

*Student Newsletter--March 18, 2024*

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Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe as I write this that we are most of the way through the semester, but the calendar doesn't lie and we're now just a bit over a month away from April break and then a quick turn-about to finals. Personally, this is one of my favorite times of year as our clocks leap forward, the sun is still up at the end of the work day, and as flowers begin to emerge the campus shakes off the grays of winter for the polychrome showiness of spring. It's all very celebratory - and foreshadows the great celebration of commencement to come. In that same spirit, I invite you to read closely our March newsletter, which celebrates all that is going on across campus led with, by, and for our graduate community.

Yours,

Charles Golden

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## **1. Academic Announcements**

### **Early Dissertation or Master's Thesis/Paper/Capstone Project Completion Tuition Waiver Policy**

GSAS would like to remind students who plan to complete an August degree of the early dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project completion tuition waiver policy.

All students must register for the term in which they plan to complete their degree. PhD students should register for CONT 500 (in fall or spring) or CONT 250 (in summer), and master's students should register for CONT 200 (or the department equivalent). If a student completes their dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project within ten (10) business days of the [first day of classes for that term](#), or, in

the summer, within ten (10) business days of Commencement, they will receive a full tuition waiver. Completion is defined as follows:

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

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

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

## **Embracing Difference: Recognizing Jewish Identity at the Margins in the Effort to Address Racism and Antisemitism Symposium**

For this year's DEIS Impact social justice festival, the Brandeis University Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education and Learning Initiatives, under the direction of Dr. Chip Mc Neal, will host a three-day symposium. With special funding from a generous Brandeis donor, the symposium is centered around Audre Lorde's 'theory of difference' and intersectionality, and will bring together regional and national scholars, practitioners, and the Brandeis community to explore the evolving narrative of "who is Jewish?" – and how those within the greater Jewish diaspora, the Black community, and other marginalized sectors can come together to harness collective agency in the struggle for social justice.

Key themes and inquiry questions:

- Why should antisemitism matter to all of us?
- How might we engage multiple cultural and ethnic groups in addressing antisemitism?
- How might Jews of color better navigate anti-Black racism and antisemitism?
- How might Jewish values support overarching DEI goals and objectives?
- Why is acknowledging our interdependence necessary to transform hegemony and address racism?

The symposium will take place March 25 through 27 in the Hassenfeld Conference Center. The [current symposium schedule](#) is now available. The keynote speaker will be Ilana Kaufman, CEO of the [Jews of Color Initiative](#).

[Register to attend the symposium](#). This event is free for students, staff, faculty, and alums with an active Brandeis email. Please provide your email during checkout.

## **Conference on Community-Engaged PhDs**

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

## **NCFDD Resources**

The [NCFDD](#), a nationally recognized, independent organization providing online career development and mentoring resources to which Brandeis belongs, offers the following resources for graduate students and postdocs.

- The [NCFDD guidebook](#) contains a checklist and many webinars and resources that will help graduate students and postdocs get the most out of NCFDD.
- Offered during the summer, [WriteNow Access](#) is a 12-week program which is exclusively for graduate students and postdocs who are seeking accountability, productivity tracking, and community support to accomplish their writing goals.
- The [Dissertation Success Curriculum](#) is designed to provide the skills, strategies, and support that advanced graduate students need to overcome the three biggest obstacles to finishing their dissertation: perfectionism, procrastination, and isolation. The program is built on the assumption that there is only one way to complete a dissertation: WRITE IT!

## Library Resources

Consider submitting your work for the [Library's Research Excellence Prize](#)! The library has a specific prize for research completed by a graduate student; other prize categories which are open to graduate students include community-engaged research, research related to racism and anti-racism, climate change-related research, research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis Archives & Special Collections, and digital research projects. [Read more information about the prize and apply by May 14.](#)

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods: Learn [statistics & quantitative methods this summer with in-person or online training](#)! Brandeis students receive a discount as Brandeis Library is a member institution.

## ELP/GSAS Workshop: Small Talk Strategies (Part 2)

Date: April 2, 2024

Time: 2:30pm- 3:45pm

Location: Brandeis Library: Goldfarb (Gardner Jackson Room)

\*You may attend this session whether or not you attended Small Talk, Part 1!\*

This 75-minute workshop hosted by English Language Programs and GSAS will provide strategies for effective small talk and meaningful professional/social interaction.

