Dear Brandeis Sociology Community,

It’s the time of year when students, faculty, and staff have that harried look that comes from a lot of work and a lot of deadlines, exacerbated no doubt by the troubling events that continue to percolate around the world. As sociologists, we try to face these events head on, helping our students to understand the causes of such problems and the possibilities for change. I am happy to report that these efforts to grapple with the problems of the day are largely happening in person at Brandeis. While measures to maintain public health continue, it has been great to see a campus bustling with activity this past academic year. Anyone hurrying to class these days not only has to dodge students congregating on footpaths, but also watch out for little robots motoring around to deliver food across campus.

As you will read about in the following pages, department faculty reached many milestones this past year, including promotions, named chairs, books published, and new administrative roles. And at the end of June, Gordie Fellman will retire after 57 years at Brandeis. Especially through the many hundreds of students he inspired over the years, he leaves an indelible mark at Brandeis, and we wish Gordie well in whatever new adventures he undertakes!

One of the real highlights of this past year for me has been watching Zoom interviews of alumni conducted by current graduate students as part of the PhD Proseminar class. What started as a small one-off exercise of talking to a few alumni about their career trajectories has turned into a much larger project of collecting oral histories from a large assortment of alums from many time periods in the department’s history. It’s been fascinating and inspiring for our current grads – and we faculty in Proseminar – to hear about the diverse experiences, including both achievements and hardships, of people who preceded them at Brandeis. I am very grateful to those of you who have already participated, and to those of you who have volunteered but not yet been interviewed. You haven’t been forgotten! Thanks to a Connected PhD grant, we are expanding the project and planning to do many more such interviews during the summer. And if you haven’t yet volunteered to be interviewed and are willing to do so, please send me an email.

It is also a pleasure to read here the latest news about your lives. I know I speak for all Sociology department members in saying how much we value our connections with former students and other department friends. Please do stay in touch.

Best wishes,

Laura Miller
Faculty and Staff Notes

~ Department of Sociology Faculty ~

**Wendy Cadge** started a three year term as Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in June 2021. She misses teaching and hopes she is helping improve the experiences of graduate students through her work at GSAS. Her volume, *Introduction to Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care*, co-edited with Shelly Rambo will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in May 2022. She also worked with Sara Shostak and two undergraduates, Sophie Trachtenberg and Mariah Lewis, on how nurses at a major Boston hospital responded to COVID. Publications include:


Wendy published an article about teaching sociology with graduate student Ann Ward and Department alum Aja Antoine:


Her research on port chaplains continues:


Wendy continues to direct the [Chaplaincy Innovation Lab](#) and welcomed Grace Tien as a postdoc this year and several Brandeis undergraduates as research assistants. Highlights of the Lab's work are described in the [annual report](#). Grants received through the Lab in 2021 were the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boston University</th>
<th>Educating Effective Chaplains:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Luce Foundation</td>
<td>Building and Supporting Resilience among Frontline Spiritual Care Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles H. Revson Foundation</td>
<td>Leading Where Life Happens: Mapping &amp; Building the Field of Jewish Chaplaincy</td>
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<td>The Fetzer Institute</td>
<td>Chaplaincy Innovation Lab Collaboration with the Fetzer Institute</td>
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<td>Ruderman Family Foundation</td>
<td>Back to School: A Pilot Approach to Supporting the Mental Health Needs of College Students</td>
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<td>Harvard Divinity School</td>
<td>Mapping Buddhist Chaplains in North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Luce Foundation</td>
<td>Further Support of Building and Supporting Resilience among Frontline Spiritual Care Providers</td>
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<td>Templeton Religion Trust</td>
<td>Chaplains as Facilitators of Covenantal Pluralism: Building Demand Based Models and Training Programs</td>
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<td>Beth Israel Deaconness Medical Center</td>
<td>Spiritual Care Disparities in the Culture Health in Community Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Russell Berrie Foundation</td>
<td>Caring for Inter-Faith Caregivers: Resilience and Support for Spiritual Care Providers in New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Independent Documentary, Inc.</td>
<td>Boston's Hidden Sacred Spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Center of Chinese Buddhist Culture and Education, USA</td>
<td>Understanding Buddhist Chaplains in North America</td>
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Gordie Fellman has been retired for a full year from teaching. He misses meeting new students but does not miss redesigning classes, figuring out which new books to assign, ordering from the bookstore, updating syllabi, getting into synch with new technologies, etc.

Gordie takes weekly piano lessons with a marvelously gifted teacher, accompanied by an hour a day of practice. He is also working with a superb editor on a complicated book. Gordie is also enjoying getting more than ever into cooking and indoor gardening. Ah.....And sleeping in when he feels like it, not just on weekends and non-teaching days..... Gordie comes to campus about once a week to dismantle the office that he’s enjoyed for about fifty years. He is going through files of matters from decades ago. Heart strings are pulled often. Good memories, warm memories, uneasy memories, bad memories, etc.....Once Gordie decides which books to take home, he'll invite graduate and undergraduate students and anyone else to take books they want. Some will go to a high school teacher who is building up a social justice library in her school.

In October 2019 when Gordie decided to retire soon, he wondered what it would be like to be at home full time all year. Then COVID hit and being at home has meant rarely leaving it. And that's fine. Gordie is very happy to be at home but sad they cannot travel much. Gordie, Pamela, and their kids are healthy and making out okay, pandemic be damned....

*The Department of Sociology congratulates Gordie on receiving the ‘2021 Peace Educator Scholar Award’ from The Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA). We are also thrilled that Gordie has been selected as the Grand Marshall at the Brandeis University 2022 Commencement!*
Karen V. Hansen - As Karen returned to full time teaching in the fall, the university honored her with a named chair; she became the Victor and Gwendolyn Beinfield Professor of Sociology. She has designed and taught two new courses: “Investigating the Past: Historical methods in Sociology” and “Writing Activists' Lives: Biography, Gender, and Society.”

