



Department of Sociology

Notes from the Chair ~ Laura Miller

Dear Brandeis Sociology Community,

As the current academic year comes to an end, there is finally some time to reflect on what has been quite an extraordinary year. It was unquestionably a difficult time, as we all faced restrictions on activities and interactions that we had previously taken for granted. And many current and former members of the Sociology Department experienced illness or the loss of family members and friends. As sociologists, we were not only living with dislocations of the pandemic, ever-present instances of racial injustice and stark political divides that were shaking the country, we also sought to help our students and others understand these issues and give them ways to act on their understandings.



Yet, despite these challenges, Department members accomplished so much. Sociology instructors successfully taught both online and in-person classes. Faculty finished book projects and journal articles, and faculty and grad students alike found creative ways to carry out research. The Department developed an anti-racism plan, and started to pilot an Equity Liaison position, which our newest faculty member, Sarah Mayorga, is so ably filling. As Department Chair, I remain grateful for the determined efforts of faculty and staff to shoulder the increased workload that accompanied our new routines. And I am grateful for our students, who became real partners as we navigated a strange new educational terrain.

You will read more about the activities of faculty, graduate students, and alumni in the following pages. We always appreciate hearing from alums. This last year has reminded us that news about your lives need not be equivalent to achievements or milestones to be meaningful; we like to hear the good, the bad, and the mundane. I end these reflections on a hopeful note. While there are so many parts of the world that still have little access to the benefits of coronavirus vaccinations, we are seeing how the vaccines make it possible to safely resume parts of our lives that had been put on hold. Brandeis expects to return to full campus operations in the Fall. I hope that these next months also bring you opportunities to find your way back to cherished old experiences and to welcome new possibilities for the future.

Best wishes,

Laura Miller





Faculty and Staff Notes

~ Department of Sociology Faculty ~

Wendy Cadge continued as the Social Science Division Head and Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives. She was selected as the new Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and began serving in this role on June 1, 2021. She helped Arts & Sciences faculty respond to the pandemic in their newly digital classrooms and continued to support the development of the [Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Collaborations](#) this year. She continues to collaborate with a range of colleagues and students on projects ranging from [pieces on Radio Boston about Hidden Sacred Spaces](#) in the city to academic articles and grants. With colleagues in the [Chaplaincy Innovation Lab](#) and the support of the Henry Luce Foundation she was able to re-grant \$440,000 to front-line chaplains service staff on the front lines of the double pandemics of COVID-19 and racial inequalities.

Publications:

- Under contract. *Introduction to Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care* with Shelly Rambo. Edited volume. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- “Staff-Care by Chaplains During COVID-19” with Beba Tata, Daniel Nuzum, Karen Murphy, Leila Karimi. *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*.
- Forthcoming. “How Do Healthcare Executives Understand and Make Decisions about Spiritual Care Provision? A Pilot Study” with Aja Antoine, George Fitchett, Deborah Marin, Vanshdeep Sharma, Andrew Garmen, Trace Haythorn, Kelsey White and Amy Greene. *Southern Medical Journal*.
- Forthcoming. “What Organizational and Business Models Underlie Spiritual Care Staffing in Healthcare Organizations? An Initial Description and Analysis” with Aja Antoine, George Fitchett, Deborah Marin, Vanshdeep Sharma, Andrew Garmen, Trace Haythorn, Kelsey White and Amy Greene. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*.
- Forthcoming. “The Social Significance of Chaplains: Evidence from a National Survey” with Taylor Winfield, Michael Skaggs. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*.
- Forthcoming. “How Do Colleges and Universities Support Multifaith Chaplaincy? The Causes and Effects of Different Institutional Approaches” Elena van Stee* and Rebecca Barton*. *Journal of College and Character*
- Forthcoming. “Harmony of the Seas?: Work, Faith, and Religious Difference Among Multinational Migrant Workers on Board Cargo Ships” with Helen Sampson, Nelson Turgo, Sophie Gillat-Ray, Graeme Smith. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- 2020. “Mapping the Healthcare Chaplaincy Workforce: A Baseline Description” with Kelsey White, Marilyn Barnes and George Fitchett. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*
- 2020. “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*
- 2020. “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* 69: 187-208.

- 2020. “Caring for the Whole Student: How Do Chaplains Contribute to Campus Life? With Rebecca Barton* and Elena van Stee* *Journal of College and Character* 21(2):67-85.

Grant funded research:

- 2020-2022 Charles H. Revson Foundation. Project title: “Leading Where Life Happens: Mapping and Building the Future of Jewish Chaplaincy” (\$402,000).
- 2020-2021 Henry Luce Foundation. Project title: “Building and Supporting Resilience Among Frontline Spiritual Care Providers” (\$750,000).
- 2019-2021 Davis Educational Foundation. Project title, “Exploring Beyond Boundaries: The Brandeis Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program” with Dorothy Hodgson (\$104,750)
- 2019-2021 Henry Luce Foundation. Project title, “Educating Effective Chaplains: Building a Network and a Field” with Shelly Rambo (\$500,000).

Gordie Fellman - After 60 years of university teaching, 55 of them at Brandeis (!), Gordie retired from teaching at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. Gordie will remain on the faculty until June 2022 and is looking forward to celebrating his pending retirement. Per Gordie, his retirement agenda includes: writing, gardening, cooking, and learning to play the piano. Gordie says it feels excellent, but retirement did not fully hit until the first week of spring semester; no book orders to place, no syllabi to update, and from now on he will not need to get up early to teach. Gordie shared, “I’ll miss the classroom like crazy--had absolutely superb students and TAs in my last classes and sweet sendoffs from everyone.” *We will miss Gordie and wish him the very best and thank him for his many years of teaching and dedication to Brandeis!*

Karen V. Hansen - In December 2020, Karen concluded her tenure as Director of the Women’s Studies Research Center (WSRC), the University’s center for independent feminist research and the arts. Under Karen’s leadership the Center completed an ambitious strategic plan, attracted 28 new faculty affiliates, won two nationally competitive grants, and offered a wide array of scholarly and artistic programs. Thanks to the efforts of WSRC staff, the National Board of Advisors, independent scholars, university administrators, faculty, graduate students, and visitors from around the region, this vital campus institution flourished. In January, Karen was succeeded as Director by Harleen Singh, Associate Professor of Literature and Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Last year, Karen’s recent work on downward mobility received a *Voices for Economic Opportunity Grand Challenge* grant from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and the **Raikes Foundation**. With her Co-PI Professor Nazli Kibria (Boston University), she is conducting life history interviews for *Cascading Lives: Stories of Loss, Resilience and Resistance*. Their research team draws on the expertise of **Debi Osnowitz ‘05** and graduate student **Samantha Leonard**. It was launched in the interdisciplinary Cascading Research Group, which had its gestation at the WSRC, and which is now in its third year. In 2020, this lively research workshop expanded to include additional Brandeis alumni, including **Kay Jenkins ‘02** and **Ken Sun ‘11**, along with graduate Research Assistant **Lijun Lin**.

In fall 2020, the University of Southern Denmark conferred on Karen an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy, *Doctorem Philosophiae Honoris Causa*. While she was unable to attend the ceremony in Odense, Denmark, she has continued her collaboration with Scandinavian colleagues to write about homesteading on Indian reservations in *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations* (forthcoming 2021). Another forum on that topic, “Immigrant Land Taking and Indian Dispossession,” was edited by Samantha Leonard who also co-authored an article with Karen in *Norwegian American Essays* (November 2020).

Karen’s project focusing on high schools and racial learning prompted her to engage more deeply in the **HistoryMakers Digital Archive**, and resulted in an article about the importance of African-American

educators, “[A Great Way to Teach.](#)” She now serves on the HistoryMakers Higher Education Advisory Board.

Sarah Mayorga joined the department in July 2020. After being remote all year, she has finally moved into her office on the 1st floor of Pearlman and is eager to see everyone in person soon. She is currently writing her second book on racial capitalism in two working-class Cincinnati neighborhoods. She is also revising an article with Soc PhD student Lauren Crosser on racial capitalism and grocery stores for a special issue of *City and Community*. Despite all the difficulties of this last year, Sarah is thrilled to be a part of Brandeis Sociology and is grateful for the warm welcome she has received.

Laura Miller continued as Chair of the Sociology Department, and in Spring '21 was also Acting Director of Graduate Studies. She presented a paper titled “Beyond a Meatless Identity: Commercial Activities and a Vegetarian Movement” at the online American Sociological Association (ASA) meetings in August 2020, for which she also organized a session on “Consumers and Consumption in Everyday Life.” She published a piece on food distribution and the pandemic for a special issue of the ASA newsletter, *Footnotes*, centered on social justice and the food system. Laura was elected Chair of the ASA Consumers and Consumption section, a term that begins in August 2021.

