THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT
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Fall 2018

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**THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT**

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Welcome to the
Heller Social Policy
Impact Report

At Heller, we build knowledge and encourage bold thinking to respond to today’s most pressing social policy problems. Economic inequality is growing rapidly; health care systems struggle to provide high-quality care while containing costs; and households in vulnerable communities strive to make ends meet and provide opportunities for their children. Every day, our Heller research institutes and collaboratives push themselves to meet the demands of this extraordinary moment in history.

This issue of the Heller Social Policy Impact Report compiles the research activities of Heller faculty, staff and students from the first six months of 2018. In the following pages, you will gain an understanding of the breadth of our work, including many exciting new grants to support research now underway. If you’re looking for more detail, take a deeper dive into the five projects highlighted in our feature stories.

The feature stories in this issue celebrate the value of applied research that has direct impact — a Heller hallmark. Diana Bowser is building Haiti’s first national database to track the country’s health care facility performance. Robbie Dembo and Monika Mitra break ground by examining the mental health consequences of violence against people with disabilities. Mary Jo Larson demonstrates that just one in-office education session with a pharmacist results in safer opioid prescribing behavior among doctors. Alan Melchior and Cathy Burack’s evaluation of an after-school robotics program reveals powerful positive effects — especially for girls. And Yaminette Diaz-Linhart’s PhD research spans boundaries in her work on a Massachusetts State House commission on behavioral health promotion and prevention across the lifespan.

We hope that you enjoy taking a closer look at the unparalleled, results-based research being done here at the Heller School. We welcome your engagement in our ongoing efforts to create “knowledge advancing social justice.”

Sincerely,

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The FIRST Step Toward
STEM Careers

Center for Youth and Communities researchers find robotics program
has positive impacts on students — especially girls
Imagine a football stadium full of bright lights, animated announcers and a cheering crowd — all gathered for a national high school robotics competition.

That’s the type of atmosphere that FIRST, an extracurricular robotics program, creates for about 500,000 K-12 students across 50 states and nearly 90 countries. Working in teams and within a set time frame, students design and build a robot that can accomplish specific tasks. The goal: to interest students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and ultimately careers in engineering, computers, technology and more. But does it work?

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) turned to Heller’s Center for Youth and Communities (CYC) to find out. CYC Associate Directors and Senior Fellows Alan Melchior ’74, MA’07, and Cathy Burack started a longitudinal study in 2011 to evaluate the long-term effects of FIRST’s middle and high school programs.

“It’s great to say at the end of the school year that everyone is excited and feels they learned a lot,” says Melchior, who has done short-term evaluations of FIRST since 2002. “But where does it lead? Do these kids go on to do more science and tech than they would have in the absence of FIRST?”

Melchior and Burack are studying 1,273 students from the 10 states with the highest number of FIRST teams, including 822 FIRST participants and 451 comparison students who enrolled in science and math classes but were not in FIRST. All the students, along with their parents, completed a baseline survey five years ago. FIRST team leaders — a mix of teachers and parents — also completed a survey that year. Students have since received follow-up surveys at the end of each school year.

The first four years of data show that FIRST participants had significantly higher STEM knowledge and identities than those in the comparison group. FIRST participants also had an interest in STEM careers and activities — something that held true for students across gender and racial, economic and geographical backgrounds.

“One of my favorite storylines is that all the things that are true for the FIRST kids are doubly true for girls,” Burack says. “STEM interest for girls in the program is off-the-charts high. We’re still trying to sleuth out why. One of our operating theories is that it’s finally a place where girls who have STEM interests can shine.”

The positive impacts of FIRST continue into college: Alumni are more than twice as likely than comparison students to take engineering courses during their freshman year — a number that rises to 3.4 times for females. Overall, alumni show greater interest in majoring in computer science, engineering and robotics, and are more likely to join STEM-related clubs, competitions or take on STEM internships.

Melchior and Burack will continue the study through at least 2019, though they started presenting their initial results at conferences this spring. They hope to influence education policymakers — particularly at the state level — to give the same level of support to these types of programs as they give to sports.

“This kind of hands-on, project-based learning experience is a very effective way of helping young people engage in STEM,” Melchior says. “How does learning the quadratic equation make a difference in a real-world setting? This is a good way of making that connection.”

By Karen Shih
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


New Publications


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE


DISABILITIES


The National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, based at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, published the following Research Briefs (2018). Waltham, Mass.: Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.


- “The Legal Obligations of Foster Care and Adoption Agencies When Working With Prospective Parents With Disabilities.”


**HEALTH**


**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**


LABOR AND WORKPLACE


MANAGEMENT


PHILANTHROPY


POLITICS AND POLICY

Improving Health Outcomes in Haiti

Diana Bowser identifies key factors in efficiency and productivity by creating first national-level database of health care facility performance
Plagued by government instability and natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, Haiti has some of the worst health outcomes in the world, according to the World Health Organization. That’s despite decades of health care development aid from organizations such as the World Bank and USAID.

But the state of health care across the island isn’t uniform. Some facilities are doing better than others — and Associate Professor Diana Bowser is leading a new World Bank-funded study to identify what makes the successful sites more efficient and productive.

This spring, Bowser worked with Leulseged Kasa Mekonen, MA SID/MS’18, to create the first national-level database to track the performance of all 900 or so health care facilities in Haiti. They used data sets from all the organizations that have funded these facilities.

“Because each facility receives a mix of funding, it’s hard to tease out what is making a facility do well in terms of services,” Bowser says. “With this database, we can take an objective look at the data, based on the type of facility, number of patients being seen, productivity of health care workers and more.”

She used the database to identify 10 higher-performing and 10 lower-performing facilities that are run by the government, private sector or NGOs. In May, she spent a week in Haiti training a team to conduct qualitative interviews at those 20 facilities about three main topics. The first topic was patient treatment during services, focusing on confidentiality, respect and discrimination. The second topic was facility readiness, determining whether the facility was prepared with the right drugs, injections, equipment or tests for each type of patient. The third topic was management, including supervision and communication among administration, health care workers and patients.

“Our goal was to see if there were patterns,” says Bowser, who worked with Alison Collins, MA SID/MBA’18 and Rangira Lambert, MS’18, who both speak French, to evaluate the qualitative results. “Did the higher-performing facilities have better communication, more respectful health care workers, fewer equipment problems and fewer stockouts of drugs?”

Her initial findings showed several key similarities among top-performing facilities, which tend to be clustered around Port-au-Prince, the capital. They were often run by NGOs and had local nurses and community health workers who fostered trust and received results-based financing, which meant they received more funding if they met certain standards for care.