Her main intellectual obsession continues to be downward mobility. She and her co-PI, Nazli Kibria (Boston University) received a grant from Purpose Inc., supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, enabling her and the Cascading Lives team to deepen the work of the last two years (funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Raikes Foundation). In November, they launched a project website. She and Nazli just published an op-ed in the Hechinger Report: “Our Schools Must Tell a Better and More Complete Story about our Growing Inequality.” (21 February 2022).

A hard year was made painfully difficult when our dear colleague and friend, Debi Osnowitz, died unexpectedly. She had been a treasured member of the Cascading Lives research team and our project is more modest without her sparkling intellect and humor.

Sarah Mayorga - This past summer, Sarah spent time writing her book, Urban Specters, on the everyday harms of racial capitalism in two working-class neighborhoods. She is now in the midst of rewriting it, after a wonderful book manuscript workshop in October. This fall she enjoyed teaching a brand-new Latinx Sociology course, where students put together their own podcast episodes on issues within Latinx Sociology, including undocumented student experiences, colorism, and queer inclusivity. Sarah is also happy to now be a Waltham resident! Her family moved into their new home in April.

Laura Miller had a year of many administrative responsibilities. She is in her fourth year as Chair of the Sociology Department, and was also Acting Director of Graduate Studies for Sociology. In August 2021, she began a year as Chair of the American Sociological Association Consumers and Consumption section. In this role, she initiated a mentorship program for graduate student members of the section, and has been acting with other section members to spotlight the diversity of scholars and work in consumption studies. Laura continues her research on the place of cookbooks in vegetarian movements.

Michael Nooy-Strand added a name to his own this year, borrowing a far better one than his own from his partner Helen. He published a paper in Theory and Society entitled "For a probabilistic sociology: a history of concept-formation with Pierre Bourdieu." He also has another paper coming out soon with Sociological Theory entitled "Chance, Orientation and Interpretation: Max Weber's Probabilism and the Future of Social Theory." At the end of the year, he received some good news on his book manuscript The Victorian Burden: Morals, Markets and the Birth of Social Justice. He deeply enjoyed teaching the Economic Sociology seminar in the fall of ’21, with 7 intrepid graduate students asking what it might mean to "bring capitalism back in."

Chandler Rosenberger is continuing his research on the Hong Kong democracy movement, especially how Chinese nationalists in government and media responded to it. He had hoped to travel to Ukraine to make a comparative study between protests in Hong Kong and the 2014 revolution in Kyiv, but COVID and now the war have postponed those plans indefinitely. He has instead been speaking on campus about the war, especially about the misguided ideas that led Vladimir Putin to believe that Ukraine was not a nation. Clearly, it is.

Sara Shostak was thrilled by the publication of her book, Back to the Roots: Memory, Inequality, and Urban Agriculture in May 2021. A Fall book launch and celebration included Sara’s reflections on doing community engaged research and a presentation by Norris Guscott about the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative’s Equity Policy Network, a statewide working group that is facilitating connections between
BIPOC farmers and building capacity for policy advocacy that supports equity in the local food system (thanks again to Professor Sarah Mayorga for organizing!).

Sara continues to do research to understand the possibilities and challenges of creating a just, equitable, and healthy food system. Her paper forthcoming in *Agriculture and Human Values* examines the role of metrics, which may not only entrench neoliberalism in urban agriculture organizations, but also provide a mechanism for challenging its assumptions, thereby advancing the project of food justice. She has begun data collection for a project that examines food system transformation (and questions about how to measure it) from the perspective of funders. She appreciates the excellent questions that she’s received at recent talks at the MA Urban Farming Conference, the Soil and Water Conservation Society of New England, the University of Northern Colorado, Boston College, and the University of California – San Diego (and looks forward to upcoming talks at Columbia University and Université Paris, which she very much hopes to do in person!).

It was a privilege for Sara to partner with Professor Wendy Cadge, nursing leaders from the Massachusetts General Hospital, and two undergraduate student research assistants, Sophie Trachtenberg (’21) and Mariah Lewis (’22), on a qualitative study of the experiences of frontline providers who served in COVID-19 ICUs during the first wave of the pandemic. The team has published two papers, to date: one which describes providers’ experiences of the staffing models implemented to increase ICU capacity during the surge and another which examines how frontline providers perceive and attribute the devastatingly unequal impacts of COVID-19.

On campus, Sara has been devoted to ongoing, collaborative efforts to advance civic and community engagement, including the establishment of the Community Engaged Scholars Program. She is looking forward to continuing to collaborate with partners, from across the university, in the context of the *Vic and Bobbi Samuels ’63 Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation*, which will support faculty, staff, students and community partners in their efforts to repair the world.

**Siri Suh** - In September 2021, Siri received a $300,000 grant from the Gender Equity and Governance Program of the Hewlett Foundation for research on misoprostol, a uterotonic medication, in Francophone Africa. She is working with colleagues at Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal and Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Burkina Faso to conduct comparative ethnographic research on availability, distribution, and use of misoprostol in formal and informal health care sectors. This project aims to explore how misoprostol, a drug with multiple obstetric indications including labor induction, pregnancy termination, and management of postpartum hemorrhage, is transforming the clinical, technological, and political landscape of reproduction in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Siri and her colleagues are also piloting a training program for health ethnography with graduate students at Université Cheikh Anta Diop and Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo.