Chandler Rosenberger is continuing his research on the Hong Kong democracy movement, thanks to a Norman grant. Support from the Institute for Humane Studies is also allowing him to do a comparative study of the writings of two dissidents, Czech thinker Vaclav Havel and Liu Xiaobo, the Chinese democracy advocate and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Sara Shostak published her most recent book in Spring 2021, [Back to the Roots: Memory, Inequality, and Urban Agriculture](#), in the Nature, Society, and Culture series at Rutgers University Press. Her [essay](#), which previews some of the central arguments of *Back to the Roots*, appears in the ASA Footnotes’ [special feature](#) on the food system (alongside essays by Brandeis Sociology colleague [Laura Miller](#) and alum [Jane VanHeuvelen!](#)).

Sara continues to work collaboratively on projects that seek to create a more just, equitable, and healthy food system. In Spring 2020, in partnership with the [Massachusetts Food System Collaborative](#), her HSSP capstone class undertook a series of research projects in support of the Commonwealth’s [Healthy Incentives Program](#). In summer 2020, Sara worked with Tamar Harrison (BA 2020) on an evaluation of the [Urban Farming Institute’s](#) innovative program, *Fit Around the Farm*. In December 2020, she presented the findings of her most recent grant funded project, *Holistic Evaluation in Urban Agriculture*, to the [Massachusetts Urban Agriculture Coalition](#). Additionally, since May 2020, Sara has been working with Professor Wendy Cadge and two undergraduate student research assistants, Sophie Trachtenberg and Mariah Lewis, on a qualitative study of the experiences of front-line providers who served in the ICUs of a major Boston hospital during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supporting inclusive, ethical, and rigorous community engaged research and teaching is one of Sara’s ongoing priorities. Last summer, she partnered with Professor Wendy Cadge, undergraduate students Simona Shuman and Sophie Trachtenberg, and Lucas Malo and Colby Sim, from the Department of Community Service, to create a Library Guide, [Exploring Waltham: Resources for Research, Teaching, and Learning](#), that brings together publicly available data, maps and archival materials, course projects, and information about community resources in Waltham. The overarching goal of this project was to build bridges between the curriculum and the co-curriculum and to advance community engaged research and teaching at Brandeis.

Carmen Sirianni has recently published [*Sustainable Cities in American Democracy*](#) (University Press of Kansas), which examines the emergence and development of the sustainable cities field from 1945 to the present, utilizing analytic frameworks from institutional fields, civic and professional associations, social movements, urban and environmental governance, public policy design, and democratic theory. He also explores how this institutional field might become more robust in the face of the climate crisis in the decades ahead.

Building upon this research and some of Carmen's previous civic and policy work, Ann Ward and he have developed [CivicGreen](#) to bring together networks of scholars and practitioners to foster strategies and policies for civic engagement in building sustainable, resilient, and just communities. Peter Levine has provided the project a home at the Jonathan M. Tisch College for Civic Life at Tufts University and, given the constraints of the pandemic, they have developed various resources on the website, with the hope that they can convene their emerging array of innovation teams in the months ahead.

Carmen has retired and has officially assumed his emeritus status at Brandeis. Carmen shared, "Perhaps I have finally joined Karl Mannheim's *freischwebende Intelligenz*, though I don't feel very free-floating and I am not sure the intelligentsia would admit me. My best to you all and much appreciation to the Sociology department for having nourished me all these years!" *We will miss Carmen and wish him the very best and thank him for his many years of teaching and dedication to Brandeis!*

Michael Strand had an interesting pandemic year. He published "Sociology and Philosophy in the United States since the Sixties" in *Theory and Society* in January, right before the pandemic, and published "The Political Unconscious of Practice Theory" in *Thesis Eleven* midway through it. He is getting close to finishing his book manuscript on the history of social justice and is also in the midst of examining the role of probability in sociology, as he yet again attempts to say something new about what could be otherwise very boring. He enjoyed immensely teaching classical theory to a new and old crew of graduate students this fall.

Siri Suh's book, [*Dying to Count: Post-Abortion Care and Global Reproductive Health Politics in Senegal*](#), was published by the Rutgers University Press Series on Health, Inequality, and Social Justice. She was invited to speak about the book as part of the *Africa at Noon* series hosted by the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her research was featured in an article titled "[In Hospitals Across Africa, a Lack of Post-Abortion Care](#)" published by NPR in March 2021.

Siri's next project explores the politics of misoprostol, a uterotonic medication, in Francophone Africa. In April 2021, she published an article titled "[A stalled revolution? Misoprostol and the pharmaceuticalization of reproductive health in Francophone Africa](#)" in the journal *Frontiers in Sociology*. The article is part of a special issue on Global Health and Pharmacology. She presented her research on misoprostol at the Law and Society Association meeting in May 2021, and will also present at the American Sociological Association meeting in August 2021.

Additionally, Siri co-authored an article titled "Subversive epidemiology in abortion care: reproductive governance from the global to the local in Argentina and Senegal" that has been accepted for publication by the journal *Signs*.

Between March and November 2021, Siri is serving as faculty advisor to Hadiza Hassan, a PhD student at Bayero University in Nigeria, who is completing her Fulbright Fellowship at Brandeis University. Hadiza's dissertation draws on qualitative and quantitative data to explore the causes and consequences of adolescent childbearing in northern Nigeria.

Gowri Vijayakumar's new book, [*At Risk: Indian Sexual Politics and the Global AIDS Crisis*](#), is forthcoming with Stanford University Press in July. The book considers how nation-states battle for global recognition in responding to a crisis, and what those battles mean for those marginalized groups defined as most at risk—in this case, sex workers, sexual minorities, and transgender people. The book has felt increasingly relevant over the past year! In addition to finishing the book and surviving through pandemic life, Gowri has been working on new projects, including co-editing a volume on the sociology of South Asia, conducting interviews with sex worker and LGBTQIA+ activists in India about their response to COVID-19, and working on an autobiography project with a transgender human rights activist in India, with support from the WSRC. And she has been enjoying chasing her almost-three-year-old around the house between Zoom meetings.

Derron Wallace's research, teaching and community-engaged work are focused on racial equity in public education—as perceived and experienced by Black youth nationally and internationally. His paper, “The Racial Politics of Cultural Capital: Perspectives from Black Middle-Class Pupils and Parents in a London Comprehensive,” published in *Cultural Sociology* was selected as a 2020 finalist for the British Sociological Association's SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence. During the summer, 2020, Derron led a team of graduate and undergraduate students to analyze the written survey responses to more than 17,000 families with children attending Boston Public Schools. You can learn more [here](#). A recent Mandel Grant for the Humanities will support research and fieldwork for his next project. Derron and his family welcomed a new baby in August, 2020.

~ Emeriti Faculty ~

From Maurice R. Stein, Professor of Sociology, Emeritus

Since my retirement from the Brandeis Sociology department in 2002 at age 75, I've had a rich and challenging life. For more than 14 years, I was a member of Harvard's Institute for Learning in Retirement where I was both a teacher and a student. I was very pleased that Princeton University Press reissued my first book *The Eclipse of Community* (originally published in 1958) as part of its legacy series. My book with Larry Miller, *Blueprint for Counter Education*, which first came out in 1971, was re-issued with new material in 2016. That [book](#) has been now picked up by museums all over Europe and has been featured in many shows including one at the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis. At the moment, I am working on a review of Stephen Whitfield's *Learning on the Left; Political Profiles of Brandeis University*.

One of my delights is our 7 year old granddaughter Rowen who lives with our daughter Ninian nearby in Cambridge Co-housing; our son Paul who lives in California checks in almost daily. Both of them followed in the family footsteps; Ninian teaches environmental policy and communication at Tufts and Paul teaches high school history, English, etc. when not on furlough. Thanks to COVID, I have now been in a strict quarantine for almost a year with Phyllis, my wife of 56 years, and a caregiver. I zoom regularly with Charlie Fisher, Reggie Sapp, Becky Thompson, Barbara Deck, Steven Dandaneau, Jose Rivera, Donna Huse, and Downing Cless, and touch base with Joanie Bronfman and Gordie Fellman as well.

I would be happy to hear from any of you - please contact me by [email](#). Anyone with memories of the early years of the Sociology department, please do get in touch!

Photo: Maury reading his unpublished book manuscript, The Reemergence of Community (1975)





Meet Our Newest Sociology Faculty Member:

Professor Sarah Mayorga



Sarah, her daughter Elina, and her husband Jonathan celebrated Sarah's promotion to Associate Professor with tenure at home in January 2021!