The study also revealed the importance of community health workers, who don’t have advanced degrees, but are trained to do specific tasks, such as administer vaccinations or educate patients on specific medical topics. For example, she found that almost half of all their community visits were for family planning, which she says will have a long-term positive impact on the country.

“Everyone assumes doctors and nurses do everything, but these community health workers are doing just as many visits outside the facilities,” Bowser says. “People undervalue their work.”

Now, she’s identifying three key areas where the World Bank might invest its funds, which could range from equipment recommendations, to communication improvements, to trainings. She hopes that by providing key answers about what’s making facilities more or less efficient, she can empower the Haitian government and other donor organizations to make better decisions.

“All countries — even the United States — are asking the same questions we’re asking in Haiti: How can we do more with the money we have?” says Bowser.

By Karen Shih
**ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES**

**Rebecca Loya (PI), Thomas Shapiro** “Funder Strategies for Investing in Children’s Savings Accounts (CSAs)”; Funder: Asset Funders Network

The research team will design a case study to examine funders’ motivations and strategies in three CSA sites in the U.S.

**Jessica Santos (PI)** “Empowerment Economics Evaluation Framework”; Funder: National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) is conducting research to support the work of the National CAPACD in evaluating the impact of financial capability programs on individuals, families and communities, as well as on cultural preservation and multigenerational processes.

**Jessica Santos (PI), Cristina Aguilera, Amy Gulliksen** “Intersectional Analysis of Immigrant Asset Building and Integration”; Funder: Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

IASP will conduct research and develop an educational infographic for funders on the eligibility of immigrants by legal status to different asset-building products across the life course.

**Jessica Santos (PI), Sara Chaganti** “An Intersec-tional Analysis of Employment Inequities in Health-care”; Funder: Brandeis Provost Research Grant

Stagnant wages and a lack of career ladders in health care prevent many low-wage workers from achieving financial security. The researchers will conduct a sector-specific, mixed-method analysis of employment inequities in health care to find what prevents low-wage health care workers, women and people of color from building wealth through work.

**Jessica Santos (PI), Tatjana Meschede** “Boston Builds Credit Evaluation”; Funder: United Way

Through a partnership with the Boston Builds Credit initiative, IASP will evaluate the start-up and early implementation of the Roxbury Center for Financial Empowerment to understand what it takes to establish a neighborhood-based credit-building system that will eventually be brought to scale.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**Margot T. Davis (PI), Marji Erickson Warfield, Janet Boguslaw, Sharon Reif** “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Unplanned Consequences of the Opioid Epidemic”; Funder: Brandeis Provost Research Grant
Parenting is increasingly shifting to grandparents as a consequence of the opioid epidemic. This project will build understanding of the challenges faced by custodians of children whose parents have opioid use disorders and assess the financial, health and psychological well-being of grandparent caregivers.

**Peter Kreiner (PI), Meelee Kim, Gail Strickler**

“PDMP Technical Assistance Support and Coordination for Prevention for States”; Funder: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); subcontract to Brandeis from Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

The research team is partnering with ASTHO to provide technical assistance to CDC Prevention for States grantees, focused on optimization of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), use of PDMP data and PDMP-based measures.

**Mary Jo Larson (PI), Rachel S. Adams, Grant Ritter**

“Pain Treatment Profiles of Army Members Discharged from Active Service”; Funder: Uniformed Services University (USU) Pain Research and Management Program; subcontract to Brandeis from USU of Health Sciences

Health care providers must balance the risk of polypharmacy with the need to adequately treat multi-morbidity in patients with chronic pain. This study will provide new data on polypharmacy — or high-risk medication use (HRM) — among soldiers treated for pain, determine if negative outcomes are associated with HRM and determine if soldiers are separated from military service while still receiving HRM. With this knowledge, the Military Health System can ensure soldiers treated with HRM are successfully transitioned to the Veterans Health Administration.

**Joanne Nicholson (PI)**

“Creating a Community of Mothers With Mental Illness Using Opioids”; Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington Engagement Award

The goal of this engagement project is to create an active, informed community of mothers of childbearing age with mental illness using opioids, and dedicated researchers. In addition, online and in-person infrastructure, resources and tools will support future collaborative efforts in the design, development and testing of treatment models.

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**Pamela Joshi (PI), Erin Hardy**

“Evaluation of Massachusetts’ Change in Child Care Subsidy Authorization Policy”; Funder: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation; subcontract to Brandeis from Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

The researchers will conduct a rigorous, mixed-methods evaluation that includes a cutting-edge study to design policy implementation improvements and then test these adaptations with a low-cost, scalable experiment. The study is designed to understand whether EEC’s subsidy authorization policy changes are implemented as planned. It also aims to examine the impact of these policy changes on the stability of subsidy receipt and care arrangements among families, examine the stability of the enrollment of subsidized children among providers and identify and test improvements to the policies. The study will contribute to a small but growing body of research that uses low-cost, scalable experiments to test quality improvement in administrative processes.

**HEALTH**

**Diana Bowser (PI), Monica Jordan**

“OneSight Global Analysis”; Funder: Vision Impact Institute

This project is a collaboration with the OneSight Foundation, whose mission is to bring eye exams, glasses and permanent vision centers to individuals in need globally. OneSight has worked in 46 countries and created 56 sustainable centers and 1,236 charitable clinics. An analysis will determine the impact of providing vision care in Rwanda and The Gambia, as well as broader system-strengthening improvements from these vision centers.
There is limited funding available in the system, so the objective of this study is to assess the correlates of high performance and efficiency in primary health care health facilities in Haiti. At a policy level, these correlates or specific health interventions may be replicated and scaled up on lower-performing facilities to improve health-service coverage and ultimately yield improved health outcomes. The study incorporates both a quantitative and qualitative methodology.

Diana Bowser (PI), Leulseged Kasa Mekonen “Human Resources for Health (HRH) Economic Impact Programming Methodology for the USAID HRH 2030”; Funder: USAID; subcontract to Brandeis from University Research Co., LLC

To estimate the return on investment in health extension workers (HEWs) in Ethiopia and community health workers (CHWs) in Malawi, the study will examine the costs of training and employing HEWs and CHWs and quantify and value the health, equity and empowerment benefit of their work.

