020). Special Issue on Children of Immigrants in the Age of Deportation.
- [Hispanics in the United States: Origins and Destinies](#). *History Now*, 53 (2019). Special Issue on The Hispanic Legacy in American History.
- [The Evolution of Ethnic Identity from Adolescence to Middle Adulthood: The Case of the Immigrant Second Generation](#) (with Cynthia Feliciano). *Emerging Adulthood*, 2019. Special Issue on Ethnic and Racial Identity Development from an Interdisciplinary Perspective.
- [Immigration and Crime and the Criminalization of Immigration](#) (with Katie Dingeman and Anthony Robles). *International Handbook of Migration Studies* (2nd ed.), 2019.
- [Report of the World Commission on Forced Displacement](#). Chumir Foundation on Ethics in Leadership, December 2018.

Presentations:

- “Remarks on the 25th Anniversary of the ASA’s Section on International Migration: Twenty Five Years Later—A Look Back, A Challenge Ahead,” at the CUNY Graduate Center, August 12, 2019. Text and photos: [Cheers to 25 Years: The Silver Jubilee of the ASA's International Migration Section \(1994-2019\)](#), New York City
- “Immigration: A Boon or Burden to U.S. Society?” The 2019 Arthur N. Rupe Great Debate, UC Santa Barbara, May 2, 2019. Video: <https://www.uctv.tv/shows/35057>
- “‘I am myself and my circumstance:’ Reflections on Aristide R. Zolberg’s memoir, *Games of Identity: How I Dodged the Nazis and Became an Ivy Leaguer*.” Concluding presentation to the conference on “Escaping Violence: New Approaches to Forced Migration,” Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, The New School, New York City, April 12, 2019.
- “Las migraciones internacionales y los Latinos en los Estados Unidos: Medio siglo de historia y autobiografía.” Presentación a la Universidad de Cienfuegos, Cuba, January 27, 2019. (Presentation as member of the Jury of the *Premio Casa de las Americas* [premier literary prize in Latin America].)
- “Education in America: Immigrant and Refugee Children and Their Pursuit of ‘Success.’” Invited Lecture, Pannasastra University of Cambodia, Siem Reap, Cambodia, November 12, 2018.

Thomas P. Piñeros Shields (PhD Sociology and Social Policy 2014) was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor at UMASS Lowell in the Department of Sociology. He is the founding director of the UMASS Lowell Master in Public Administration (MPA) program, which is in its fourth year. He is in his third year of leading an internship exchange partnership (that he created) between UMASS Lowell and the University of València (Spain). As part of this, last summer he spent five weeks teaching an internship seminar for six UMASS Lowell students. During this time, he was invited to give a plenary presentation with his colleague, Carles Simó Noguera, about their partnership entitled, “Modelo de colaboración de prácticas externas curriculares UMASS Lowell (USA) – Universitat de València (ES),” at the 15th Annual (XV) Symposium Internacional sobre el Pra’cticum y las Pra’cticas Externas in Poio, Spain. Julio 10-12, 2019. While at Brandeis, he developed and taught the course, ‘Community Internships for Social Change’ in the Department of Sociology for six years. He is now in his sixth year of teaching a similar course (SOCI.4840 Internships I) at UMASS Lowell. He is also the UMASS Lowell Campus liaison for the Washington Centers, helping his students engage in high-impact internships in

Washington D.C. In October, he completed a case study for the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to explain how social movement actors mobilized to influence the Obama Administration to create the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Tom lives with his family in Salem, MA and is doing well. He holds fond memories of the Department of Sociology at Brandeis University. *Photos:* Tom (in his Brandeis robes) with the 2019 UMASS Lowell MPA graduates at graduation; Tom and his students and their guide at the Museo de Ethnographica in València, Spain.



Emily Sigalow (PhD 2015) had her book, *American JewBu: Jews, Buddhists, and Religious Change*, recently published by Princeton University Press.

EMILY SIGALOW
*American
JewBu*



JEW, BUDDHIST, and
RELIGIOUS CHANGE

Helen L. Stewart (PhD 1980) returned to campus in February 2019 for the African and African American Studies (AAAS) Department Reunion commemorating Ford Hall events from 1969. Helen also taught full-time in that department from 1974-1979. Along with Sunny Pai, B.A. Sociology '77, Helen welcomed The HistoryMakers (THM) to Hawaii in November and helped add Helen's oral history interview, along with others who are Hawaii based, to the THM Digital archives, now a permanent collection in the Library of Congress. Julieanna Richardson, also a Brandeis alum in Theater Arts and American Studies '76, is The HistoryMakers' CEO and founder. In early November Helen was invited to offer a three-day seminar in Vienna, Austria, on the subject of personal and business applications of intuition. It was wonderful to reconnect with colleagues and friends in that beautiful city! Currently she is working on a second book entitled *Grits and Granola: Essays of Struggle and Grace*. *Photos:* February 2019 - 50th anniversary of Ford Hall events at Brandeis University; Headshot in Vienna; November 2019 Vienna, Austria with hosts.