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

I'll start at the beginning! My parents are Oscar and Lydia Mayorga. They were born & raised in Nicaragua and left the country in 1979. Along with my two older siblings, they moved around a lot due to my dad's work as an engineer. One of those moves was to San Juan, Puerto Rico, which is where I was born. A couple of years later, we moved to Miami, which is where I lived until I left for college. I went to Providence College in RI, a predominantly white liberal arts Catholic college. Being in New England, not being around many Latinxs, it was a big culture shock! But going to Providence is what made me a sociologist -- I wanted to understand my life and my new surroundings. I took a course called the Power of Whiteness and it changed my life. I declared sociology as my major, along with a Black Studies minor, and continued to learn about structural inequalities. I then went to Duke to earn my PhD, specializing in racial and ethnic inequality. I was very fortunate to work at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Massachusetts Boston before coming to Brandeis. Each of those jobs taught me lessons and prepared me for starting a new job in the middle of a pandemic! It's been a pretty seamless transition, which is certainly a testament to my wonderful colleagues and their efforts to welcome me. When I interviewed at Brandeis, I met with 3 undergraduate students and they asked me why Brandeis? I remember my answer, because it wasn't polished--it was just the truth. It felt like the right move for this time in my life. I feel like all of my life experiences have helped prepare me for doing this job well--and that's an exciting feeling.

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

In the fall semester I taught SOC 1a and a new course on social inequalities in the media. They were both wonderful! SOC 1a has a special place in my heart, as we were able to build a lovely community despite there being over 60 students in the course meeting exclusively over Zoom. During the spring semester, I taught a graduate seminar on the sociology of race & racism, which is one of my favorite classes to teach. I've been teaching remotely since I started, so I'm looking forward to getting involved on campus once we're all vaccinated and can safely return in the fall.

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

My mentor and biggest inspiration is my PhD advisor Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. His work on color-blind racism blew my mind as an undergraduate, and working with him as a graduate student taught me how to think and write like a sociologist. I also have to mention my undergraduate advisor, Charlotte O'Kelly. I read Eduardo's book "Racism without Racists" in her class. She's also the person who suggested I get my PhD in sociology. She saw something in me I hadn't seen yet. So she basically changed my life!

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

Right now I'm finalizing my second book. It's based on a study of two working-class neighborhoods in Cincinnati, Ohio -- one that is predominantly white and one that is multiracial. On the one hand, it's a complex story about race, class, disinvestment, the opioid epidemic, and immigration. On the other hand, it's a straight-forward story about racial capitalism. My goal is to write an accessible book about racial capitalism that bridges processes not traditionally studied together. I also want to tell a new story about gentrification. I'm cautiously optimistic that I've met those goals.

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

I have a toddler, so I spend a lot of time playing with her, having dance parties to a mix of children's and 90s music. If it's above freezing, weekends include time outdoors with my husband and daughter. I'm the middle child of 5 kids, and my youngest brother lives about a mile away from us. We spend a lot of our free time visiting him, talking, laughing, and enjoying good food on the patio. I also love to read, run, journal, and watch gentle television. My new favorite is The Repair Shop (watch it on Netflix!).

~ A special thank you to Sarah for sharing her thoughts with us! ~



CURRENT Graduate Student News

Lauren Crosser (*PhD Sociology student*) just completed her second year at Brandeis, studying political sociology, Marxist sociology, and theory. This year Lauren received a fellowship from the Connected PhD, and through this fellowship has been working as a direct marketing writer at Brandeis. Lauren has been spending the winter painting, playing music, and reading lots of books.

Photo: Inside Lauren's quarantine zone, aka her art studio/office!



Sanchita Dasgupta (*PhD Sociology student*) Sanchita published her second public facing piece, [a film review](#). She was also awarded the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award 2021 by the The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS).

Zach Fox (*PhD Sociology student*) - 2020 was a year of many firsts for Zach. He taught his first Intro to Sociology class at Southern Connecticut State University, he presented his master's thesis, *Media Framing of Antifa*, at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, and he started working towards his PhD at Brandeis. Zach is still lived in New Haven for the Spring semester, but looks forward to joining everyone in person in the future

Sneha Gantla (*Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy*) It's been a year. Firstly, Sneha is just deeply grateful to have health, security, warmth, and safety for herself, family, and community. In 2020, Sneha finished her transformation into a complete homebody. She is 100% OK with it. This might be counter to the recommended lifestyle for the standard 30-some-year old, but it has been so nice to slow down and settle into her home space. Of course, it's now a necessity because of Boots, who, by the way, is wonderful, sweet, and loves life like it's her passion-work. Sneha and Boots spent a lot of time walking, playing, and napping together during break.



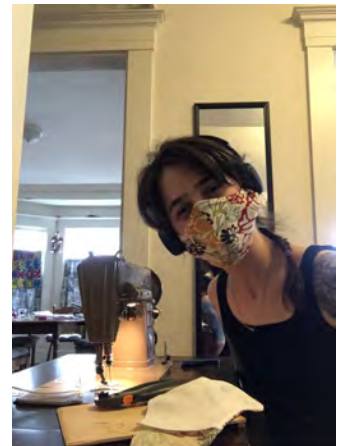
Looking ahead, it is going to be an intense but exciting summer of preparing for a fall defense of Sneha's qualifying portfolio. Her spring plan had taken shape and the emphasis was on finishing and moving past coursework. Sneha took Sociology of Race/Racism with Professor Mayorga and a directed reading in political sociology. On the side, Sneha co-led a third case study for her research work on [Empowerment Economics](#) at the Institute on Economic and Racial Equity, formerly known as the Institute on Assets and Social Policy. The study is a participatory action project with the Native American Youth Council in Portland, Oregon and will explore how the organization takes a holistic approach to providing economic services and its outcomes for families and communities. Sneha also worked on a peer-review article for this project and presented the work to practitioners and funders. Mostly, Sneha was just hoping to get through the spring marathon with good health and good community. *Photo: Sneha and her pup, Boots, napping in between work.*

Rachel Guaderrama (*PhD Sociology student*) - the most exciting news from the past year has been that Rachel moved to Boston and started coursework at Brandeis. Though classes were all online, Rachel has been having a lot of fun exploring New England and has gone camping, hiking, and climbing outdoors in New Hampshire and Vermont during the summer months. One of Rachel's favorite spots thus far has been the Montague Book Mill in western Massachusetts. As a California native, Rachel enjoyed the winter snow by sledding with friends and cuddling in bed with a nice book and some old vinyls playing in the background.



Jenny LaFleur (*Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy student*) received a Connected PhD grant from GSAS to work with Derron Wallace on a [research project](#) related to parent experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Boston Public Schools.

Jenny was supposed to teach statistics in the Sociology department at UMass Boston in the fall but got moved over to teaching Intro to Sociology, which was a great deal of fun. Jenny never realized just how warm and nurturing young adults can be - they helped her survive a very lonesome fall semester.



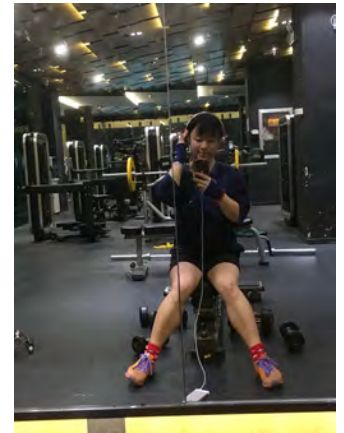
This year, Jenny got some writing published and also had some things rejected! But here's the list of what made it through...

- LaFleur, Jennifer. 2020. "The Race That Space Makes: The Power of Place in the Colonial Formation of Social Categorizations." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, September. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649220961516>.
- LaFleur, Jennifer. 2020. "Centring Race in Contemporary Educational Privatization Policies: The Genealogy of U.S. 'Private School Choice' and Its Implications for Research." *Race Ethnicity and Education*, July, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13613324.2020.1798384>.
- LaFleur, Jennifer. 2020. "Racial Passing." In *Encyclopedia of Critical Whiteness Studies in Education*, edited by Zachary A. Casey, 447–52. Leiden, NL: Brill.

Manning Zhang (*PhD Sociology student*) Last year was an amazing year for Manning as she became a member of the Sociology department as a new PhD student. Although everything ahead is unknown, Manning gladly accepts the gifts that life gives as well as tries to pay the price. Manning has been working on several academic projects in 2020 since the outburst of COVID-19. One is concerned with eating disorders, one with frontline workers in the pandemic, and one with Chinese farmers' mindset and emotions during urbanization, trying to find her concentrations and her own academic path. "The courses I took greatly inspired me theoretically and trained me with sociological methodology."



Beyond academics, Manning started to exercise on a (nearly) daily basis and has seen great progress. Manning picked up dancing, a hobby that had been forgotten for long. enjoyed herself in expressing feelings with body movements, as what I do with words, tunes and pictures. Manning wants to express huge thanks to everyone that tolerated her problems and helped her in the past year. “I am grateful that I have spent this year with you. Let’s make more beautiful memories in the coming 2021.”



And... Thank you for the wonderful inspiration from a few of our great PhD alumni!!



Bernie and Pearlman Hall!



Department of Sociology ~ Tidbits

Featured in this section:

- Recent Graduates
- Sociology Colloquia Series
- Sociology Undergraduate Department Representatives (UDRs)
- Department Updates
- In Memoriam



CONGRADULATIONS to our Recent Sociology Graduates!