You will have a chance to build your confidence by practicing these strategies with Brandeis peers, and refreshments will be provided. [Please register to attend the ELP workshop.](#)

## Drop-In Tutorials With ELP

Please [contact Vinodini Murugesan](#) if you would like an individual tutorial on writing or oral communications. Tutorials can be drop-ins or regular weekly meetings, whichever you prefer, until your assignment is complete. Tutorials will be available until April break.

## AI Surveys

A campus Working Group on AI has been working since the fall of 2023 and now invites all members of the campus community to provide input about their use and perceptions of AI. Please complete this [7-minute AI survey](#).

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

## 2. Student Life Announcements



### Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, April 1-5

GSAS is looking forward to celebrating national [Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week](#) (GPSA Week) from April 1-5!

To highlight and thank graduate students for their invaluable contributions to teaching, research, and the Brandeis community, the Grad Engagement group is planning a series of activities. Details will be shared with faculty, staff, and students in the upcoming weeks on the [Office of Graduate Affairs' website](#).

In addition to events that the Grad Engagement group is planning, GSAS will offer the following activities and events:

#### Daily Gift Card Giveaways

GSAS will give away two electronic \$25 gift certificates every day of the week! Names will be randomly drawn; winners will receive an email notification to their Brandeis email account. No entry is required –all graduate students will be automatically entered.

Winners may choose an e-gift card from the following options:

- Amazon
- Hannaford Supermarket
- Einstein Bros. Bagels
- Lyft
- Margaritas Mexican Restaurant
- Solea Restaurant and Tapas Bar - Waltham
- Starbucks
- Tempo Bistro - Waltham
- Uber

## Virtual Appreciation Wall

GSAS is gathering messages of thanks and appreciation for graduate students from staff and faculty in the weeks before Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Submissions will be posted to GSAS's social media account during Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Check out our social media ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#)) throughout the week to see if you get a special shout-out.

## Navigating Difficult Conversations Lunch and Learn



**#BrandeisGPSAWeek**

# Navigating Difficult Conversations Lunch & Learn

*Brought to you by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the Office of Graduate Affairs*

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**  
12:00 – 1:30 PM  
Lurias Room, Hassenfeld Conference Center

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker**



**MICHELE GRAVELLE**

**Challenging Conversations Coach**

This workshop will provide you with the tools you need to build skills that will lead to improved working relationships, a greater sense of confidence, the development of healthy coping mechanisms, and increased proficiency in preparing for and conducting even your most challenging conversations.

**Register by March 29th!**

April 2, 12-1:30 PM (lunch will be served at 11:45 AM), Lurias Room, Hassenfeld Conference Center.  
[Register to join the Lunch and Learn by March 29!](#)

Challenging conversations show up in our lives, whether we want them to or not.

- What do you do when you need to resolve a disagreement with a family member or friend and you're afraid of hurting their feelings or damaging the relationship?
- How do you tell your lab partner to clean up their workstation (again!) without creating an awkward situation?
- And how do you advocate for your opinion or idea with a faculty member or supervisor when you know they see the situation differently?

Handling these conversations successfully is not always easy and for most of us, the skills to do so don't come naturally. This workshop will provide you with the tools you need to build the skills that will lead to not just better conversations, but also improved working relationships, a greater sense of confidence, and an increased proficiency in preparing for and conducting even your most challenging conversations.

For more information, visit [GSAS's GPSA Week webpage](#).

## **BCC Groups and Events**



# Neurodiversity Celebration Week: **Tabling for the BCC** Usdan Dining Hall, 11am-2pm on March 20th

Come by to meet BCC therapists and ask questions. Resources and information on our services will be provided, including information on our group Get the Wiggles Out!