Jennifer Perloff (PI), Robert Mechanic “Technical Assistance to Support Institute for Accountable Care Research”; Funder: Institute for Accountable Care

Moaven Razavi (PI) “Applications of Text Analytics and Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Healthcare Unstructured Big Data”; Funder: Brandeis Provost Research Grant

Making sense of unstructured data is a challenging problem for artificial intelligence (AI) science. This pilot project converts unstructured data, such as written texts and narratives, speeches, notes, expressions, observations, communications and other unstructured contents, into meaningful information and customizes and applies open-source and commercial software solutions in text analytics and NLP into health care data.

Palmira Santos (PI), Cynthia Tschampl, Carol Frost “Resonance and Relevance in Care Coordination”; Funder: Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

This study, part of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission’s evaluation of its Targeted Cost Challenge Investments (TCCI) program, will collect and synthesize patient and provider perspectives on strategies for care coordination. The focus is on TCCI awardees serving patients who experience housing instability or receive palliative care.

Donald S. Shepard (PI), Cynthia Tschampl, Wu Zeng “Cost-Benefit Analysis and Health Impact of Investing in Tuberculosis (TB) Control Programs in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia: The CABHIT Study”; Funder: East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), with funds from The World Bank

This study aims to conduct cost-benefit and health impact analyses regarding TB interventions in these four African countries, with a particular focus on the impact on their mining sectors.

Wu Zeng (PI) “Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Results-Based Financing in Nigeria”; Funder: The World Bank

This study will estimate the cost-effectiveness of the results-based financing program in Nigeria.

MANAGEMENT

Jody Hoffer Gittell (PI), Lauren Hajjar “Organizing for Student Success: The Role of Relational Coordination in Building a Collaborative Culture”; Funder: Nellie Mae

This is a pilot study, working to use relational coordination to improve schools. The aim of the study is to explore school culture and to learn how it can improve to support exciting educational innovations like student-centered learning, individualized learning and culturally sensitive, competency-based and project-based learning.

Jody Hoffer Gittell (PI), Lauren Hajjar “Rochester City Schools: Transforming Relationships for High Performance”; Funder: Rochester City Schools

To better meet the needs of students, families and schools, New York’s Rochester City School District (RCSD) has engaged in Central Office transformation. The overarching goal of the Central Office transformation has been to enable staff to think and act more systemically to better serve students, parents and principals. The RCSD has engaged the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative to evaluate its implementation of the relational coordination framework and the relational model of change to inform their efforts.

Lynn Snow, Veterans Affairs (PI), Lauren Hajjar “Organizing for Student Success: Community Living Center Research on Improving Staff Engagement and Satisfaction (CLC RISES): A Positive Deviance Approach”; Funder: Veterans Affairs

This project will broaden the applications of relational coordination into the VA health care system.
At the luncheon ceremony to induct Brandeis University as the 585th chapter of the prestigious international business honor society, Beta Gamma Sigma. See listing on page 30.

Jon Chilingarian (top photo, middle) and Kathryn Graddy, Dean of the International Business School (bottom photo, left), were inducted as the chapter’s first official advisors.
The Impact of Violence on People with Disabilities

Lurie Institute research reveals that people with disabilities face more severe mental health consequences
Violence perpetrated against people with disabilities occurs at disturbingly high rates — particularly among women, children and people with intellectual disabilities. What are the health and mental health consequences of this violence?

PhD student Robbie Dembo wanted to find out, so he partnered with Lurie Institute Director Monika Mitra, who received funding from a Brandeis University Provost Research Award, to examine the relationship between violence and mental health for this population. “The overall disability research field tends to focus more on barriers to health and health care of the body,” notes Dembo. “But people with disabilities, like other people, experience depression, anxiety and distress.”

Dembo and Mitra looked at a nationally representative survey administered by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics to identify incidents of sexual violence, robbery, assault and verbal threats of rape, sexual assault or assault against people with and without disabilities. They found that among people who experienced violence, those with disabilities developed anxiety, depression and distress at much higher rates than people without disabilities.

They also examined the data for gender disparities — and found them. “Women with disabilities experience violence that is more severe, occurs more frequently and over a longer duration, and is often committed by multiple offenders. We found that they experience, by far, the highest rates of depression, anxiety and severe distress, compared to women without disabilities and men with or without disabilities,” says Dembo.

Mitra adds, “Interestingly, we also found that although women with disabilities are absolutely the most vulnerable group, men with disabilities are just as likely to experience lifetime sexual violence as women without disabilities.”

The data also revealed that people with disabilities who experience violence are much more likely to know the perpetrator. The authors speculate that this may partially explain why people with disabilities develop greater mental health consequences of violence.

Dembo explains, “If you experience violence perpetrated by a friend, a family member, a caregiver, a teacher — that is potentially much more devastating. If you have a disability, you may rely on these people for medication, transportation or assistive technology — and you’re likely to be continually exposed to that person.”

Another factor that may contribute to differences in mental health consequences is that people with disabilities face barriers to care — a line of research that the Lurie Institute has led for several years. “People with disabilities face many barriers to health care: physical, architectural and also economic and financial barriers,” says Dembo.

Mitra adds that there are significant barriers to accessing mental health services. “Not all people who have disabilities are on public insurance. But for those who are, that’s a definite barrier. Many mental health professionals don’t accept Medicaid. Then there’s the matter of affordability and accessibility, both physical accessibility and attitudinal accessibility. Are mental health clinicians trained to work with people with disabilities?”

She says the results of this study were not a surprise. “For disability researchers, these findings seem obvious. But this research needs to make its way into mainstream public health circles for them to include people with disabilities in their violence-prevention and control work. That’s the only way change will happen.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA'17
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


Adams, R.S., Campbell-Sills, L., Corrigan, J.D., Jain, S., Larson, M.J., Sun, X., Ursano, R.J., and Stein, M.B. “The Association of Lifetime TBI and


Brolin, M., and Reif, S. “Screening and Brief Intervention With Low-Income Youth and Young Adults in Community-Based Settings.” Poster presented at 41st Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting, San Diego, June 2018.


Horgan, C.M., Stewart, M., Hodgkin, D., and Kritikos, A. “Rewarding Value in Substance Use Treatment: What Are the Unique Challenges?” Poster presented at:
» 41st Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting, San Diego, June 2018.


Kreiner, P. “Utilization of PDMPs in Managed Care: How Can PDMPs Support Patient Review and Restriction Programs?” Presented at Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Annual Meeting, Boston, April 2018.


PRESENTATIONS
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


Hughes, D.M. Conducted a logic model training of facilitators for teachers and staff of the Pittsfield, N.H., School District, through a grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, May 2018.