Cheryl D. Stults (PhD 2009) is an assistant scientist at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute with a focus on mixed methods and qualitative research. She is currently the site principal investigator for the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funded project "Improving Patient-Centered Communication in Primary Care: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial of the Comparative Effectiveness of Three Interventions" (PI: Tai-Seale). She is also the site principal investigator for a collaborative study with Brigham and Women's Hospital and Surescripts evaluating the implementation and impact of electronic prior authorizations for prescription medications. Her recent publications include one in [JAMA Network Open](#) on the "Assessment of Accuracy and Usability of a Fee

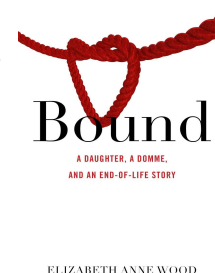
Estimator for Ambulatory Care in an Integrated Health Care Delivery Network", one in *Health Affairs* on "Machine-Based Expert Recommendations And Insurance Choices Among Medicare Part D Enrollees", and one in the [Journal of Patient Experience](#) on "Online Consent Enables a Randomized, Controlled Trial Testing a Patient-Centered Online Decision-Aid for Medicare Beneficiaries to Meet Recruitment Goal in Short Time Frame."

T.L. Taylor (PhD 2000) received the 2019 book award from the American Sociological Association's Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section for her recent book about game live streaming, *Watch Me Play* (Princeton, 2018). [A free Creative Commons copy of the book is available.](#) Photo: Cake to celebrate her book!



Miranda Waggoner (PhD 2011), Assistant Professor of Sociology at Florida State University, was selected as a Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics for 2019–2022. This three-year career development award from The Greenwall Foundation supports innovative empirical research in bioethics across disciplines. Miranda's book *The Zero Trimester* (University of California Press, 2017) was awarded the 2019 Robert K. Merton Book Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology and the 2019 Adele E. Clarke Book Award from ReproNetwork, an interdisciplinary community of reproduction scholars. In 2019, Miranda was also awarded a University Teaching Award for her undergraduate teaching at FSU. Finally, Miranda co-edited the recent volume of Emerald's *Advances in Medical Sociology* book series (*Volume 20: Reproduction, Health, and Medicine*) with Susan Markens and Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong; it went to press in fall 2019.

Elizabeth Anne Wood (PhD 1999), the recently elected chair of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work department at Nassau Community College, has published her first memoir: *Bound: A Daughter, a Domme, and an End-of-Life Story* (She Writes Press, August 2019). *Bound* is a sociologically-informed memoir that explores themes of sexuality, aging, illness, caregiving, and health care in the United States in the context of an unconventional mother-daughter relationship.



Dana Zarhin (PhD 2013) received a prestigious research grant from the Israel Science Foundation for her project "Investigating the socio-cultural patterning of sleep in Israel: A multi-method approach" (with Dr. Ameer Saabneh). She was also awarded the Yakir Prize for Best Article from the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Haifa and was granted a Best Lecturer Award from the Student Association at the University of Haifa (based on students' evaluations). Dana also published two co-authored articles: "'Medical cannabis' as a contested medicine: Fighting over epistemology and morality" was published in *Science, Technology & Human Values* and "Between universal human rights and ethno-national values: Israel's contested adoption of the global anti-trafficking norm" was published in *Israel Studies*. Finally, Dana presented her articles in two international conferences, including the Annual Meeting of the *British Sociological Association* (in Glasgow, Scotland, UK) and the Annual Meeting of the *European Association for Israel Studies* (in Prague, Czech Republic).



In Memoriam



Thank you to alum Lynda Lytle Holmstrom for sharing this information to include in this Newsletter:

*It is with sympathy that we share the sad new of former members of
our community who passed away...*

Jeanne Guillemin (Brandeis PhD 1973) and **Susan Dibner** (Brandeis PhD 1973). Brandeis was sufficiently progressive in the middle 1960s and early 1970s to include not only women, but married women (even with children) in its graduate sociology program; elsewhere, marriage typically meant women were shunned. Guillemin and Dibner were two of the several married women students at Brandeis in that era.