Sociology PhD

Margaret Clendenen Minkjin

"Out In Front: How LGBTQ Women and Genderqueer Clergy Navigate Religious Communities"

MA in Sociology

Habiba Braimah (current PhD student)

Kaitlin S. Chakorian (current PhD student)

Lauren Alexandra Crosser (current PhD student)

MA in Social Policy from Heller

Sneha Gantla (current PhD student)

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

Jier Yang

2020-2021 Sociology Colloquia Series

Victor Ray

"Racialized Organizations and Higher Education"

March 2021



Victor Ray's research applies critical race theory to classic sociological questions. He is currently working on two book manuscripts: a project focused on race and organizational theory and an edited volume (co-edited with Jennifer Mueller) on race and sociological theory writ large. His work has been published in the *American Sociological Review*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Contexts*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *The Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* and

Sociological Theory. In addition to this research, Victor is also an active public scholar, publishing commentary in outlets such as *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *Boston Review*. Victor's work has been funded by the Ford Foundation, and the National Science Foundation, among others.

Melissa Brown

"The Virtual Sojourner - Black Feminist Activism and Culture in the Digital Age"

April 2021

Co-sponsored by Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and African and African American Studies

On May 25, 2020, 17-year-old Darnella Frazier took out her smartphone and started to record. While most



teenagers use their smartphone cameras to shoot dances for Tik Tok, Darnella used her camera for bearing witness. How Darnella used her smartphone camera to witness the injustice of George Floyd's killing demonstrates the complex positionality of Black people in the digital age. Darnella reported that witnessing George's death had traumatized her. The video's circulation online had led to internet harassment from people who questioned her choice to record George's last moments.

Thus, while information and communication technologies enable Black people to document and amplify state violence to mobilize people to demand social change and systemic reform, the visibility social media affords these technology users also comes with harmful effects. I refer to these technology users as virtual sojourners - outsiders within of the digital age who leverage digital tools and innovate digital practices to create new avenues for visibility within a sociotechnical system that also endows members of dominant groups to use the same tools to perpetuate marginalization through digital practices that facilitate co-optation, erasure, and appropriation. To elaborate on the concept of a virtual sojourner in this talk,

I center Black women and LGBTQ digital technology users because their experience arises from a complex positionality rooted in the social construction of Black womanhood and queerness marginal to mainstream standards of gender and sexuality. I argue Black women and LGBTQ people act as virtual sojourners by creating and maintaining virtual counterpublics and digital enclaves where they self-author, self-define, and self-determine a Black feminist and queer forms of culture and activism. Nevertheless, virtual sojourners remain an understated phenomenon due to how the features of information and communication technologies serve the dual function of facilitating both visibility and erasure. To magnify this tension, I analyze the digital practices of members of these groups to examine how they navigate the power relations that arise from the virtual public sphere as shaped by the matrix of domination - how domains of power function together to produce a complex constellation of inequalities and potentialities for people on the margins.

Whitney Pirtle

"Covid-19 Death Gaps: Understanding How Race, Class, and Gendered Systems Unequally Shape Pandemic Health Outcomes"

April 2021



Health sociologists have long explained how socioeconomic status, and later racism, are basic root causes of health disparities. I extend this work to argue that racial capitalism, or the idea that racialized exploitation and capital accumulation are mutually reinforced systems, structure health inequities. Furthermore, these intersecting systems are exacerbated in the face of additional forms of oppression, such as patriarchy, and in times of health crises. Synthesizing early reports and preliminary empirical studies, I demonstrate how multiple, overlapping mechanisms shape the excess deaths in COVID-19 across and between racial lines. This analysis demonstrates that health inequities will continue to be replicated unless we can fundamentally change our unequal system.

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

2020-2021 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 junior from Woodbridge, Connecticut majoring in Sociology and WGS, and minoring in Social Justice & Social Policy and Legal Studies. Outside of her work as a Sociology UDR, Ali is a Peer Advocate, Violence Prevention Educator, and the Community Engagement Coordinator at Brandeis' Prevention, Advocacy, and Resource Center (PARC). She is also the founder and State Director of Every Voice Coalition CT, a student-driven nonprofit that advocates for legislation to address campus sexual violence in Connecticut. Ali is particularly passionate about using Sociology as a vehicle to advance public policy and the breadth of legal support. Ali strongly believes that Sociology equips individuals with the knowledge, insight, and empathy to address systemic inequities.

Jonah Nguyen ('21) is a senior from Boston, MA majoring in Sociology and Economics. In addition to being a UDR for Sociology, he is a student worker for the Intercultural Center, Gender & Sexuality Center, and is a part of the Student Advisory Council with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). He is a part of the Brandeis' Southeast Asia Club (SEAC). Throughout his college experience, his interests are about sexuality, race, and gender and how these identities affect an individual's position in markets economically. For example, how one's social identity affects their experience in the housing market. He believes that taking even one sociology course at Brandeis will allow you to see the world from many different perspectives.

Department Updates

Wendy Cadge (*Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, Division Head for the Social Sciences and Barbara Mandel Professor of the Humanistic Social Sciences, Department of Sociology Professor*) **has been selected as the new Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.** She began serving in this role on June 1, 2021.



Wendy has been a member of the faculty in the *Sociology Department* since 2006. She has served as Chair of *Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies* and has been the Head of the *Division of Social Sciences* since 2018. She is the founder and Director of the *Chaplaincy Innovation Lab* which brings together leaders in theological education, social science, clinical education, and professional chaplaincy to collaboratively develop models that enable chaplains to provide more effective services in a world of increasing religious diversity. She recently received two grants totaling \$750,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to continue building and supporting resilience in chaplains and other spiritual care providers across the country.

Wendy has emphasized her desire to collaborate directly with students as she defines priorities for the school. She was particularly excited to build a robust infrastructure that will enable our Graduate Student Representatives to have a more prominent voice and increase transparency between students and administration. She believes that our graduates have central roles to play across a range of settings, including industry, non-profit support and the academy, and she plans to emphasize professional development support for students pursuing diverse career pathways. Finally, Wendy is deeply committed to prioritizing the appropriate implementation of the school's forthcoming antiracism plan.

A note from Professor Gordie Fellman:

Proposal for a Zoom Salon

For a year or two before scheduling my retirement, I toyed with the idea of staying in touch with students by way of a weekly or bi-weekly or monthly Sunday evening salon at my home. It can hold 20-30 people crowded, and there'd be drinks and nibbles.

Now I have a better idea. No need to travel to Cambridge. Do it online. No worries then about how many people can fit into my house and no need to plan a trip and spend the travel time to and from. I invite undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni, staff, and my faculty colleagues to join in the Zoom salon.

Format? Could be the group would cast around when it meets and agree on a topic and do it. Or a small steering committee would choose a topic and invite faculty or other outsiders to help us explore it. We could have the first meeting be an inquiry into how to proceed.

Possible kinds of topics: Is the US Senate inherently undemocratic? Should the Constitution be rewritten or heavily amended? How to get big money out of elections? How is Brandeis doing in its anti-racism commitment? How is Brandeis doing on the pandemic front? How do each of us of whatever color relate to racism and anti-racism? To sexism and patriarchy? To homo- and trans-phobias? Why not challenge consumerism as an ideology and a practice? How to rethink Brandeis in terms of making it more democratic? What to do about income inequality? How to bring war to an end and shunt war funds to meeting real human needs? How do artists help challenge and rethink the status quo?

I welcome criticisms, suggestions, and reactions to this proposal. Please [email](#) me your thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you!

Warmly, Gordie
fellman@brandeis.edu

The Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, founded and directed by Wendy Cadge, continues to grow. The Lab supports the spiritual care profession through research, free educational programs, and networking between chaplains working in all sectors and from all backgrounds. The Lab also shares the University's commitment to collaboration with undergraduate students; currently working in the Lab as Research Assistants are sociology majors Alison Cantor '22 and Simona Shuman '22, along with business and sociology major Markia Neufville '22. The Lab also recently welcomed Shirah Hecht as Research Manager and Darra Sweetser as Finance and Grants Administrator.

In the summer of 2020 the Lab received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to build and support resilience in chaplains and other responders on the front lines of the COVID pandemic and racial justice efforts. The grant included over \$400,000 re-granted to institutions around the United States to implement their own resilience programs for staff in healthcare and higher education. With the support of the Ruderman Family Foundation, the Lab is leading a project offering discussion groups on spirituality and mental health for students at Brandeis and Northeastern University. In March of 2021, the Lab began a project funded by the Templeton Religion Trust on identifying areas of unmet demand for spiritual care and developing the field toward meeting those needs.