Melchior, A., and Hoover, M. “The Impact of After-School Robotics Programs on STEM Interests.” Presented at:


Nicholson, J. Invited speaker at Family-Focused Parent Peer Supports in the USA. Presented at “Think
Family Symposium,” sponsored by Health and Social Care Board and Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, May 2018.


Rosenfeld, L. “Literacy Assessment Tools: Mental Health Clinic Audit.” Presented at Northeastern University, Pilot Study, Boston, February 2018.


CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE


DISABILITIES

Cain, I. “Educational Predictors and Interventions for Postsecondary Community Living.” Presented at Council of Exceptional Children Annual Conference, Tampa, Fla., February 2018.


Mitra, M. “Need for Inclusive Prenatal Care for Women With Physical Disabilities.” Webinar sponsored by the National Association of County and City Officials Health and Disability Workgroup, March 2018.


EDUCATION


HEALTH


Shepard, D.S. “Cost-Effectiveness of Dengue Vaccination.” Presented at Tropical Medicine Colloquium Series, sponsored by Centre for Tropical Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, February 2018.


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT


Dassin, J. “Building a Research Agenda for International Scholarships.” Presented at “Scholarship as Aid and Foreign Policy: Establishing a Research Agenda,” roundtable sponsored by Contemporary Histories Research Group, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, April 2018.


Nepali, P. “Relevance of Land-Grant University and Historically Black Colleges for Inclusive Agrarian Transformation.” Presented at Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Ga., February 2018.


LABOR AND WORKPLACE


**Gittell, J.H.** “Relational Coordination Theory: A Systematic Review of the Evidence.” Presented at:  
» National Academies of Practice Forum, Atlanta, April 2018.


**Gittell, J.H.** “Building Relational Coordination for High Performance.” Presented at:  
» National Academies of Practice Forum, Atlanta, April 2018.


**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.** “Designing Reality: How to Survive and Thrive in the Third Digital Revolution.” Book talks, sponsored by:  


**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.** Session facilitator, “FAIR Data Initiative (Data That Is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).” Sponsored by National Science Foundation and Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Washington, D.C., January 2018.


**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.** Session facilitator, “Strategic Partnerships for Campus Cyberinfrastructure Among HBCU, HSI, TCU, and Other MSIs.” Sponsored by National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., May/June 2018.


**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.** “Designing Reality: How to Survive and Thrive in the Third Digital Revolution.” Book talks, sponsored by:  


**Gittell, J.H.** “Building Relational Coordination for High Performance.” Presented at:  
» National Academies of Practice Forum, Atlanta, April 2018.


**Gittell, J.H.** “Building Relational Coordination for High Performance.” Presented at:  
» National Academies of Practice Forum, Atlanta, April 2018.


**PRESENTATIONS**


**PHILANTHROPY**


**POLITICS AND POLICY**

**Kuttner, R.** “Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?” Book talks, presented at:

- Boston Athenaeum, Boston, April 2018.
- The New School, with John Cassady of *The New Yorker*, New York City, April 2018.
- Philadelphia Free Library, April 2018.


**SOCIAL POLICY**


Promoting Safer Opioid Prescribing Behavior

A study led by Mary Jo Larson, PhD’92, shows the impact of just one in-office education session with physicians
More than 115 people die every day in the United States of opioid overdoses, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) — and millions more struggle with opioid use disorder. For many, their first opioids are pain relievers prescribed by physicians. That's why new efforts to fight the epidemic are focused on responsible prescribing.

Just a single academic detailing visit can lead to safer physician opioid prescribing behavior, according to a study led by Senior Scientist Mary Jo Larson, PhD’92, of the Heller School’s Institute for Behavioral Health. Academic detailing is when a trained, unbiased person — in this case, a pharmacist — discusses with a doctor best practices for prescribing a specific medication based on current medical literature. The article, “Physicians report adopting safer opioid prescribing behaviors after academic detailing intervention,” published in the Substance Abuse journal, reports that physicians in South Carolina who received visits significantly increased their use of the state prescription monitoring program (PMP), which tracks patient prescription history.

“The impact of opioids today on everybody, all families, is even broader than the HIV epidemic was in the 1980s,” Larson says.

The study, a collaboration between researchers at the Heller School and the University of South Carolina (USC) School of Pharmacy, funded by NIDA, took a two-pronged approach. The 87 physicians who volunteered for the study were registered for the state’s PMP and received an academic detailing visit. During the visit, a trained pharmacist taught the physician how to use the PMP — a key difference from other opioid education programs — and promoted key messages about safer opioid prescribing.

PMPs were originally created to track drug diversion, in which patients sell legally prescribed drugs on the street, but they have recently been used to protect patient health by tracking overprescribing. Physician use in South Carolina, like many other states, was low — just 22 percent were registered — because it was complicated to enroll and learn the system.

The three messages to physicians about safer prescribing were: First, discuss both the risks and benefits of long-term opioid use and have patients provide informed consent. Second, assess patient response to a trial of opioid medication through a multidimensional rating scale that rates pain interference and focuses on how well a patient is able to function and enjoy everyday life. Third, screen for a risk of opioid misuse and monitor its appropriate use through urine tests, pill counts, frequency of visits and PMP information.

Physicians were surveyed before and after the intervention. Of prescribers who didn’t use the PMP before, 83 percent reported adopting PMP use. Of those who had used it before, 72 percent reported using PMP patient reports more frequently after the visit. In addition, the physicians reported a significant increase in using a multidimensional rating scale to track patient responses to opioids and an increase in the number of urine tests ordered for patients using opioids long-term.

“Simply sending out a document with clinical guidelines doesn’t change prescriber behavior,” Larson says. “Sending in a trained pharmacist to review evidence on best practice, learn about the physician’s current prescribing and respond to the physician’s questions is resource-intensive, but [it] results in change.”

Larson hopes researchers and public health departments in other states will include PMP education in their interventions and target providers who prescribe opioids more than their peers.

“We know it’s going to take multiple layers of changes to address the opioid epidemic,” Larson says.

By Karen Shih
The Institute on Assets and Social Policy’s work on the racial wealth gap was cited in a March 31, 2018, article in Salon, “Why Can’t We Talk About Reparations? A Congressional Candidate Broaches an Unmentionable Topic.”

**Tatjana Meschede** contributed to the following:
- She was quoted in a March 15, 2018, article in *The Arizona Republic*, “What’s Stopping Minority Residents From Buying Homes in Phoenix?”
- She was quoted in an April 18, 2018, article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, “How to Buy a House or Pay for Rent? Mom and Dad Might Help.”