**Gowri Vijayakumar**’s new book, *At Risk: Indian Sexual Politics and the Global AIDS Crisis*, was published in July 2021 by Stanford University Press. Since then, she’s been busy giving Zoom talks about the book, and was happy to celebrate the book’s release with the sociology department in February. She has also been working on two other books. One, a co-edited volume called *Sociology of South Asia: Postcolonial Legacies, Global Imaginaries*, is in production at Palgrave. The second, an autobiography of the activist Akkai Padmashali, is forthcoming with Zubaan Books, an Indian feminist press, in spring 2022. Gowri is excited to be coordinating Dr. Padmashali’s visit to Brandeis in spring 2022, sponsored by the Mandel Center for Humanities. Gowri developed a new course this year on the Sociology of Love, and revamped her HIV/AIDS, Society, and Politics course to reflect on our new pandemic moment. Her
three-year-old started preschool this year and she had a new baby in March. *(Congratulations to Gowri and her family!)*

**Derron Wallace**’s national and international research examines structural and cultural inequalities in education, focusing specifically on the experiences of Black youth. Informed by the work of Brandeis alumnus Bernard Coard, Derron recently co-authored a paper with a British sociologist, Remi Joseph-Salisbury: “Why, still, is the Black Caribbean Child Made Educationally Subnormal in the English School System?” The paper was published in October, 2021 in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, a world-leading journal on racial and ethnic inequality. Partnering with an economist, an anthropologist and a literary scholar, Derron served as lead co-editor of a special issue on “Education Across the African Diaspora” for the *Peabody Journal of Education*, a top-ranked journal in the field of education. The special issue commemorates the presence and power of African descendants in the Americas. It was published in September, 2021. With a 2021-2022 National Academy of Education/Spencer Research Award, Derron is putting the finishing touches on his ethnography, *Ethnic Expectation: Race, Culture and Schooling Black Caribbean Youth in London and New York*.

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**Carmen Sirianni** founded CivicGreen last year and serves as editor-in-chief, along with Sociology Ph.D. student Ann Ward as our managing editor. The project is located at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. This year, Carmen and Ann have worked with our expanding national network of senior associate editors (scholars and practitioners) to organize a conference in Washington, DC, that includes senior administrators in the federal government, as well as innovators within state and local government, civic and professional associations, and local and national nonprofits across a dozen or so policy areas related to the “civics” of climate policy.

Civic Engagement and American Climate Policy: Collaborative Models, will include topics in urban sustainability, environmental justice, architecture and planning, climate communication, geospatial tools, coastal resilience and sea level rise, environmental education, conservation/climate Corps, collaborative conservation on Western lands, citizen science, and related topics. We will publish a report for the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, federal agencies, and a broad array of local and state partners on policy design and capacity building, including a set of recommendations that address key challenges at the intersection of the twin crises of climate and democracy.

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**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.

**Lauren Jordahl** supports Sociology graduate admissions, the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies program (PAX), and the Social Justice and Social Policy program (SJSP). On campus, Lauren serves on the Brandeis University Staff Advisory Committee (BUSAC), on the university-wide Campus Safety Committee, and is involved in the Climate Change Initiative.
CURRENT Graduate Student News

Lauren Crosser (PhD Sociology student) - This past year, Lauren has been putting a lot of time into the grad workers union, working with other grad students to improve communications and build their organizing capacity. In the Sociology department, Lauren recently became the assistant to Prof Sarah Mayorga in her capacity as Diversity and Equity liaison, and is mentoring an undergraduate student with their senior thesis. Lauren is also collaborating with faculty on two papers related to the subject of racial capitalism, and is currently writing an encyclopedia article for the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism* on the seminal Black studies scholar Cedric Robinson. Lauren will be presenting at ESS 2022 on a project about empire, capitalism, the class structure of the antebellum south, and the oppression of Black people and poor landless whites.

Sanchita Dasgupta (PhD Sociology student) - Sanchita presented at the Eastern Sociological Society and the Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA). She also won the Award for Graduate Student Sessions on Racial Justice instituted by the Provost and the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. She became a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Spring Career Fellow. Most importantly, she recovered from COVID, found a good therapist, and spent time building personal relationships.

Zach Fox (PhD Sociology student) - The last year has been a period of adjustment. Zach finally moved from New Haven to Waltham along with his partner and their 2 cats, finally attended a course in person after a year of being remote, and finally connected with peers in the Sociology department and beyond. It hasn't been easy, Zach’s partner is about to start her third job in 6 months, Zach contracted COVID over winter break, and is now dealing with long COVID, but it hasn't been all bad either. Zach has been able to find some direction for future studies and is looking forward to finally having a new cohort to welcome into our midst. Zach hopes this update isn't interpreted as overly negative, he just wants to point out how hard the last 2 years have been on all of us and how we hold each other up. “And if anyone asks if we've paid our dues, we can respond: the check is in the mail!”

Sneha Gantla (Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy student) - 2021 has come and gone, and like many others, Sneha feels like she was barely aware of the year starting, let alone passing by. That said, in writing this update, she realized it was a year of noteworthy moments, both personally and professional. In Sneha’s personal life, 2021 was the year of visiting New Hampshire’s tallest mountains, going camping with my doggo bestie, Boots (*pictured*), welcoming her human bestie’s second born, Abigail aka Littles (*pictured*), attending her sister’s wedding at 10,000 ft in Colorado, and rediscovering her love of literary fiction.

Professionally, 2021 had Sneha running around in circles trying to balance research work, TA work, coursework, and oh yea, QPD work! She was more successful on some fronts than others. There were quite a few highlights on this front, which she’s humble bragging about below. Looking ahead, but not too far ahead, it is time for chipping away at
the QPDs and completing them in June 2022. Sneha knew doing the Joint PhD would be hard, but she’s only now really feeling the constraints on her stamina to work across two programs and fields. Thanks to her advisors in sociology (Professors Vijayakumar and Mayorga) and her community of friends and scholars, Sneha is going to keep on keeping on... for now.