BrandeisNow: Via social media, Sociology major Simona Shuman ('22) supports chaplains on the front lines of coronavirus

There's nothing like a life-and-death pandemic to give new meaning to one's studies and interests. Simona Shuman '22, a **sociology** major, is working with professor **Wendy Cadge** on the **Chaplaincy Innovation Lab** (CIL), a venture Cadge started in 2018 to support research and teaching about spiritual care in a range of settings. [Read full story.](#)

Sociology Fund to Honor Peter Conrad, Professor Emeritus of Sociology

This fund is used to help Sociology graduate students with their research projects

To make a gift to this fund:

Contributions can be made [online](#) ~

In the space provided, please note that your contribution is in honor of **Peter Conrad**

In Memoriam



Debra Osnowitz

Members of the Sociology Department were deeply saddened by the death this Spring of Debi Osnowitz. Debi received her PhD in Sociology from Brandeis in 2005, and maintained close connections to the Department ever since. Below is an obituary written by Brandeis alum, Mindy Fried, published in the Sociologists for Women in Society *Network News*.

To honor Debi's memory, her family and friends have established the **The Debra Osnowitz Memorial Graduate Student Paper Prize**, to be awarded to a paper authored by a graduate student in the Brandeis Sociology PhD program.

Contributions can be made [online](#) ~

In the space provided, please note that your contribution is in memory of **Debi Osnowitz**



In Memoriam: Debra (Debi) Osnowitz

By: Mindy Fried



(November 6, 1952 -
April 7, 2021)

Sadly, we mourn the death of Dr. Debi Osnowitz, a brilliant, kind, thoughtful, curious and compassionate sociologist who was cherished by her many friends, colleagues, and by her family.

Debi was born on November 6, 1952, in Fargo, North Dakota, and died unexpectedly April 7, 2021. She exhibited remarkable intellect early on. She was valedictorian at her high school, having graduated early, and moved to Providence to attend Brown University, where she graduated with an A.B. in English and an M.A.T. in English and Education. Debi went on to earn an M.A. in Sociology and Women's Studies, and then a Ph.D. in Sociology from Brandeis University. She taught sociology at Clark University and Brandeis University, and was renowned amongst students for her ability to make classical theory fun and

fascinating. Debi also taught very popular sociology courses on the sociology of work, family, race, culture, and organizations, always bringing an intersectional lens.

In the 1970s, Debi was a member of *9to5*, a successful national organization that advocates for women's rights in the workplace. While there, she chaired the group, Women in Publishing. Over many years, Debi worked as a skilled editor for academic writers. She wrote numerous articles that explored women and work, particularly the precarious nature of contracted labor. And in 2010, her highly regarded book - *Freelancing Expertise: Contract Professionals in the New Economy* – was published by Cornell University Press, marrying her knowledge about the sociology of work and organizations with her experience as an freelance editor.

At the time of Debi's death, she was working on a new project with Dr. Karen V. Hansen (Brandeis University) and Dr. Nazli Kabria (Boston University) called "Cascading: Stories of Loss, Resilience and Resistance," which explores the life histories of people who have suffered economic decline. She was also a treasured member of an 18-year academic writing group, whose members have declared that they cannot imagine not having Debi's presence and remarkable insights at their meetings.

Debi had a unique ability to connect with people across ages and stages regardless of their background. She was an inspiring teacher who took enormous pleasure in her students' successes. Debi was as wise and serious as she was funny and clever. A steadfast loyal friend, she was open and warm, and was generous with the time she gave to others. Debi was also a lover of academic and other literature. It was natural for her to cite research studies in the course of an academic or everyday conversation, her mind always connecting the dots. Debi loved classical music, and in her younger years, played the viola.

Many have noted that Debi's voice was joyful, some remarking that when she spoke, "it was as if her voice smiled." She treasured her loving connections to a number of families. She was the chosen aunt to four (now) young women, and a devoted friend of and support to their parents.

Debi is survived by her brother Daniel, her brother Steve, and her mother, and by numerous heart-broken friends.



Sociology PhD Alumni

Jim Ault's (PhD 1981) dissertation advisor was the late Egon Bittner. Jim recently released his latest documentary film on the life of Zimbabwe's gospel music legend, Machanic Manyeruke, *It's been a labor of love*. Baba (Father) Manyeruke and his wife, Hellenah, and two grandchildren hosted Jim during the 3-week shoot. (Picture of us together). Looking back, it seems an act of reciprocity to Zimbabwe's Shona people, since it was a young Shona staff member at the University of Zambia's African Studies Centre who invited him to a family wedding one weekend in 1974 when he was doing research there for his dissertation at Brandeis. He was from a Shona farm family from Zimbabwe (then



Rhodesia) who had fled their homeland, where most of the land along the line of rail had been taken up by white settlers, in order to be able to do commercial farming in Zambia's Southern Province. "I find myself saying that I learned more from that wedding—for example, by dancing throughout the night in a family circle—than I did in months of archival research!" So 40-some years later Jim was able to pay back their hospitality by making a film about one of their nation's legends whose life story carries some important lessons about their culture. Machanic's son is now a "rock star" in Zimbabwe and gave the film a cross-generational dimension. The film was broadcast on Zimbabwe's national television Christmas week to great acclaim. (Picture filming on stage with him.)

This film project brought Jim back in touch with two colleagues from our Sociology Department who pioneered in visual ethnography and documentary filmmaking: Doug Harper, with whom he shared some years on campus, and John Grady, who came a bit later. Our Department has fostered such creativity among its graduates.

Finally, the nastiness of our current political conflicts, which even seemed to threaten our democracy, brought Jim back to lessons learned in his post-doc field research among social conservative movements in the Moral Majority era. These movements went on to remake the Republican Party and eventually became "Trump's base." Jim was in the midst of writing an essay about lessons he learned about understanding each other across these bitter divisions in American life when the invasion of the Capitol occurred. He included it in the narrative and added some relevant details of participants involved. Jim is looking now to publish it in the mainstream media tentatively titled, "Come Together America! Understanding Each Other Better." If you have any suggestions and/or relevant contacts, let him know!

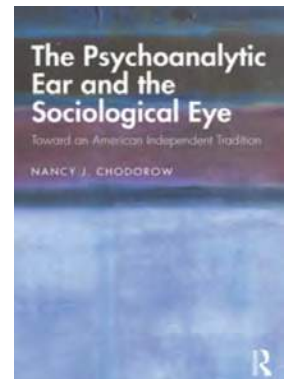
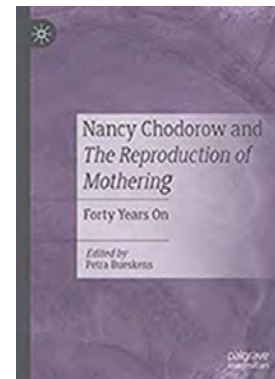
Julia Bandini (PhD 2019) is an Associate Behavioral/Social Scientist at the RAND Corporation. She continues to work in the space of end-of-life care, focusing on patient, family, and provider experiences around advance care planning, palliative care and hospice care. She has also enjoyed working with Wendy Cadge, Sara Shostak, and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital on a project around intensive care unit nurses' experiences during the first COVID-19 surge in Boston, MA.

Recent publications include:

- Julia I. Bandini (2020). "Beyond the Hour of Death: Family Experiences of Grief and Bereavement Following an End-of-Life Hospitalization in the Intensive Care Unit." *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1363459320946474>
- Julia Bandini, Julia Rollison, Katie Feistel, Laura Whitaker, Armenda Bialas, Etchegaray. (2021). "Home Care Aide Safety Concerns and Job Challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1048291120987845>.
- Julia I. Bandini, Alexis Coulourides Kogan, Bonnie Olsen, Jessica Phillips, Rebecca L. Sudore, David B. Bekelman, Sangeeta C. Ahluwalia. (2021). "Feasibility of Disease-focused Group Visits for Advance Care Planning among Patients with Heart Failure and their Caregivers." *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* 34 (1) 171-180:
<https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2021.01.200184>.
- Joan M. Teno, Jennifer N. Bunker, Melissa Bradley, Julia Bandini, Christine Ritchie, Danielle Schlang, Hyosin Kim, Rebecca Anhang-Price. (2020). "Bereaved Family More Likely to Report "Too Little" Care than "Too Much" Care at End of Life." *Journal of Palliative Medicine*.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2020.0498>

Nancy J Chodorow (MA 1972, PhD 1975) - In 2020, a book came out in honor of *The Reproduction of Mothering*, which was, with very little change, Nancy's 1974 Brandeis PhD dissertation. The dissertation was called *Family Structure and Feminine Personality: The Reproduction of Mothering*. The locution, the reproduction of mothering, as she remembers, didn't arise until a few months before she was finished, when Egon Bittner, Nancy's dissertation chair, and she, more or less noticed at the same moment, that her psychoanalytic sociology (there wasn't yet anything we called psychoanalytic feminism) also contained an illusion to (then hegemonic) Marxism: production and, *pace* feminism, reproduction.