**Thomas Shapiro** contributed to the following:
- He was cited in a Feb. 15, 2018, article in *The Florida Times-Union*, “Black, Hispanic Borrowers Face Hard Road to Home Mortgages in Jacksonville.”
- He was cited in a Feb. 27, 2018, article in *Non-profit Quarterly*, “New Study Explores U.S. Racial Wealth Gap.”
- He was quoted in an April 19, 2018, article in *Quartz*, “Greater Homeownership Isn’t the Answer to Ending Wealth Inequality.”

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Research by **Mary Brolin, PhD’05**, was cited in a Feb. 2, 2018, article in *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, “As I See It: A Local Model Pointing the Way for Massachusetts Criminal Justice Reform.”

**Andrew Kolodny** contributed to the following:
- He was profiled in a Jan. 10, 2018, article in *The New Scientist*, “The Doctor Who Took on Big Pharma to Stem the U.S. Opioid Epidemic.”
- He was quoted in a Jan. 17, 2018, article in Vox, “Senate Republicans Are Trying to Blame Medicaid for the Opioid Epidemic.”
- He contributed to a Feb. 14, 2018, article in *The New York Times*, “How a Police Chief, a Governor and a Sociologist Would Spend $100 Billion to Solve the Opioid Crisis.”
- He was quoted on the March 2, 2018, segment on CNN, “Trump’s Death Penalty Plan for Drug Dealers a ‘Step Backwards,’ Experts Say.”
- He was quoted in a March 12, 2018, article on WBUR.org, “A Quarter of Mass. Residents Know Someone Who Died of An Opioid Overdose, Survey Finds.”
» He co-authored a March 13, 2018, op-ed in *Politico*, “Opioid Overprescribing Is Not a Myth.”

» He was interviewed on the March 19, 2018, episode of PBS NewsHour, “Will Trump’s Focus on Prosecution, Not Treatment, Make a Dent in Opioid Addiction?”

» He was quoted in an April 11, 2018, article in *The Hill*, “Doctors Bristle at Push for Opioid Prescription Limits.”

» He was interviewed on April 14, 2018, for The TimesTalks Festival, “TimesTalks Festival: Nan Goldin and Dr. Andrew Kolodny.”

» He was quoted in an April 16, 2018, article in *The Atlantic*, “How France Cut Heroin Overdoses by 79 Percent in 4 Years.”

» He spoke at a June 12, 2018, press conference about the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ suit against Purdue Pharma. The press conference was broadcast on Facebook Live.

» He was quoted in a June 21, 2018, article in *The Financial Times*, “Rehab USA: How Should America Treat Its Opioid Victims?”

Joanne Nicholson appeared on the April 9, 2018, episode of Chris Morandi’s podcast, Old Cove Road, “There’s an App for That.”

Sharon Reif, PhD’02, presented “Opioid Policy, Research and Evaluation at the Heller School at Brandeis University,” to the Lowell Opioid Task Force in Lowell, Mass., in March 2018. The task force is a standing meeting held out of Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan’s office.

Sharon Reif and T.J. Fuchs presented “Washington State’s Hub and Spoke Model: Design and Early Implementation,” to the Wisconsin Governor’s Commission on Substance Abuse Treatment Delivery in Madison, Wis., in March 2018.

Cindy Thomas, PhD’00, contributed to the following:

» She was a guest on the May 1, 2018, program on WCAI, “Opioid Addiction Treatment.”

» Her research was cited in a May 23, 2018, article on MedicalResearch.com, “Cigna Creates Online Initiative to Drive Patient-Provider Conversations Regarding Pain and Opioid Prescriptions.”

» She was quoted in a June 28, 2018, article in *Politico Pro*, “Opioid Package May Not Prod Wary Doctors to Embrace Opioid Treatment.”

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy’s Child Opportunity Index was cited in an April 6, 2018, article in *Healio*, “Children Living in Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods Use EDs More Frequently.”

HEALTH

Stuart Altman contributed to the following:

» He was quoted in a Feb. 28, 2018, article in *Modern Healthcare*, “Partners and Care New England Add Lifespan to Merger Talks.”

» He was quoted in a March 1, 2018, article in *Modern Healthcare*, “Massachusetts Healthcare Spending Varies Widely.”

» He was quoted in a March 28, 2018, article in the *Boston Business Journal*, “Health Care Watchdog Lays Out 10 Policy Tweaks That Would Save $4.7B.”

» He was featured in an April 25, 2018, article in the *Boston Business Journal*, “State Maintains Strict Limit on Health Care Spending for 2019.”

Jennifer Perloff, PhD’06, co-authored a Jan. 8, 2018, article in *Health Affairs*, “The Integrity of MACRA May Be Undermined by ‘Incident to Billing’ Coding.”

Donald Shepard and Cynthia Tschampl, PhD’15, were both quoted on April 16, 2018, on KJZZ, “Study: Homeless Health Care Program in Phoenix Saves Public Money.”
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Joan Dassin ’69 was interviewed on the June 16, 2018, edition of the BBC World Service Forum, “J. William Fulbright: Scholarships and Soft Power.”

Purna Nepali’s Fulbright outreach lecture was covered on Feb. 23, 2018, on the website of Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture.


The book “Thou Shall Innovate: How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World,” by Avi Jorisch, published March 1, 2018, devotes a whole chapter to the company Laurence Simon founded in the 1980s called GrainPro. He is featured in the chapter along with his Israeli colleague, Shlomo Navarro, a prominent grain storage scientist. The chapter is titled “Modern Day Joseph.”

Laurence Simon was referenced on the May 1, 2018, edition of Jewdayo, which commemorated the founding of the American Jewish World Service by Simon and Larry Phillips (CEO of Phillips-Van Heusen) on May 1, 1985. A project of Jewish Currents, Jewdayo is “a daily infusion of Jewish history, tragedy, inspiration, creativity, and accomplishment. Each day, a single paragraph celebrates the significance of that date for Jewish history and peoplehood, from ancient to contemporary times.”

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Nader Habibi contributed to the following:

» He was quoted on Jan. 8, 2018, in Knowledge@Wharton, “Will Protests in Iran Pave the Way for Economic Changes?”

» He was quoted on the May 16, 2018, segment on NPR, “Companies Face a Tough Choice After Trump Pulls out of Iran Nuclear Deal.”

» He co-authored a June 8, 2018, article in University World News, “Graduates Push School Leavers Out of Low-Skill Jobs.”

» He wrote a June 12, 2018, article in The Conversation, “Iran’s Mild Response to Unprecedented Truckers’ Strike Could Be Due to Trump’s Influence.”