Professional highlights:

- Sneha co-led a participatory case study of the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, Oregon. The final report, titled Balance and Belonging, highlights how the organization uses its Individual Development Accounts program as a tool for fostering financial security and a sense of belonging for the urban Native community of Portland.
- In August 2021, Sneha co-presented a paper at the American Sociological Association conference (ASA), titled Negative Psychological Wage – Interrogating the Moral Logics of White Supremacy Post-Trump, with her colleague from Heller School, Tauren Nelson. They presented in the critical theory regular session, and for both of them, it was their first submission, and acceptance, to the ASA!
- Sneha presented at events organized by the National Coalition for Asian and Pacific American Community Development (NCAPACD). These presentations, centered on the Empowerment Economics framework for building wealth and power in communities of color, were part of NCAPACD’s roll out of a curriculum for training practitioners to adopt the Empowerment Economics approach in their program implementation.
- Lastly, on a project funded by the Massachusetts Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), Sneha conducted trainings for the OEE’s staff and wrote a literature review on economic empowerment policy in the United States.

Rachel Guaderrama (PhD Sociology student) - This past year, Rachel has enjoyed the transition to in-person classes and being able to see other students and faculty in the hallways of Pearlman. In exciting news, Rachel received a research grant through the Mandel Center of Humanities that will allow her to spend a summer in Thailand working with an ethnic women organization from Burma! Aside from school, Rachel has been taking up new craft hobbies such as crocheting, making earrings and necklaces, and doing clay art. With places opening up, she has been exploring Boston on her new bike and riding through the streets of Cambridge to Back Bay. Rachel also got to spend time outside class hanging out with different folks in the department and doing fun activities together!
Jenny LaFleur (Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy student) - The past two years have found Jenny working on two different papers that will be published in the coming months in peer-reviewed journals, one with colleagues from Brandeis--including Professor Derron Wallace--and the other with Heller School colleagues and members of the Boston Public Health Commission. And, she also got a new puppy!


Samantha Leonard (PhD Sociology student) is actively writing her dissertation, a comparative study of how activists and service providers work to define, treat, and prevent intimate partner violence in the cities of Boston, USA and Buenos Aires, Argentina. She's looking forward to presenting a paper at the American Association of Geographers' annual meeting this February 2022, based on a portion of the dissertation and titled "Reconciling IPV Temporally: Prevention and Activism in Argentina and the United States". Last spring, she also wrote a short piece tied to International Women's Day for the Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies/The Society Pages blog. Along with Ann Ward, she's currently working on revisions of a paper on ethnographic methods, titled "Tales from the (Disrupted) Field" -- and she couldn't ask for a better co-thinker/co-writer than Ann. This last year was her final one as a graduate student representative with the ASA section on Sociology of Culture - with her fellow grad rep, Nino Bariola, she helped organize a panel for the 2021 conference on "Studying Culture in Times of Crisis: Methods and Approaches". More information on that panel can be found in the section's summer newsletter. For 2021-2022, she is a member of the section's Membership committee and engaged in helping to organize their mentorship event. Over this last year, Sam has also enjoyed teaching for the department, teaching "Families, Kinship, and Sexuality" in Spring 2021 and Spring 2022, and taught "Order and Change in Society" again for the summer program in 2021.

This past year, she also continued to work as a research associate for the Cascading Lives project, co-directed by Karen Hansen. As part of that project, she conducted life history interviews in English and Spanish with individuals working in the hospitality industry in Massachusetts and Georgia. She also managed the creation of the Cascading Lives website, which includes selected interview summaries, audio and photographs of participants, and a curriculum toolkit, based on data from the project, for teaching high school students about socioeconomic inequality in the United States. With other members of the Cascading Lives team, she will be presenting as part of a panel at the upcoming 2022 ESS meeting - and she's very much looking forward to sharing reflections and analysis in continued collaboration with the team.
Manning Zhang (PhD Sociology student) - In the past year, Manning settled in Waltham as a second-year graduate student. And she embarked on her new journey as a joint PhD student of Sociology and Social Policy. Although no publications yet, she tried to narrow down her research scope and specified her concentrations as culture and health, hoping her research can not only make some theoretical contribution but also some practical impact on some others' daily life. Her two main ongoing projects are "Asian women in the weight room" and "Doctor-patient communication in the primary care sector between US and Chinese health care providers." She is not sure whether they make sense but wants to give them a try. Manning is still confused, sometimes broken, and most of the time happy, learning to find more resources to sustain her interest in doing research!

Our amazing graduate students celebrate together at our Department of Sociology Welcome Back Event in Fall 2021!
CONGRADULATIONS to our Recent Sociology Graduates!

Sociology PhD
Nicholas Monroe
No Roadmap? No Problem: First Generation Students' Cultural Assets and the Path to Undergraduate Success

MA in Sociology
Jing Huang (current PhD student)
Professor Karen V. Hansen was named the Victor and Gwendolyn Beinfeld Professor of Sociology
September 2021

The Beinfeld Chairs were established in 1993. Victor Beinfeld, a Boston native and a successful investor and financier, was a Brandeis Fellow and received an honorary degree from the University in 1988. His second wife, Gwendolyn, was a Brandeis National Committee member who once served as a social worker in the department of Public Welfare in Baltimore. Karen was selected to hold this chair in recognition of her many accomplishments as a scholar and her outstanding service to the University.

Sociology Colloquium: Dr. Michael Burawoy
Conversations with Du Bois
October 2021

Michael Burawoy has been a participant observer of industrial workplaces in four countries: Zambia, United States, Hungary and Russia. In his different projects he has tried to illuminate -- from the standpoint of the working class -- postcolonialism, the organization of consent to capitalism, the peculiar forms of class consciousness and work organization in state socialism, and, finally, the dilemmas of transition from socialism to capitalism. Over the course of four decades of research and teaching, he has developed the extended case method that allows broad conclusions to be drawn from ethnographic research. The same methodology is advanced in Global Ethnography, a book co-authored with 9 graduate students, that shows how globalization can be studied "from below" through participating in the lives of those who experience it. No longer able to work in factories, he turned to the study of his own workplace – the university – to consider the way sociology itself is produced and then disseminated to diverse publics. During the 2021-2022 academic year, Dr. Burawoy will be in residence at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, where he will be working on his current project, Conversations with Du Bois.