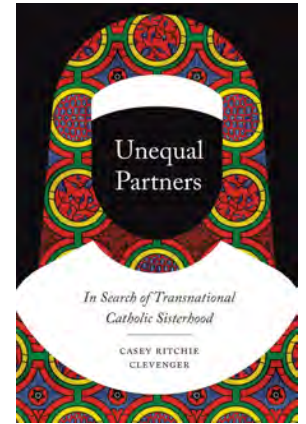
As Virginia Woolf said (she's the opening headquote in the volume) we think back through our mothers: the volume contains writings by a few of Nancy's own students, among others. Petra Bueskens, the editor, is an Australian social psychologist-clinician-mothering scholar.



We also think back through our fathers. Last year, Nancy also published a book that alludes to another Brandeis professor's writings: Everett Hughes's *The Sociological Eye*. Hughes had moved on to BC by the time Nancy got to Brandeis, but his intellectual presence — his personal sociological attitude -- was still active, and also channeled through other students who had worked with him before he left.

Levon Chorbajian (PhD 1974) - *Power and Inequality: Critical Readings for a New Era*, the second edition of Levon's political sociology reader was published by Routledge in 2021. All the major issues in political sociology are covered in this blend of the classics and more contemporary pieces. Several contributions were specially commissioned for this work which includes Levon's piece, "Getting Away with Murder (Almost): A Genocide Primer".

Casey Clevenger (PhD 2016) published her book *Unequal Partners: In Search of Transnational Catholic Sisterhood* with the University of Chicago Press. She recently moved back to the Seattle area with her family.



Steve Dandaneau (PhD 1992) is not sure which was more meaningful to him last fall, publishing a novel or zooming into Maury Stein's surprise 94th birthday celebration. Maury—who began in the department in 1955 and has been emeritus since 2002—was feted by family, friends, former students and faculty colleagues, Charlie Fisher, Charlotte Schwartz, and Becky Thompson among them. Steve was also privileged to be a fly on the wall for Maury's fascinating discussion with Stephen Whitfield on Professor Whitfield's *Learning on the Left: Political Profiles of Brandeis University* (2020). Steve's next Brandeis Sociology project will be talking with Maury apropos the sixtieth anniversary of his edited classic, *Identity and Anxiety: Survival of the Person in Mass Society* (1960), which seems a timely topic all over again.

Betina Freidin (PhD 2008) is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Buenos Aires, and Researcher of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONICET), Argentina.

During 2020, she published the book, *Atención primaria de la salud en tiempos de crisis* (Teseo Press, first author), the chapter, "A Sociological Approach to the Study of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Argentina" (in *Handbook of Latin American Sociology*, section Medical Sociology, Oxford University Press [B. Freidin and M. Ballesteros]), and the article, "Estigmatización territorial y salud: experiencias de desigualdad social en la periferia de Buenos Aires" (in *Estudios Urbanos y Demográficos*, first author), among other works. Organized by the Brandeis Sociology Department, she was invited to be part of a virtual panel on international alumni working abroad.

She is currently conducting a qualitative case study on the general practitioners and other health professionals' work experiences in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic in the periphery of Buenos Aires City, taking into account the reorientation of public health priorities, the shortage of material and human resources, the disruption of work routines, and the implementation of changing protocols and guidelines for practice.

Mindy Fried (PhD 1996) - It goes without saying that it's been a crazy year for us all. In the midst of the insanity, here are a few updates: Mindy created a special edition of her podcast, [The Shape of Care](#), called Caregiving in the Time of Corona, releasing 11 new episodes that feature essential workers, policymakers, family caregivers and global care scholars. Mindy has begun facilitating a caregiver support group, which is incredibly gratifying. She has been mentoring graduate students who are interested in applied sociology via Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), and taught a webinar on applied sociology for SWS. Mindy also did a guest lecture at UMichigan/Flint about applied sociology. Mindy will be presenting two workshops that are pre-conference sessions for the SWS Winter meeting, one on Podcasting as Public Sociology and the other, Choosing Applied Sociology. As Co-Director of Hoopla Productions, Mindy has been working with other local organizations to produce a performance series in Jamaica Plain that will run from the spring through fall, 2021. And, along with her JP Porchfest partner, she has successfully transferred the production of this event to an amazing nonprofit called Dunamis, which supports artists and arts managers of color. But one of Mindy's happiest pieces of news is that Sasha, who grew up hanging out at Pearlman when she was an infant, has now moved from DC to Boston with her girlfriend.

The two of them live in Cambridge, but Sasha works remotely at Mindy's house in JP most days of the week. She has set up her old bedroom as an office as well as a music studio, where she continues to write and record music for her band, [Lotion Princess](#).

Lew 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. The [Center for Communication and Civic Renewal](#) which he co-founded continues the study of political contention and populism and the fracture of U.S. civil society. He is first author of *The Erosion of Civil Society in a Shifting Communication Ecology: Wisconsin and the Rise of U.S. Populism* with C. Wells, D. Shah, M. Wagner, and K. Cramer, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press later this year. He is a founder of [Win Wisconsin](#), which raised funds and volunteers for the 2020 election and continues mobilization for 2022. He is also working with Carmen Sirianni on his new [Civic Green project](#). Lew is retiring on Jan. 1, 2022 (Gordie beat him by one year, even though Lew started his grad career in his Marx and Freud seminar).

Amanda Gengler (PhD 2014) was promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology at Wake Forest University. She also published an article, "Emotions and Medical Decision-Making," in the June 2020 issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly*.

Henry (Hank) Greenspan (PhD 1985) has had an active year despite, and because of, cave-dwelling. Although he is mostly retired from the University of Michigan, he continues to provide online seminars, public talks, and conference keynotes related to his now fifty years of work interviewing, writing about, and teaching about the Holocaust and its survivors. He received the 2020 article award from the Oral History Association for his piece, "The Humanities of Contingency: Interviewing and Teaching Beyond 'Testimony' with Holocaust Survivors." He is co-editing a volume provisionally titled, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Pandemic Times: Resonance and Dissonance*.



He has been particularly involved in work with the Swedish government helping plan the first Holocaust museum and new oral history centers in that country. A lot of his work related to survivors began during his time as a grad student at Brandeis and was the subject of his doctoral dissertation. He is also an actively produced playwright and published lyricist and poet. He is particularly enthused about a new program he founded called "The Schmoozery: At Our Age, in This Age," which is a weekly discussion group for older adults about ways we make sense--and don't make sense--of the wider social/political world at this time in our lives.

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom (PhD 1970) is still at Boston College as Professor Emerita. By early February 2020 the coronavirus looked like it was headed to the east coast, but it seemed there was still a window of opportunity to travel. So despite having become skittish about trips, Lynda went to the ESS meetings in Philadelphia, returning to Boston March 1. Observing people's behavior at the conference one would think that no one had ever heard of the coronavirus! But within just days, emails from *businesses* started landing in my in-box explaining how they would navigate the pandemic using the internet.

There's nothing new or surprising about other interests competing with public health interests. Even so, for Lynda--and probably many sociologists--one of the most infuriating aspects is that so much of the Covid19 suffering (medical *and* economic) was preventable.

Some of you may be compiling pandemic reading lists. You might find interesting *Influenza and Inequality: One Town's Tragic Response to the Great Epidemic of 1918*, by Patricia J. Fanning, about Norwood, MA, Fanning's hometown. The book developed out of her doctoral dissertation work at Boston College with Jeanne Guillemin and Lynda.

Kathleen (Kay) Jenkins (PhD 2002) continues to serve as Chair of the Sociology Department at William & Mary. Her new ethnography was released with Oxford University Press Spring 2021: *Walking the Way Together: How Families Connect on the Camino de Santiago* (2021). Kay also worked on a new project, in collaboration with Debra Osnowitz (also a Brandeis Sociology PhD), analyzing home care work and interviewing both home care workers and family members who coordinate care.

Don W. Light (PhD 1970) has had a very good year, though he missed seeing folks from Brandeis at the annual sociology meetings. Don is still working full time in his 50th year and is a part of the immigration workshop at Princeton University as well. This fall, the Institute for Advanced Study invited Don to be a visiting scholar, and he worked on the incomplete, partial testing of vaccines for COVID-19. Three short publications resulted, expressing concern about interim results on small, limited samples being accepted as evidence that the two new vaccines are safe and effective for massive rollout. Joel Lexchin and he published an overview article in *Social Science and Medicine* on why risks of adverse reactions are so prevalent in prescription drugs. Another article is forthcoming in *Health Affairs* on how extensively the public pays for the development of drugs, including large subsidies to cover the expenses of companies; so that the net research costs for new drugs are a fraction of the gross, reported costs. Prices could be much lower and still generate a reasonable profit.