LABOR AND WORKPLACE

Anita Hill was featured in the following:


» In the Texas Tech University Daily Toreador on Feb. 15, 2018, “African American History Month Lecture Series Welcomes Anita Hill.”

» In the ABA Journal on March 26, 2018, “ABA Women’s Commission Updates Manual About Preventing and Addressing Sex Harassment.”

» In The Vancouver Sun on March 28, 2018, “Daphne Bramham: Time May Finally Be Right to End Sexual Harassment, Says Anita Hill.”

» In The San Francisco Chronicle on May 10, 2018, “Anita Hill Talks About Sexual Harassment and Politics in Oakland Lecture.”

» In Rutgers-Camden News Now, “Anita Hill, Pioneering Figure in Fight Against Sexual Harassment, to Receive Honorary Degree From Rutgers-Camden on May 17.”

» On ABC News on May 17, 2018, “Anita Hill Tells Law School Graduates: ‘We Will Never Be the Same After the #MeToo Movement’.”

» In The Hartford Courant on May 27, 2018, “Anita Hill, Tapped to Replace Keynote Speaker Accused of Sexual Misconduct, Warns Wesleyan Graduates of ‘Uncertain Times’ Ahead.”

» In The Boston Globe on June 10, 2018, “Anita Hill and Tony Goldwyn Talk Activism in Hollywood at Brandeis University.”

» In InStyle on June 26, 2018, “The Badass 50,” celebrating “women who show up, speak up and get things done.”

David Weil contributed to the following:

» He was featured in the January/February 2018 edition of Politico, “The Real Future of Work.”


» He co-authored a Feb. 6, 2018, article in The Guardian, “Restaurants Have No Right to Take Employees’ Tips.”

» He was quoted on March 7, 2018, on NPR, “Gig Economy Renews Debate Over Whether Contractors Are Really Workers.”

» He was quoted on the March 26, 2018, episode of the NPR show All Things Considered.
“Unequal Rights: Contract Workers Have Few Workplace Protections.”

» He wrote an April 16, 2018, article in *The Hill*, “Gig Economy Is No Excuse for Lax Protections for American Workers.”

» He was quoted in an April 26, 2018, article in *The Boston Globe*, “Worker Deaths Continue to Rise in Mass.”

» He was mentioned in a May 7, 2018, article in *Bloomberg News*, “Labor Dept. Plans Memo to Rein in Field Offices.”

» He was interviewed on the June 1, 2018, edition of *Bloomberg Markets AM*, “Wages Need to Accelerate More to Keep up With Costs: David Weil.”

» He wrote a June 5, 2018, article in the *Harvard Business Review*, “Workers Shouldn’t Have to Sign Away Their Rights to Class Action Lawsuits.”

» He was quoted in a June 2018 essay by Sen. Cory Booker in *The Brookings Brief*, “The American Dream Deferred.”

» He was interviewed on April 19, 2018, on KSRO, “Interview: The Ability to Make Anything Is Technologically Within Our Grasp.”

» He co-authored an April 30, 2018, article in *MarketWatch*, “We’re on the Cusp of the Third Digital Revolution, and Here’s How Not to Be Left Behind.”

**Jody Hoffer Gittell** was quoted in a May 20, 2018, article in *Fosters*, “Mergers Key to Community Hospitals’ Survival.”

The **Heller MBA Program** was mentioned in an April 2, 2018, article in *U.S. News & World Report*, “How to Get an MBA in Less Time.”

**PHILANTHROPY**

The **Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy** was cited in the January 2018 *School Desegregation Notebook Research Roundup.*

**POLITICS AND POLICY**

**Mari Fitzduff** was cited in a March 22, 2018, article in *The Times of Israel*, “Why Irrational Politics Appeal to Voters in America and Israel.”
Stuart Altman received the 2018 Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance from the National Academy of Social Insurance, presented at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2018.

Lawrence Bailis was re-elected president and chair of the board of the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA), a statewide advocacy group that promotes progressive social and economic policies in Massachusetts.

Lawrence Bailis was selected to be on the advisory committee of the Fellowship Program for Distinguished Public Service Leaders at the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the McCormack Graduate School of the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Maura Baldiga received funding to attend the IPUMS Current Population Survey 2018 Summer Data Workshop.

The Heller School was inducted as a chapter into Beta Gamma Sigma, the premier international honor society of AACSB-accredited business schools, on Feb. 2, 2018. Jon Chilingerian is the first president of the Heller Chapter, with Amy DiMattia as chapter administrator. Professors Carole Carlson, Jon Chilingerian and Joel Cutchcer-Gershenfeld were inducted as life members for their academic achievement and professional excellence.

Joel Cutchcer-Gershenfeld became a 2018 Aspen Symposium Forum Scholar.

Joan Dassin ’69 acted as the following:
» Reviewer for Evaluation Report: Moshal Scholarship Program, South Africa.
» Reader for Yidan Prize for Education Research.

Robert Dunigan, PhD’04, has been named as a faculty mentor for the final round of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Mentoring Program for New Investigators.

Anita Hill received an honorary doctor of laws from Rutgers University-Camden at the Rutgers Law School commencement ceremony in Camden, N.J., on May 17, 2018. She delivered the keynote address for the Class of 2018.

Pamela Joshi, PhD’01, was appointed to Child Care Aware’s Child Care Data Center advisory council.

Maria Madison was voted onto the board of trustees of Tufts University.
Alan Melchior ’74, MA’07, and his colleagues from the Center for Youth and Communities were recognized for Best Paper of the Pre-College Engineering Education Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for “Do After-School Robotics Programs Expand the Pipeline Into STEM Majors in College?” Melchior presented the paper at the ASEE Conference on June 26, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

Monika Mitra was invited to serve on the advisory council of the Mass. Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC), Sexual Assault Response Unit.

Monika Mitra was named to the grant review committee for Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program: Minority Serving Institutions, National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, in February 2018.

Monika Mitra was named to the grant review committee, National Institutes of Health, and was a reviewer of the Study Section on Pregnancy Among Women With Disabilities, in February 2018.

Monika Mitra was named to the grant review committee, Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Secondary Data Analysis Research Grant R40 Applications, in March 2018.

Monika Mitra was named to the grant review committee for Rehabilitation Research Training Center (RRTC) on Disability in Rural Communities Grant Competition, National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, in March 2018.

Monika Mitra was an invited mentor at the Academy-Health 2018 Annual Research Meeting, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) Program in Seattle, June 2018.