**Neurodiversity  
Celebration  
Week**  
18 - 24 March, 2024



**Explore Queer/Platonic,  
Consensual Non-Monogamy,  
Solo Polyamory, Situationships  
and Relationship Anarchy**

# QueeRelationNation

**THURSDAYS 5PM @ GSC**





# DROP IN SUPPORT GROUP

## STAYING SOBER

- Build positive recovery supports
- Share coping strategies
- Learn about local area resources
- Free & confidential
- Open to grad and undergrad students

**FRIDAYS 12-1PM**

Brandeis Counseling Center

Starting Friday, March 1st

Please email student Robbie '27 [robertgold@brandeis.edu](mailto:robertgold@brandeis.edu) or BCC staff member Addie [awyman@brandeis.edu](mailto:awyman@brandeis.edu) with questions and to sign up



The BCC will be hosting a table outside of Usdan Dining Hall in honor of Neurodiversity Celebration Week on Wednesday, March 20 from 11 AM to 2 PM. Come by to meet with BCC therapists and ask any questions you may have on their services, including their group Get the Wiggles Out!

The BCC has also launched Staying Sober, a free and confidential support group open to graduate and undergraduate students maneuvering sobriety. Starting March 1, the group will meet Fridays at the BCC at 12 PM.

The BCC's QueerRelationNation is a confidential space to explore relationships outside of mono-heteronormative ideals and how our relationships can help us better understand ourselves and our self-esteem. This queer space welcomes individuals exploring gender/sexual identity and allies. For more info, please [contact J Mann](#). To register, please complete the [QueerRelationNation registration form](#).

## Brandeis Health Announcements

Covid & Flu vaccines are available for Brandeis graduate and undergraduate students weekly thru the end of April at the health center. Online scheduling is available via the [Secure Patient Portal](#).

The Centers for Disease Control issued new guidelines for managing respiratory illnesses on March 1st. The updated guidance aims to place precautions for SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) together with other respiratory illnesses such as Influenza and RSV.

- Brandeis has adopted the most recent [CDC guidelines](#).
- The [Health Center website](#) is updated to reflect the new information.
- Brandeis students are no longer required to report COVID positive results to the HC.

## Tax Resources for Graduate Students

Tax season is here again, whether we want it to be or not. While Brandeis University cannot offer tax advice, we would like to provide some resources to help students with filing their taxes:

- GSAS [Tax FAQs](#)
- [Personal Finance for PhDs](#) has several free tax resources for graduate students on their [tax center website](#). Additionally, they offer a tax return preparation workshop, How to Complete Your Grad Student or Postdoc Tax Return (and Understand It, Too!), which was created with funded graduate students in mind. These workshops cost \$34 and are asynchronous, so you can access the module videos at your own pace. There are two versions of this workshop - U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or residents for tax purposes and one for non-U.S. residents. [Register for a tax workshop here](#).
- [Sprintax Webinars](#) (for international students) through the ISSO - Sprintax offers free webinars to help students and scholars learn everything they need to know about U.S. taxes. Topics will include who must file, tax residency, FICA, State returns, implications of misfiling as well as how to use Sprintax to prepare a compliant tax return.

A list of the webinars and registration links is included below. These webinars will be helpful to any student or scholar that was present in the US in 2023 and is unsure about their tax requirements.

Sprintax Active Webinar Schedule (General sessions suitable for majority of visa types)

[Register for Sprintax webinar Thursday, March 28th @ 3pm EST](#)  
[Register for Sprintax webinar Wednesday, April 3rd @ 2pm EST](#)  
[Register for Sprintax webinar Thursday, April 11th @ 1pm EST](#)  
[Register for Sprintax webinar Monday, April 15th @ 11am EST](#)

## Brandeis Pantry

**Mondays 3-5 PM, Tuesdays 3-5 PM, and Thursdays 2:30-4:30 PM**  
**Shapiro Campus Center Room 316**

Need help with groceries? Brandeis Pantry has pre-packed grocery bags available to pick up. Items may include rice, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, tomato sauce, canned protein, and shelf-stable milk. Select hygiene & menstrual products will also be available at pick-up. [Please register for the pantry here.](#)

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### 3. Funding Opportunities

#### Graduate Student Association (GSA) Club Funding

GSA proudly sponsors events in collaboration with Brandeis Clubs! Once your club's application is submitted and approved, GSA provides sponsorship and funding support. Remember, the event should be inclusive and open to all graduate schools of Brandeis University. Take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your club's initiatives and foster a vibrant community across all graduate schools.

[Submit your application for event support](#) by March 31!