Sociology Colloquium: “Back to the Roots” and Forward Towards Equity with Professor Sara Shostak
October 2021

Professor Sara Shostak (Sociology & HSSP) and Norris Guscott, Equity Policy Network Manager for the MA Food System Collaborative, spoke at a colloquium to discuss Sara's recent book, Back to the Roots: Memory, Inequality, & Urban Agriculture.
Commemorating the 1970 Brandeis-based National Student Strike against the War in Vietnam
October 2021

A panel discussion about the strike and its bank robbery-murder aftermath led by Professor Gordie Fellman. Panelists included activists from the 1970's anti-war strike: Robbie Baer (Brandeis student alum), Barry Elkin (Brandeis student alum), Susan Townsend (Brandeis student alum), Jerry Zerkin (Brandeis student alum), Kathy Power (activist), Bob Weiser (activist), Professor Gordie Fellman (Brandeis Sociologist), and Professor Bob Lange (retired Physicist)

Sociology Colloquium: Dr. Celeste M. Watkins-Hayes, University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, the Jean Fairfax Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor
November 2021

Transformation Through Trauma: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Survive Injuries of Inequality
How do we remake, not simply rebuild, our lives after trauma? Rebuilding suggests a return to a prior state, where the same plans, assumptions, and visions remain in place. Remaking is much more dramatic; it is transformative and generates fundamentally new ways of navigating the world. We often think of significant life transformations as highly personal and individualistic experiences. But drawing upon findings highlighted in her multi-award winning book, Remaking A Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality, Watkins-Hayes analyzes the sociological dimensions of transformative life change and the process of healing from personal and collective injuries of inequality. Watkins-Hayes is a nationally-recognized scholar and expert on health inequities, HIV/AIDS; social policy; societal safety nets; and race, class, and gender.

Sociology Colloquium: Joint Virtual Book Launch and Celebration!
Hosted by Professor Siri Suh and Professor Gowri Vijayakumar
In conversation with Professor Zine Magubane (Boston College) and Professor Nitsan Chorev (Brown University); Moderated by Professor Sarah Mayorga
February 2022

- Siri Suh's Book - Dying to Count: Post-Abortion Care and Global Reproductive Health Politics in Senegal
- Gowri Vijayakumar's Book - At Risk: Indian Sexual Politics and the Global AIDS Crisis
Sociology Colloquium: Dr. Carolyn Choi, Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian American Studies at Dartmouth College
April 2022

Race and Transnational Stratified Mobility: From South Korean Cities to Western Farmlands
This talk explores the experiences of South Korean migrant workers on working holiday programs in Australia—as an accessible, affordable opportunity to learn English abroad. Despite aspirations for middle class worldliness, in Australia, South Korean migrants find themselves racialized and downwardly positioned as part of the low-wage migrant worker class that segregates them largely to farm labor in rural regions. Such experiences challenge the picture of South Korea’s ascension in the global imaginary and how economic power does not offer post-racial status. Instead, their experiences illuminate an important dimension of what I refer to as “transnational stratified mobility” and how forces such as race, nation, gender, and class intersect in extending homegrown inequalities across a global terrain, upending larger narratives of Asian ascendance.

Sociology Colloquium: Dr. Nicole Fox, Brandeis PhD Alum
April 2022

After Genocide: Memory and Reconciliation in Rwanda
In the wake of unthinkable atrocities, it is reasonable to ask how any population can move on from the experience of genocide. Simply remembering the past can, in the shadow of mass death, be retraumatizing. So how can such momentous events be memorialized in a way that is productive and even healing for survivors? Nicole Fox’s 2021 book After Genocide: Memory and Reconciliation in Rwanda (University of Wisconsin Press) investigates such questions through extensive interviews with survivors' decades after mass violence has ended. After Genocide reveals the relationship survivors have to memorial spaces and uncovers those voices silenced by the dominant narrative—arguing that the erasure of such stories is an act of violence itself.
Donation Opportunities

Sociology Fund to Honor Peter Conrad, Professor Emeritus of Sociology

This fund is used to help Brandeis 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

Memorial Fund for Debra (Debi) Osnowitz

Debi received her PhD in Sociology from Brandeis in 2005, and maintained close connections to the Department ever since. To honor Debi’s memory, her family and friends established 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.

To make a gift to this fund:
Contributions can be made online ~ In the space provided, please note that your contribution is in memory of Debi Osnowitz

In Memoriam

Marty Wyngaarden Krauss

Professor emerita and former university provost, Marty Wyngaarden Krauss, PhD’81, passed away on January 12, 2022. Marty was a Heller faculty member affiliated with the Sociology Department for many years. Marty was a Brandeis lifer: she completed her doctoral studies at the Heller School, then joined the faculty in 1984 and spent her entire academic career at Brandeis. Over nearly 35 years she built a respected career as a disability policy researcher and faculty member, and took on multiple key leadership positions at the Heller School and the university, including serving as the university’s provost and senior vice president of academic affairs.

A full obituary and forum to leave digital memories and tributes for Marty is available here. The family requests that gifts in memory of Marty be made to the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at the Heller School (select “Other” and designate Lurie Institute IMO Marty Krauss).
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 senior 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.

Rachel Judson (‘23) is a junior majoring in Sociology, and double minoring in Legal Studies and Social Justice & Social Policy. In addition to being a UDR, Rachel is on the executive board of Brandeis Tennis Club, volunteers in the Admissions Department as a "Chatter," and was a Sociology research assistant in the Women's Studies Research Center. Rachel spent the summer as a legal intern for a law firm in New York that helps victims of 9/11 receive medical compensation. During this internship, Rachel conducted research, spoke to clients, and improved her writing skills. Rachel is interested in the intersection between sociology, law, and public policy, and is always excited to take more courses in these fields. Rachel is studying abroad in Amsterdam this Spring and is looking forward to all of her sociology courses there!