Purna Nepali received a Harvard Fellowship with the Harvard Kennedy School and Hutchins Center, W.E.B. Institute, as non-residential fellow with periodic visits to Harvard University. His research areas will be in “Political Economy of Inclusive Agrarian Transformation: Comparative Analysis of Race-Caste of U.S. and Nepal/South-Asia.” With comparative results (caste-race-class-gender), he will recommend solutions for inclusive agrarian transformation in Nepal in the 21st century and whether it can be further replicated in a South-Asian context.

Joanne Nicholson was an invited advisory board member of Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft, Open Innovation in Science Center, Vienna, from May 2018 to the present.

Eric Olson won one of the two Appreciation Awards from the City of Newton’s “Students for a Greener World,” the youth group affiliated with Green Newton, the main environmental nonprofit of Newton, Mass. The award recognized Olson’s design and leadership of the second annual ecotour to Nicaragua for Newton high school students. One goal of these trips is to work out the logistics for a field biology experience for Brandeis students as an add-on to the field biology course Olson teaches for the biology department.


Donald Shepard was listed in:

Laurence Simon contributed to the following:
» He was appointed to the editorial advisory board of Journal of Social Inclusion Studies, Sage India, in February 2018.
» He was named joint editor-in-chief of CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion, Brandeis University’s first academic journal, in March 2018.

David Weil contributed to the following:
» He served as a reviewer for Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society, and Journal of Industrial Relations.
» He was an advisory committee member for the Economic Policy Institute, Perkins Project on Worker Rights and Wages, 2017 to the present.
» He was on the advisory board of the Boston Federal Reserve Board, Quality of Work Research Consortium, October 2017 to the present.
» He was on the labor advisory board for the State of Massachusetts, Office of the Attorney General, September 2017 to the present.
» He was an expert advisory panel member of the Going Digital Project, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2017 to the present.

Wu Zeng was appointed the following:
» Associate editor for BMC Public Health.
» Academic editor for PLOS ONE.
Improving Behavioral Health for the Commonwealth

PhD student Yaminette Diaz-Linhart contributes comprehensive policy recommendations through state commission
As a first-year PhD student concentrating in health, Yaminette Diaz-Linhart is eager to span boundaries and disciplines in the service of health systems improvement.

A public health social worker by training, Diaz-Linhart jokes that her propensity to juggle multiple jobs and volunteer positions is “classic social worker. My husband teases me that instead of having hobbies, I work, which is absolutely true,” she admits.

Diaz-Linhart enrolled in the Heller PhD program to research the role of community health workers, a critical workforce that fills the void between clinicians, patients and families. Before joining Heller, she had a full-time position as a program director at Boston Medical Center and a side gig at the Massachusetts State House, where she ran a special commission on postpartum depression. Before the State House, her side gig was as a therapist.

Her other trick? Always showing up. “The more you show up, the more people will be curious about your work and remember your research when it’s important to them,” she says. So when legislators at the Mass. State House needed someone with Diaz-Linhart’s background to serve on the Special Legislative Commission on Behavioral Health Promotion and Upstream Prevention, all those years of showing up led to her becoming a committee designee — which she took on in addition to her Heller PhD coursework.

This Promote Prevent Commission, led by state Rep. James Cantwell, aimed to provide concrete policy recommendations to reduce mental health and substance use issues throughout the Commonwealth. The final report, released in April 2018, includes a broad array of recommendations to target behavioral health promotion and prevention across the lifespan.

“My role was to think about these interventions from the public health social work perspective,” says Diaz-Linhart. “We met every month, brought in guest speakers and experts, held public hearings and met with existing behavioral health programs. Due to my professional background and my experience managing multiple stakeholders, I became the chair of the early intervention subcommittee, which was pretty intense. Everyone had such different perspectives; it was a really interesting and rewarding learning experience.”

Diaz-Linhart’s work at Boston Medical Center informed her decision to include recommendations around behavioral health integration in pediatric settings to improve access to behavioral health for families. Her subcommittee also included recommendations to address social determinants of health and health equity through various avenues, including school behavioral health reforms, increased economic security and housing stability for families.

The final report includes dozens of recommendations spanning behavioral health promotion and prevention in state government, funding strategies, evidence-based programming, schools, the workforce and community leadership. With this comprehensive report, the committee hopes that the Commonwealth will not only reduce mental health and substance use issues but also foster healthy environments in which residents can thrive and succeed.

“It felt kind of amazing to put all of that into the report,” says Diaz-Linhart. “Now it’s up to policymakers to translate it into legislation.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA’17
On March 27, 2018, the Brandeis/Harvard NIDA Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment welcomed Michael Botticelli as the guest speaker for its spring symposium. Botticelli is the former director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and current executive director of the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center. The Brandeis/Harvard NIDA Center (funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse) fills a critical public health need to better understand how to improve treatment of substance use disorders.

The Brandeis University Africa Forum, along with several Brandeis/Heller organizations, including the Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Sankofa Community Conversations on Diversity, and the MA Program in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence, sponsored the panel “Africanist Perspective on the EU-Libya Deal on Migration” at Brandeis on Jan. 24, 2018. MA SID student Angesom Teklu and MA SID/COEX student Toba Bassey were among the panelists, and Maria Madison, associate dean of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, served as panel moderator.

The Center for Global Development and Sustainability held its fourth “International Conference on Caste and Race: Reconfiguring Solidarities,” at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, May 4-6, 2018, in partnership with UMass Amherst and other university partners. The conference focused on caste in India and race relations in the U.S., and the complexity of navigating between the two. It featured presentations by leading scholars and activists and highlighted discussions of new research, theory and politics in the pursuit of racial justice.

The Center for Youth and Communities organized and conducted a 10-year anniversary celebration for its Eli J. and Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program, “The Impact of Together,” in Washington, D.C., June 8, 2018. More than 150 Segal founders, guests and Fellows attended the luncheon, which featured a panel on Citizen Leadership in the context of our times with panel moderator Evan Osnos of The New Yorker and panelists Jack Lew, former U.S. secretary of the treasury and White House chief of staff; Nicky Goren, president and CEO, The Meyer Foundation; and Candice C. Jones, CEO, Public Welfare Foundation; with closing remarks by Brad Meltzer, best-selling thriller and mystery writer.