#### Apply for \$2,500 Israel Travel Grants

The [Frances Taylor Eizenstat '65 Israel Travel Grant](#) program welcomes applications from Graduate and Undergraduate students across all Brandeis departments pursuing academic or career interests in Israel. The grant can be used for study, work, research, internships, senior thesis projects, and more, and can focus on anything from science, technology and business, to the arts, humanities, social justice, and more. Travel for a summer, a semester, intersession, or an academic year. Grants awarded by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. Apply by April 9, 2024.

Questions? [Email Keren Goodblatt.](#)

#### Fellowship Support for Graduate Students

Academic Fellowships at Brandeis is here to support Brandeis graduate students applying for a wide range of fellowship opportunities, including [Boren Fellowships](#), the [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#), the [Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans](#), the [Critical Language Scholarship](#), and [Ford Foundation Fellowships](#). The Academic Fellowships advising team can help you determine your eligibility and understand the application process and timeline, and they can also answer questions and provide feedback on application essays and other components. If you're planning to apply for any of these awards in the coming year, please [email Meredith Monaghan](#) to set up an individual advising appointment.

#### Graduate Fellowships Newsletter

If you're not necessarily planning to apply right now but are interested in learning more about fellowship opportunities available to Brandeis graduate students, [email the fellowships team](#) to opt in to the bi-weekly Graduate Fellowships Newsletter. These emails will include information about a wide range of scholarships including the one listed below.

#### Fulbright Scholarship Information Session

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers US citizens an opportunity to spend an academic year abroad conducting research, teaching English, or pursuing a one-year graduate degree. Many Brandeis graduate students have applied for and been awarded crucial funding that supported their research goals abroad. Brandeis will be hosting a Zoom-based Information Session with staff from Fulbright and from Academic

Fellowships at Brandeis on Thursday, March 21 at 2 PM. Academic Fellowships will send out registration info in an upcoming Graduate Fellowships Newsletter, so make sure to opt into that if you haven't done so already.

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## 4. Professional Development Events and Job Opportunities

### Professional Development Upcoming Events

#### [The Industry Interviewing Process](#)

April 9th, 3-4 PM (Zoom)

Join Marika McCann, Associate Director, GSAS Professional Development, and alum Gary Marqus (PhD Chemistry '22) to talk about the process in interviewing for jobs in industry. Gary will talk about his own experiences interviewing for various industry jobs, and you will get to learn about common interview questions.

#### [The Summer Before the Academic Job Market](#)

April 17th, 4-5pm (Zoom)

Join Faculty Director Jonathan Anjaria and learn about all the ways to prepare for an academic job search.

In addition, the Professional Development team is always available for [one-on-one consultations](#) so feel free to reach out to them with any career questions you have.

### Job Opportunities

[Senior Analyst, Ithaka](#)

[Scientific Curator, Addgene](#)

[PhD Intern - Data Science, Kriya Therapeutics](#)

[AI Research Engineer, New Graduate PhD, Duolingo](#)

[Health Care Innovation Data Associate, JP Morgan Chase](#)

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## 5. Student and Alum News

### Geeking Out With...Jillian Franks



# Brandeis

GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



# Geeking Out

with... **JILLIAN FRANKS**

“Try to mix your passions together if you can. There might be new ways that you didn’t even know that things are in communication with each other that could open a new research path. I’m about to launch a new study that uses actors and how they understand the characters they’re playing; the actors will portray characters in a video that I will use in other parts of my dissertation project as well. I had no idea it would be possible to explore my theater interest in this academic way. If you have another passion, don’t close the door but see if it’s possible to bring them together.”



Third-year PhD student  
Psychology



Read the  
interview here



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

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

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

## GSAS Alum to Receive Honorary Degree

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

## 6. Upcoming Events

### GSAS Events

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

### Campus Partner Events

- Continental Breakfast, Wednesdays, 8:30 AM until the food is gone, Kutz Hall 130. Hosted by the Office of Graduate Affairs.
- [Get Curious: Trans Justice](#), March 20, 12-1 PM, Mandel 303. Hosted by the Mandel Center for the Humanities and the Department of Sociology.
- Peace Vigil, Wednesday April 3, 12-12:15 PM, Peace Circle. Hosted by the Center for Spiritual Life.
- [Eisenbud Lecture Series](#), April 9-10. Hosted by the Departments of Mathematics and Physics.

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