Mariah Lewis (‘23) is a senior from Williamstown, Massachusetts majoring in Sociology and Psychology. Outside of her work as a Sociology UDR, Mariah is on the Student Conduct Board, the BCC Advisory Board, and is on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the Psychology Department. During her time at Brandeis she has also been a TA and a Research Assistant within the Sociology Department, and is now working on a senior thesis, and is more than happy to talk to anyone who is pursuing any of these routes or has any questions about them. Mariah is hoping to channel what she has learned about sociology into understanding and reforming how youth in foster care and youth who are adopted experience education, oppression, and emotional stability.
The Department of Sociology hosted successful “Meet the Majors” events during the academic year!

~ Thanks to Prof Sarah Mayorga for sharing these pictures ~
Julia Bandini (PhD 2019) continues her work in palliative and end-of-life care as an Associate Behavioral/Social Scientist at RAND. Her recent research includes work on tele-palliative care, minority patient experiences with palliative care, and direct care worker experiences providing care to vulnerable patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Julia is co-PI on a recently-funded planning grant from NSF, “Engaging Stakeholders to Understand and Prepare for Future Work and Future Technology in the Home Care Setting.” Recent publications include:


Meredith Bergey (PhD 2015) is enjoying her fifth year as a faculty member at Villanova University. She recently published an article with colleagues Giuseppina Chiri, Nikki Freeman, and Thomas Mackie (PhD, 2014) in *Sociology of Health and Illness,* entitled "Mapping Mental Health Inequalities: The Intersecting Effects of Gender, Race, Class, and Ethnicity on ADHD Diagnosis." Additionally, she and colleagues McKenzie Chiam, Erick Rojas, and Thomas Mackie (PhD, 2014) published an article in *Maternal and Child Health Journal* entitled "The Effect of Medical Home on Shared Decision-Making for Caregivers of Children with Emotional, Developmental, or Behavioral Health Conditions."

Alison Better (PhD 2010) was promoted to the rank of full professor at Kingsborough Community College, a CUNY campus in Brooklyn, New York. She continues her active involvement in ASA - finishing a three year leadership term (Past-Chair, Chair, Chair-Elect) for the Section on Teaching and Learning, being elected to the Council of the Sex and Gender Section, and serving on the ASA Committee.
to Redesign the Annual Meeting. Her article "Queering the Introduction to Sociology Course" was published in *Teaching Sociology* in July 2021.

**Janet Mancini Billson** (PhD 1976) served as Killam Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies, Edward W. Minnoch Center for Global Exchange, Bridgewater State University, Fall 2021. As part of this professorship, Janet delivered the public Distinguished Canadian Annual Address, “The Global Refugee Crisis: Can A Broken System Be Fixed?” She gave similar lectures to classes at Western Washington University, University of Maine Orono, Stonehill College, and Bridgewater State. She is finishing two books on refugees, including, *People of Peace: The Doukhobor Search for Freedom in Canada*. The Doukhobors are a pacifist sect that Leo Tolstoy helped to escape in 1899-1902. The Doukhobors were caught in a “persecution spiral” of tsarist oppression for preferring not to bear arms; resistance to that oppression, especially burning their weapons; further persecution, including exile to isolated areas of the Russian Empire, imprisonment in Siberia, torture, and death, all of which led to more vigorous (and dangerous) resistance and harder persecution. The second book, *Refugees in the Canadian Mosaic*, features 8 case studies of refugees who have sought freedom in Canada since the 1970s.

**Christian J. Churchill** (PhD 2000) - After 19 years of teaching, CJ left a tenured position as full professor of sociology at St. Thomas Aquinas College in 2019 to practice full time as a licensed psychoanalyst in New York City (CJ sees patients in midtown Manhattan). CJ became Director of the *Training Institute at the Contemporary Freudian Society* (NY) in 2019 and was elected Vice President of CFS (NY) in 2021. CJ maintains a love for sociology and continues to write in ways that link it to psychoanalysis. CJ shares that: “Gordie Fellman's teaching, guidance, and example of upholding the value of Freud and psychoanalysis to the understanding of our own selves and of social systems remains at the core of my career.”

**Steve Dandaneau** (PhD 1992) published “C. Wright Mills: Exact Imagination, Late Work” in Jon Frauley’s edited *The Routledge International Handbook of C. Wright Mills Studies* (2021) and “Unpacking First-Gen Discourse: A Sociological Perspective” in Longwell-Grice & Longwell-Grice’s co-edited *At the Intersections: Understanding and Supporting First-Generation Students*” (Stylus 2021). A collection of short stories and essays, *The Professor Will See You Now*, is forthcoming from Owl Canyon Press (Niwot, Colorado) in 2022. Steve continues to serve as executive director of the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU), which counts over 100 R1/2 member institutions, and as Associate Provost at Colorado State University. In the former role, Steve is supporting a blue-ribbon commission’s anticipated publication in 2022 of the *Boyer 2030 Report* on undergraduate education, co-chaired by Barbara Snyder (President, AAU) and Peter McPherson (President, APLU), whereas the former role has him residing in beautiful Fort Collins.