R. Ruth Linden (PhD 1989) continues to lead Tree of Life Health Advocates in San Francisco, where she lives with her wife, Alexandra Alznauer. After 20 years, they celebrated their third wedding last October with Maury Stein and Janet Kahn (PhD 1994) in Zoom attendance.

R. Ruth Linden's recent publications include "Never Again is Now" (*Her Story, My Story? Writing about Women and the Holocaust* (Peter Lang, Bern, 2020); "Moral Injury and Death in the Time of COVID" (*Creating Under COVID*, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, July 2020); and "You Could Benefit from Having a Health Advocate on Speed Dial" (*Experience*, March 2019).



This spring, after a long hiatus from teaching, she taught a course on patient navigation at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Kim Lucas (PhD 2020):

- Joined the small (but mighty) crew at [MetroLab Network](#) as their Senior Director of Civic Research and Innovation
- Joined the Board for [The Jar](#) and the Advisory Board for [Speak for the Trees](#)
- Co-authored (alongside Wendy Robeson from Wellesley College) a report for the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement focused on [parent pressures and changing demand for child care during COVID-19](#)

Peter Ludes (MA 1975, PhD 1983) - Since 2018, Peter has been a Visiting Professor at the [University of Cologne](#)

Recent publications:

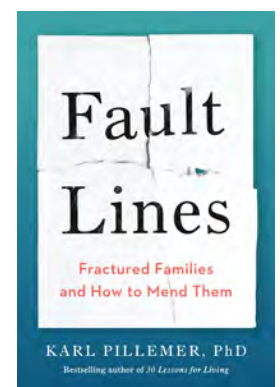
- (Ed. with S. Kramer) [Collective Myths and Decivilizing Processes](#), Vienna: Lit 2020.
This anthology outlines the long-term asymmetrical and asynchronous interdependencies and conflicts of state transformations, market economies, contemporary technologies, shifting power differentials, international relations, and post-democratic totalitarianism. The contributors from the humanities and social sciences focus on developments in the world powers of China and the United States, on collective myths in global economics and recent technological advances re-shaping de-/civilizing processes for the 21st century.
- (Ed. with M. Schatz and L. de Giorgi) [Contact Zones in China](#), Oldenbourg: de Gruyter 2020 The local experiences of Italian and German foreigners in China in the 19th and 20th centuries exemplify unexpected patterns of their dissimilar social encounters. Multidimensional long-term rules and conventions, expectations and constraints relate individual biographies and small groups behavior modes with highly steered and administered contact zones. Thereby they point to prerequisites for and preliminary characteristics of the globally relevant Belt and Road Initiative.



Margaret Minkin (PhD 2020) defended her dissertation, "*Out in Front: How LGBTQ Women and Genderqueer Clergy Navigate Religious Communities*" in June. She and her wife Rachel Minkin (Sociology and NEJS PhD 2019) moved to northern Virginia over the summer. Rachel started as a Research Associate on the Social and Demographic Trends team at Pew Research Center in April. She has contributed to work on Americans' views and identification with feminism, the economic fallout from COVID-19, and how the pandemic has (and hasn't) changed the American workplace. Margaret is continuing in her work as a Managing Research Specialist at Isaacson, Miller, an executive search firm committed to hiring diverse leadership for higher education and mission driven nonprofits. Margaret and Rachel are enjoying their first winter outside of New England in a decade!



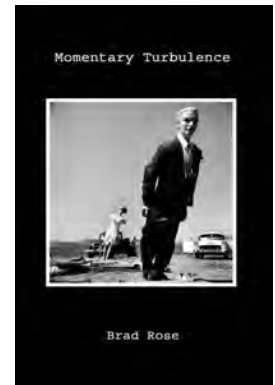
Karl Pillemer (PhD 1985) published [Fault Lines: Fractured Families and How to Mend Them](#) (Avery) in September 2020. The book is the culmination of a five-year research project to shed light on the nature and dynamics of estrangements in families, as well as to profile the experiences of people who have successfully reconciled after years or decades in a family rift. The book has received considerable media attention, including from the [New York Times](#) and [National Public Radio](#). He continues in his faculty roles in Cornell's Department of Human Development and in the Division of Geriatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine. (He also can't quite believe that 35 years have gone by since getting the PhD!)



Victoria Pitts-Taylor (PhD 1999) continues to chair the Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies program at Wesleyan University. She published an article in the journal *Sexualities* called "The untimeliness of trans youth: The temporal construction of a gender 'disorder'".

Ashley Rondini (PhD 2010) has co-authored a publication coming out in February with Miranda Waggoner and colleague, Rachel Kowalsky: Rondini, Ashley C., Rachel S. Kowalsky, and Miranda R. Waggoner. 2021. "Addressing Meso-Level Mechanisms of Racism in Medicine." *The American Journal of Bioethics* 21 (2): (forthcoming). (DOI:10.1080/15265161.2020.1861372)

Brad Rose (PhD 1994) continues in his role as an applied sociologist at [Brad Rose Consulting, Inc.](#), a program evaluation and organization development firm. His blog about issues in program evaluation and the social sciences can be found [online](#). In 2020, Brad published two books of prose poetry, *de/tonations*, from Nixes Mate Books, and *Momentary Turbulence*, from Cervena Barva Press. His poetry has appeared in more than 100 journals, including *The American Journal of Poetry*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Boston Literary Magazine*. View Brad's poetry on his [poetry website](#). His next book of poetry, *WordinEdgewise*, is forthcoming in 2021.



Catherine Tan (PhD 2018) started her new job as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Vassar College!

Becky Thompson (PhD 1991) is a poet, activist, yogi and scholar and is thrilled to let people know that her latest collection of poetry, *To Speak in Salt*, that focuses on refugee resilience and resistance in Greece, has won the Ex Ophidia Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Hollis Summers Poetry Prize (forthcoming, 2021). Becky completed her MFA in Creative Writing at Stonecoast (in Maine) with an emphasis on social justice poetry.



Miranda Waggoner (PhD 2011) received tenure at Florida State University in 2020, and is now an Associate Professor of Sociology there. Also in 2020, Miranda began her second year as a Greenwall Foundation Faculty Scholar in Bioethics, and she received a five-year CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation. With Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong and Susan Markens, Miranda co-edited Volume 20 ("Reproduction, Health, and Medicine") of Emerald's *Advances in Medical Sociology* series, which was published in 2020. In addition, she became somewhat proficient at teaching first-grade material, as her wonderful, creative, and energetic son learned from home during the pandemic!

Karen Werner (PhD 2004) moved to Bergen, Norway in March 2020 where Karen is working in the Faculty for Fine Art, Music and Design at the University of Bergen, Norway. Karen's focus is on practice-based artistic research in radio art plus teaching BA and MA students at the art academy.

Dana Zarhin (PhD 2013) was recently promoted to Senior Lecturer with tenure in the Sociology Department at the University of Haifa, Israel. Dana published two articles last year, including "The trajectory of 'medical cannabis' in Israel: Driving medicalization in different directions," which was published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy* and "'You have to do something!': Snoring, accountability and the emergence of agency," which was published in *BJS—the British Journal of Sociology*.



Sociology BA and Masters Alumni

Joshua Basseches (BA 2012) received his PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University last summer and is currently completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. At the Ford School, he is helping to organize a colloquium on North American climate policy that brings together leading scholars and policymakers from Canada, the United States, and Mexico to discuss the past and future of collaboration and conflict when it comes to transnational climate governance.

Anne Marie Foley (Joint MA in Sociology & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 2020) is doing very well! She just started a new job as a full-time Sociology Instructor for Neosho County Community College in Kansas and adjusting to small town living.

Samantha Gordon (BA 2014) began working as the Assistant Director for the Harvard Pre-College Program in the Harvard Summer School at Harvard University. The program serves high school students interested in learning for learning's sake with Ivy League rigor.

Judith Lasker (BA 1969) is Professor Emerita of Sociology and Health Medicine and Society at Lehigh University. She is author of *Hoping to Help: the Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering* and co-founder of Advocacy for Global Health Partnerships, a coalition of groups and individuals working to improve the ethics and effectiveness of short-term volunteer and training activities in global health. AGHP has carried out research and educational activities and created the [Brocher Declaration](#) which has been endorsed by dozens of organizations involved in global health. She has participated in webinars on this subject sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and spoke in January for the Medical School for International Health and the Centre for Global Health at Ben Gurion University.

Carl Milofsky (BA 1970) After graduating from Brandeis, Carl then went on to Berkeley and received a PhD in sociology in 1975. He has been teaching Sociology at Bucknell since 1982 and will be retiring after the Spring 2021 semester. While teaching at Yale in the late 1970s, Carl got involved in the Program on Nonprofit Organizations, the first research center in the world focusing on nonprofits and that has been his main research area since. As a founder of Waltham Group, Carl was interested in community organizing from the beginning and, as a nonprofits scholar, has focused on the organization of local community groups and organizations. Carl is currently an editor of the VOLUNTARY SECTOR REVIEW, based in the UK and he has done a variety of other editing projects. Carl also has done empirical research on how local community organizations function.