A Washington Post Dec. 11, 2019 obituary by Langer is entitled "Jeanne Guillemin, pioneering researcher who uncovered a Cold War secret, dies at 76." The obituary highlights the work she and her husband Matthew Meselson did regarding the 1979 anthrax outbreak in the Soviet Union. Interviews Jeanne later did with the families of those who died helped expose that the cause of death was an accident in a biological weapons lab. Information families provided regarding the whereabouts of the victims at the relevant time showed they had been in the path of the wind carrying the anthrax that day. The obituary also mentions earlier work such as her doctoral dissertation at Brandeis on the Micmac Native American community in Boston that led to the book, *Urban Renegades*. (By the way, in the Acknowledgments she thanks her doctoral dissertation committee of Kurt Wolff, Everett Hughes, E.V. Walter, and Rosabeth Kanter.) A November 18, 2019 on-line Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announcement, referring to her as a sociologist of science and national security, includes a striking portrait taken by her photographer son John Guillemin. [MIT News](#) also ran a story on Guillemin's work in January 2020.

Susan Dibner graduated from Brandeis in 1973. Although she herself died in 1988, she is prominently featured in Sandomir's July 11, 2019 New York Times obituary of her husband, "Andrew Dibner, Medical Alert Pioneer,...Dead at 93." Sue was both his wife and business partner. The article includes a 1983 photo of both of them plus their Lifeline response system including a button on a pendant that allowed a person who has fallen, for example, to call for help. In her statement included in the "Brandeis University Sociology Department's booklet for the 25th Anniversary of the Graduate Program, 1987" she mentions "taking exciting courses—theory with Coser, statistics with Weiss, fieldwork with Zola and everything Hughes taught." Indeed, I met her in Fall 1965 in Hughes's course, 117a Sociology of Work and Occupations. Hughes, upon learning I would have a course time conflict one day a week, just said take the course and find a student to take notes for you; Sue graciously agreed to do so.

(Statements by both Guillemin and Dibner, as well as other married women students, are included in the 25th year celebration booklet.)

Sociology BA and Masters Alumni

Josh Basseches (BA 2012) is finishing up his PhD in Sociology at Northwestern University. This year, he published his first peer-reviewed article in *Mobilization*, a social movements journal. As an unexpected treat, his article appeared in the same issue as an article authored by his undergraduate advisor at Brandeis, David Cunningham (now at Washington University in St. Louis). Next year, he will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy.

Zamira Castro (BA 2010) earned a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling in 2015 and in 2019, graduated from the University of Miami with a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. She chose Counseling Psychology in large part because her undergraduate training in Sociology instilled in her a passion for social justice, and she found that her activism and sensibility to sociological factors affecting human



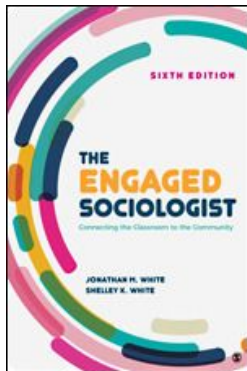
functioning had a home in Counseling Psychology. Zamira is currently a Clinical Health Psychology resident at Jackson Health System in Miami, FL, providing services to individuals with comorbid psychiatric and medical conditions. She is working on obtaining licensure in the state of Florida and opening up her private practice in the coming year, where she will be seeing adults struggling with chronic patterns of mood, anxiety, and health concerns affecting their overall mental health. Zamira has recently created her professional profile on Instagram and can be followed at: @dra.zamiracastro where she creates and shares content on mental health education, coping tips, psychological research findings, and all things psychology/psychotherapy-related.

Skye Miner (MA 2013) received her PhD from McGill in Sociology in October 2019 and started at the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Bioethics in September.



Chris Rhomberg (BA 1983) was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Sociology at Fordham University in the Bronx. He recently served on an advisory committee for the [exhibit](#) *City of Workers, City of Struggle: How Labor Movements Changed New York* at the Museum of the City of New York. The exhibit opened on April 29, 2019, and went through January 5, 2020.

Jonathan White (BA 1990) continues as Associate Professor in Sociology at Bentley University, where he is the Director of the [Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center](#). Professor White



published the 6th Edition of his book [The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community](#), co-authored with Shelley K. White. Additionally, he authored the book chapters “Militarism and Public Health: How the Gluttony of Our Military Economy Leaves Our Health and Welfare Programs Underserved” in *Preventing War, Promoting Peace* by William Wiist and Shelley White and “Generation Y Not: Supporting Millennials in Multidirectional Activisms” in *How To Change Everything: Universalizing Resistance in the Trump Era and Beyond* by Charles Derber. Dr. White serves on the BOD for several global nonprofits and continues to Chair the US Board of Directors for the [WE Movement](#) and [WE Day](#), the world’s largest organization of youth helping youth for social change.