**Nicole Fox** (PhD 2014) researches how racial and ethnic contention impacts communities, including how remembrances of adversity shape social change, collective memory and present-day social movements. She graduated from Brandeis University with a PhD in sociology in 2014. She is a professor of criminal justice at California State University Sacramento where she teaches about atrocity crimes, mass incarceration, global criminology and law. Her forthcoming book, *After Genocide: Memory and Reconciliation in Genocide*, focuses on how memorials to past atrocity shape healing, community development and reconciliation for survivors of genocide and genocidal rape. Her most recent project examines bystander intervention, with an emphasis on individuals who conducted acts of rescue during times of social unrest and political violence. Her scholarship has been published in Social Problems, Signs, Social Forces, Deviant Behavior, the Journal for Scientific Study of Religion, Sociological Forum, Societies without
borders, among others. Her work has generously been supported by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Grant, the National Science Foundation, Andrew Mellon Foundation, University of New Hampshire’s Prevention Innovation Research Center, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Society for the Study of Social Problems and the American Sociological Society’s Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline and others.

**Mindy Fried** (PhD 1996) has been juggling a number of exciting projects. Mindy is currently working on Season 2 of *The Shape of Care*, a podcast about caregiving, and hopes to launch this new season in February or March of 2022. Mindy is also very excited to be working on *Our Bodies Ourselves Today*, an online resource which will provide women, girls, and gender-expansive people with up-to-date information about health and sexuality. Her role is to chair an expert panel about aging/growing older, which is curating great material for the online resource. The project is headed up by their very own Amy Agigian, who brought *Our Bodies Ourselves* over to Suffolk University! In addition, as Co-Executive Director of *Hoopla Productions*, Mindy co-produced an amazing event this fall called *Finding Home: Immigrant Stories and Music from Boston and Beyond*, featuring storytelling, music and dance by 16 talented artists of color. Here’s a short [documentary](#) about the event! Mindy is hoping to adapt this event in two different Boston neighborhoods. Mindy has also been very active with *Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)*, an organization that was introduced to her by Shula Reinharz when Mindy was in the Sociology Department at Brandeis. Mindy was just elected Co-Chair of the Career Development Committee of SWS, and from that platform, will be launching a major initiative to support applied sociologists. They will be creating a website portal (that’s part of the SWS website), which will include bios of SWS applied sociologists, and video clips of SWS applied sociologists talking about their journey to becoming applied sociologists. They will also include blog posts and podcast episodes created by applied sociologists. If you’re interested in joining SWS and getting involved with this fabulous applied initiative, please contact Mindy at friedmin58@gmail.com.

**Lew Friedland** (PhD 1985) has just [retired (January 2022)](#) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Dept. of Sociology (affiliated). He is now Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Emeritus. Lew remains active with his research group at the Center for Communication and Civic Renewal, which he co-founded, and is first author on the forthcoming *Battleground: Asymmetric Communication Ecologies and the Erosion of Civil Society in Wisconsin* (Cambridge UP). In retirement, he is continuing his political engagement as a founder of *Win Wisconsin*, raising money for the field program of the Dem. Party of Wisconsin. He also worked with the Field Leaders Network and Swing Blue Alliance to develop new grassroots communication strategies. Finally, he continues his work with long-time collaborator Carmen Sirianni on *Civic Green*. (He is also becoming a working jazz pianist, available for weddings, bar mitzvahs….)

**Heather Jacobson** (PhD 2006), Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Arlington, recently began chairing her department (Sociology and Anthropology). She and colleagues Anika König (Freie Universität Berlin) and Anindita Majumdar (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad) were awarded an 18-month Volkswagen Foundation Grant to study the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the surrogacy industry in the U.S., Germany, and India. Preliminary thoughts have been published in a short piece in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* titled, “‘Pandemic Disruptions’ in Surrogacy Arrangements in Germany, U.S.A., and India during Covid-19.” Heather also recently published “The ART Clock: Temporal Limits to Assisted Reproduction” in *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online*; “Reprowebs: A Conceptual Approach to Elasticity and Change in the Global Assisted Reproduction Industry” with Anika König in *BioSocieties*; “Commercial Surrogacy in the Age of Intensive Mothering” in *Current Sociology*; “Cross-border Reproductive Care in the United States: Who Comes, Why do They Come, What do They Purchase?” in *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online*; and “Do Embryos have Kinship? Negotiating
Meanings of Relatedness in the Fertility Clinic” in Adoption & Culture. This past summer, Heather’s work was featured on the North Carolina NPR podcast Embodied. She is the Book Review Editor for Adoption Quarterly and welcomes anyone interested in reviewing books on adoption to reach out!

Val Leiter (PhD 2001) is the Interim Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice at Simmons University. She is working with Peter Conrad on the 11th edition of Sociology of Health & Illness: Critical Perspectives and enjoying the chance to survey recent medical sociology literature. Her research right now focuses on women's health medical devices, and she's just published a paper with three of her students entitled "Pay at the Pump?: Problems with Electric Breast Pumps" in Social Science & Medicine.

Kimberly Lucas (PhD 2020) was named Interim Executive Director at MetroLab Network in July 2021. In January of 2022, Kim moved over to Northeastern University to join the faculty at the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs as a Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Economic Justice. Kim also joined the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy as Associate Director as well as the Boston Area Research Initiative as Associate Director. Kim has also been named a 2022 Visiting Fellow by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Nestor Mijere (PhD 1986) worked in South Africa from 1990 - 2011. Nestor came back to Zambia in 2012 and joined Zambian Open University. The Zambian Open University has renewed Nestor’s contract four times. The Chairman of Nestor’s Doctoral Supervisor Committee was George Ross.

Karl Pillemer (PhD 1985), Professor of Human Development at Cornell University received the 2021 Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging from the Gerontological Society of America. The award recognizes an individual who has made an “outstanding contribution to increasing the human healthy life span,” with a specific emphasis on translating research knowledge into policy or practice.