Carl married Bev Spiro coming out of Brandeis and they have two kids, Jake and Tessa. They separated after about 15 years and now Carl is married to Sandy Elion, who spent a career organizing and running a nontraditional elementary school. Sandy's two kids, Nina and Jude along with Jake and Tessa and five grandchildren make up their family. Happily everyone is healthy.

Chris Rhomberg (BA 1983) - Publications:

- Rhomberg, Chris. 2020. “The Struggle for a New Labor Regime: The U.S.” *Tempo Social* 32(1):99-118. <https://doi.org/10.11606/0103-2070.ts.2020.164863>

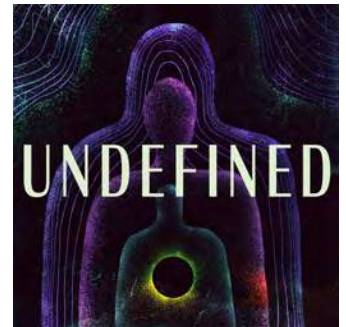
This essay examines the American labor movement since the 2008 economic crisis. Chris begins with a brief review of the structural, institutional, and organizational conditions for labor before the crisis, including changes in employment and the labor force, the conflict between New Deal and anti-union labor regimes, and the emergence of new repertoires in the labor movement. These form the context for the financial crash, and the failure of policy to challenge corporate power. Chris then discusses the conservative political offensive against unions and movement initiatives at state and local levels. The conflicts have intensified under the Trump administration, with a resurgence of strike activity and the polarization of institutions governing labor and civic life.

- Rhomberg, Chris, and Steven Lopez. 2021. “Understanding Strikes in the 21st Century: Perspectives from the USA,” *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change* 44:37-62. <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/0163-786X>

After decades of declining strike rates in the industrialized world, recent years have seen a surge of militant walkouts in the global South, political strikes in Europe, and unconventional strikes in non-union sectors in the United States. This new diversity of strike action calls for a new theoretical framework. In this paper, we review the historical strengths and limits of traditions of strike theory in the United States. Building on the emerging power resources approach (PRA), we propose a model based on a multidimensional view of associational power, power resources, and arenas of conflict in the economy, state, and civil society. We demonstrate the utility of our approach via a case analysis of strikes in the “Fight for \$15” campaign in the U.S.

Marisa Tashman (BA 2012) launched a podcast called *Undefined*, which can be found on Apple, Spotify, undefinedpodcast.com, or wherever else you listen to podcasts.

Through interviews, *Undefined* explores questions of identity and how to return to your core authentic self.



SOCIOLGY

Additional Updates from Brandeis Sociology PhD Students

Tom Rose (Sociology PhD student in the 1960s): GRADUATE STUDENTS GET OLD!

Tom Rose was born just before WWII. He grew up in Mahtomedi at White Bear Lake near St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1952 the family business buying and selling raw furs was failing and the Rose family moved to Palo Alto, a very quiet sleepy little city in the early fifties, He graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1956 and joined the Navy for two years, and in 1958 he was a guinea pig during nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. In 2018 he won a case against the VA who agreed his cancer was caused by exposure to Nuclear tests. Tom took two classes at Stanford in the summer of 1959 which changed his life forever, Religions of the World and Great Thinkers which included Einstein, Currie, Gandhi, and others and wrote a paper about Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Tom graduated from San Francisco State College in 1963 writing a senior thesis on Black Student Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement who he interviewed in 1962 including Charlene Hunter Gault, John Lewis, Dianne Nash, Stokely Carmichael, Marion Barry and others. He interviewed them again in 1982 and published a small book, *Black Leaders Then and Now*. Tom dropped out of college in the spring term 1960 and went to work at Highlander Folk School, got involved in the Civil Rights Movement, went to the CORE Action Institute in Miami and visited the SNCC office in Atlanta and returned to SF State in Fall 1960. Tom became part of the Beat Generation in North Beach and participated in seminars at the Bread and Wine Mission with Pierre Delattre who he is still close friends with.

Tom started grad school at Brandeis in September 1963. At a monthly sociology seminar, he met sociologist David Riesman from Harvard who was very interested in his senior thesis on Black Students. He got to know Riesman who felt Tom would be happier with his former student Warner Bloomberg at Wisconsin in Milwaukee. In November 1964 Brandeis Department Chair Morrie Schwartz asked Tom if he wanted to teach two social problems classes at the University of New Hampshire starting in January 1965 and Tom bought a VW Bug and commuted to Durham two days a week which started his 38-year teaching career. His favorite professors at Brandeis were Irving Zola, Maurice Stein and Everett Hughes and his most interesting research was studying bars and Black churches in Boston.

In 1966 he finished a masters in Urban Affairs at Wisconsin-Milwaukee and spent a year traveling in Europe and the Middle East, and then returned to Wisconsin in 1967 to start a PhD in political science, was the chair of Students for A Democratic Society, was very involved in protests against the Vietnam war, including closing down campus recruiting. He wrote a paper for two classes about violence and got an A+ in one and a D in the other and that became his first edited book, *Violence In America*, Random House, 1969.

He started teaching at Federal City College in 1968 and after two years moved to rural Maryland to finish his PhD dissertation at Union Graduate School while teaching at nearby Hood College. In addition to his community study, he wrote and published histories of two towns, Myersville and Wolfsville, with his co-author the local bank president. In 1971 he started teaching at Montgomery College, Rockville. He started taking pottery classes at the college and got very involved and became a serious potter after studying with some fantastic potters including Hunt Prothro, Bob Turner, Byron Temple, and others.

Tom got involved at the Institute for Policy Studies in a decade-long seminar about Erich Fromm with his student Michael Maccoby and is still friends with others who were in the seminar. In 1976 Tom spent the summer sailing from Annapolis to Nova Scotia and in the summer of 1977, he helped build his own house in Garrett Park, Maryland, a stop on the railroad from Harpers Ferry to DC, a little town created in the 19th century before people drove to work. They took the train. In the early 70s Tom started taking classes

from Rabbi Harold White. Rabbi White helped start the Fabrangen with Arthur Waskow at the Institute for Policy Studies who later became a Rabbi. Tom stayed in touch with them both and Rabbi White spent a week with Tom and Dorcey a few years ago before he died.

In 1980 Rabbi White married Tom and Dorcey Wend and her daughter Hannah. Soon they adopted their son Aaron, and they decided to become seriously Jewish. Although Tom's great grandfather was one of the founders of Mount Zion Synagogue in St Paul in 1856, he had not been raised as a Jew. Judaism is an important part of life for Tom and Dorcey, their kids and grandkids. Tom and Dorcey moved to Annapolis in 1987 and in order not to teach in the summers, he got his Real Estate license. Tom became a very successful Realtor and after retiring from teaching at 65 he continued selling homes.

Tom and Dorcey moved permanently to Palm Harbor, Florida ten years ago and they love the sunsets in addition to rowing they walk and ride bikes on the Pinellas Trail. When they moved to Indian Bluff Island, Tom wrote a history of the small community interviewing sisters in their 90s who had grown up on the island in the only tiny house in the 20s, 30s and 40s and it was published by the Palm Harbor Historical Society. The interviewing skills learned with young Black leaders in the early 60's and developed at Brandeis made the book possible.

Boats are in Tom's blood since his family bought a wood rowing boat in 1945. Although he gave up boats during graduate school, the Civil Rights Movement and Peace Movement, he started sailing small boats in the early 70's and got back to rowing and started kayaking. He raced a Seda ocean kayak in Maryland and twice in Lake Superior and then in the late 90s got into rowing a single scull and now rows three times a week in his Peinert 26 on the Gulf of Mexico at 82.

Bob Zellner (Sociology PhD student in the 1960s):

Son of the South - A film based on The Wrong Side of Murder Creek

Son of the South is an American biographical drama film, written and directed by Barry Alexander Brown and with executive producer Spike Lee. Based on Bob Zellner's autobiography, *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek*, it stars Lucas Till, Lucy Hale, Lex Scott Davis, Julia Ormond, Cedric the Entertainer, Sharonne Lainer, Mike C. Manning, Brian Dennehy and Chaka Forman.

Review of **Son Of The South** by Tom Rose, a historian

I have been waiting for this movie since I met Bob in graduate school 57 years ago and his stories have kept me awake ever since. It's a fabulous movie about his life and it's also a very sad American story about how ruling white American society has never learned to live in a multi racial world. I watched the movie on the eve of hurricane Laura and Kenosha, and it is very clear we are killing ourselves with global warming and our inability as a society to move beyond the Civil War. Of course, we have made progress as Son Of The South so beautifully illustrates, but we have not arrived at the top of the mountain that Martin Luther King Jr. talked about. Zellner and the film will help us believe that what they did will eventually have more positive outcomes.