Debbie Potter (PhD 2007) reports that despite (or perhaps because of) the pandemic, the past year has been a busy one. Her manuscript entitled, “Peer Support Specialists and Bourdieu’s Theory of Practice: Lay Experts and Recovery in Mental Health Organizations” was published in the September 2021 issue of Sociological Forum. An Associate Professor at the University of Louisville, she was recognized by undergraduates as a Student Champion for offering support during the pandemic and was nominated as a Faculty Favorite for 2021. At the end of August, Debbie completed her term as Board member for the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Her application for a Fellowship with the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Societies (CCHS) was accepted for the upcoming academic year (2022-23). As part of the Fellowship, she will pursue a project examining synchronous collective traumas among people experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic amidst local struggles for racial justice, entitled, “Community Caregivers and Experiences of Risk, Collective Trauma, and Resilience.” Finally, in maintaining work-life balance and realizing YOLO, she and her 10-year-old Border Collie "Dylan" continue to safely compete in dog agility, both locally and nationally. In October, they placed first in their Division (Large-Veteran Dog) at the North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) Championships.

Brad Rose (PhD 1994) continues in his role as an applied sociologist at Brad Rose Consulting, Inc., a program evaluation and organization development firm. He also continues in his avocation as an occasional writer of poetry. During 2021, Brad’s poetry appeared in New York Quarterly, The American Journal of Poetry, The Midwest Review, Feral: A Journal of Poetry and Art, and other journals. His poem “Variety” was nominated for the Best of the Net Anthology and “Love is Like That” was nominated for inclusion in Best Small Fictions Anthology. In 2022, he will publish two books of prose poetry No. Wait. I Can Explain. and WordinEdgewise. Brad’s poetry website.
Rubén G. Rumbaut (PhD 1978, MA 1973) - Another year, another newsletter! But this year is not just any year… This fall marked the 50th anniversary of Rubén’s arrival at Brandeis as a graduate student in 1971 (that’s him with the hair and the beard 50 years ago; and that’s also him without the hair or the beard 50 years later). Rubén: “Half a century: where did all the time go? (more importantly, where did all the hair go?)”

Rubén has been working on two books: (1) The 5th edition of IMMIGRANT AMERICA: A PORTRAIT (with Alejandro Portes); and (2) LEGACIES OF INCLUSION (with Cynthia Feliciano). In October 2021, Rubén gave the inaugural lecture, “Reflections of an Accidental Sociologist,” at San Diego State University’s Annual Sociology Lecture Series. Per Rubén: “Call me an apocaloptimist, but two years into a brutal global pandemic, steeped in brutish mass disinformation campaigns and white nationalist fascist spasms, we’ve kept our eyes on the prize and do our part for a more peaceful, truthful and just world. Sí se puede.”

Guy Abutbul Selinger (PhD 2012) - In the last year, Guy was appointed Dean at the College of Management in Israel. Publications include:

- Abutbul-Selinger, Guy. 2022. 'Subordinate' by Choice?: Minority Ethnic Identity as Cultural Resource in the Israeli Middle Class. American Sociologist (Forthcoming)

Miranda Waggner (PhD 2011) is currently an associate professor of sociology at Florida State University and a Greenwall Foundation Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. In 2021, she co-edited a special issue of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior on “Findings, Challenges, and Future Directions in Medical Sociology”, and she was co-author on a piece in The American Journal of Bioethics with Ashley Rondini and Rachel Kowalsky titled “Addressing Meso-Level Mechanisms of Racism in Medicine”. Also in 2021, she concluded her term as secretary/treasurer for the medical sociology section of ASA and was elected to the council of the ASA Section on Body & Embodiment. She very much hopes to get to see some of her Brandeis friends as conferences resume in person, hopefully soon!

Dana Zarhin (PhD 2013) published an article titled, "Sleep, Body Work, and Bodily Capital: Sleep Discourse in the Magazines Men's Health and Women's Health" in Sociology of Health and Illness. Another article, titled "Co-Sleeping with Partners and Pets as a Family Practice of Intimacy: Israeli Couples' Narratives of Creating Kinship" is forthcoming in Sociology — The Journal of the British Sociological Association. Dana's co-authors on this article are her BA students, Alexandra
Karanevsky-Samnidze and Moriah Aharon, who collected the data. Dana also presented her article, "You have to do something": Snoring, accountability, and the emergence of agency" at the British Sociological Association (BSA) annual conference.

**Sociology BA and Masters Alumni**

**Joshua Basseches** (BA 2012) has accepted a tenure-track position as the Flowerree Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Environmental Studies at Tulane University.

**Nancy Foner** (BA 1966), distinguished professor of sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, has a new book out: *One Quarter of the Nation: Immigration and the Transformation of America*, published by Princeton University Press (February 2022).

**Herbert Gamberg** (BA 1955) received a BA from Brandeis and then a PhD in Sociology from Princeton. Herb taught at the University of Pennsylvania in 1960-61, then a research professorship at University of Illinois from 1961 to 1965, after which Herb came to Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Herb retired from Dal as a full professor in 1998, but continued to teach for a number of years. Herb has dual Canadian/US citizenship. Herb and his wife, also a Brandeis graduate, have returned to Brandeis for many reunions. In a recently published book with two ex-students, called *Marxism After Marx*, Herb attempted to cover the variations in politically active Marxism since the founders of the Marxist outlook. They are now working on a second book about how the writers came to this outlook and what they think of Marxism in the present.
Anne Pollock’s (BA 1998) third book is now published: Sickening: Anti-Black Racism and Health Disparities in the United States

Chris Rhomberg (BA 1983) recently published an article in a French Sociology journal: “Work and Workers in the United States: An Historic Turning Point?” La Nouvelle Revue du Travail (Paris, France), Vol. 19, November 2021. The extraordinary collision of crises in the United States in 2020 – biological pandemic, economic recession, and mass protests – presents a unique juncture from which to consider the development of relations of work in the United States in the first decades of the 21st century. In this article, Chris begins with a brief review of the peculiar institutional context of American labor and employment relations, as the setting for change. The discussion then follows along three dimensions: 1) labor markets, 2) the labor process, and 3) social reproduction. Finally, Chris considers the implications of recent trends for the current juncture.