The Council on Health Care Economics and Policy, under the direction of chairman Stuart Altman and director Michael Doonan, PhD’02, held its 25th Princeton Conference, “Navigating Uncertainty in the U.S. Health Care System,” May 22-24, 2018, in
Princeton, N.J. This year’s conference was in honor of the late Princeton Conference founder, Professor Uwe Reinhardt. Session topics included a range of important and emerging issues in the U.S. health care system, including conversations on Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance and prescription drugs. Conference participants discussed activities and future directions surrounding social determinants of health, the opioid epidemic, delivery system and technology innovations, the healthcare workforce and pathways toward universal coverage. More than 140 national and state experts from the health care delivery, research, industry and policy sectors attended. Stuart Altman presented the conference opening, “Tribute to Uwe E. Reinhardt and Celebrating 25 Years of the Princeton Conference.”

Susan P. Curnan was keynote speaker, discussing what we can learn from Eleanor Roosevelt about how to live our lives and change the world, at “Freedom, Curiosity and Determination — Stories from Eleanor Roosevelt’s Val-Kill.” The talk was presented at Wellesley Neighbors, Wellesley College Club, Wellesley, Mass., and at the Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., on March 29, 2018.


On Jan. 24, 2018, the Heller School hosted “Conversations with the Dean: Public Policy Makers and Social Justice.” This event featured Jenny R. Yang, the former chair and commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in conversation with Heller Dean David Weil.

The Health Industry Forum, under the leadership of chairman Stuart Altman and executive director Robert Mechanic, presented a forum titled “Health Care Cost Control: What Is the Path Forward?” on March 14, 2018. Stuart Altman presented a session on “The Battle Over Controlling Health Care Spending: Can It (Or Should It) Be Won?”


Robert Kuttner spoke on the future of democracy and capitalism at the Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on April 18, 2018.

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy held its annual Distinguished Lecture on April 24, 2018. Marsha Mailick, PhD’78, vice chancellor for research and graduate education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented “Aging and Autism: Changes in the Autism Behavioral Phenotype and Health.” The focus of Professor Mailick’s research is the life-course trajectory of individuals with developmental disabilities and the impact on families.

The Lurie Institute co-sponsored the following events at Brandeis University during the spring:

The Lurie Institute’s National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities sponsored the following webinar presentations during the spring 2018 semester:

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, under the leadership of executive director Michael Doonan, PhD’02, held its annual Student Forum on April 5 and 6, 2018, in Boston. Forty-nine students from seven universities were directly exposed to the process of state health policymaking and program implementation. Students met senior legislative and administration officials starting on Beacon Hill at the state offices where the work gets done. The forum informs future physicians, nurses, health care managers and policy analysts about the policy process and how they can engage in making positive change.

The MA program in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence presented the panel “Beyond Self-Advocacy: Women’s Experiences” on April 18, 2018, at the Heller School. The panel was organized by MA COEX student Emily Forsyth Queen and MA COEX/MBA student Sylvia Murray. Panelists included Heller faculty members Cristina Espinosa, Nanako Tamaru and Susan Eaton.
The Heller MBA program presented its annual Distinguished Management Lecture on April 12, 2018. This year’s speaker was Heller’s own Anita Hill, lawyer and Brandeis University Professor, who spoke on “Reimagining Social Justice Leadership: New Models for Advancing Progressive Policies.” Hill framed her remarks around a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” She discussed the history of civil rights legislation and civil rights cases, and took questions from the audience.

The Relational Coordination Research Collaborative (RCRC) co-sponsored a workshop with Relationship-Centered Health Care titled “Improving Work Processes With Relational Coordination: Integrating the RC Survey Into Interventions.” RCRC director Jody Hoffer Gittell presented at this workshop, which was held in Waltham, Mass., in May 2018.

Rajesh Sampath participated in the following:

» Guest speaker, “Is Extreme Poverty a Violation of a Human Right?” Presented at “Faculty in the Field Program”:
  - Brandeis University and Brandeis National Committee, San Jose, Calif., January 2018.
  - Brandeis University Bay Area Alumni, Burlingame, Calif., January 2018.


» Panelist, “Red Monster” film screening and discussion on intersection of gender, ethnicity, masculinity, marginalization, intergenerational trauma and stigma related to mental health for young men of color, sponsored by Intercultural Center, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., January 2018.

» Moderator, “What Do the Refugees Mean for Europe? Migration, Smuggling and State Response on the Balkan Route.” Sponsored by Brandeis European Graduate Student Association and Brandeis Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., February 2018.


The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy held a screening and discussion of the film “Wilhemina’s War” on April 18, 2018, at the Heller School. The screening was organized by the Sillerman Center’s undergraduate student researchers, Amber Abernathy ’18, Jade Eckels ’18 and Victoria St. Jean ’19.

The Sillerman Center, in partnership with the Council of N.J. Grantmakers, presented “Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Schools for New Jersey,” on May 8, 2018, in Newark, N.J.

The Sillerman Center presented “Bridging Vermont’s Opportunity Gap: An Immigrant Integration Learning Session for Funders and Community Leaders,” in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation, in Burlington, Vt., on May 23, 2018. Jessica Santos, PhD’15, and Cristina Aguilera, project co-directors at the Sillerman Center, hosted the session.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MARI FITZDUFF IN THE CLASSROOM
PUBLICATIONS


**PRESENTATIONS**


Henry, B. “A Panel on Prisons and Democracy: Pretrial Incarceration and Bail.” Presented at Boston University by the Petey Greene Program, Boston, April 2018.


Shields, M.C. “Quality of Inpatient Psychiatric Care: The Relationship Among CMS’ Quality Measures, Complaints and Ownership.” Poster presented at:


» AcademyHealth Behavioral Health Services Research Interest Group, Seattle, June 2018.


» AcademyHealth Behavioral Health Services Research Interest Group, Seattle, June 2018.

Shields, M.C., Borba, C., Trinh, N., and Singer, S. “Consumers’ Past Experiences of Inpatient Psychiatry and Opinions About Peers as Staff.” Poster presented at:


» AcademyHealth Behavioral Health Services Research Interest Group, Seattle, June 2018.


» Massachusetts Health Quality Partners’ Physician Council, Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, Mass., June 2018.


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT


PhD students Robbie Dembo and Jenny LaFleur were mentioned in the Boston Area Research Initiative post, “BARI and BI Announce Seed Grant Recipients for Spring 2018,” on Jan. 3, 2018, for their work on exploring the role of geographic inequality and neighborhood effects in the education of marginalized students.

Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, PhD student, was the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers designee for the Special Commission on Behavioral Health Promotion and Upstream Prevention, based on her expertise as a public health social worker at Boston Medical Center. She chaired the Early Intervention subcommittee and collaborated to develop policy recommendations. The final report of the commission was published online.

Alik Farber, EMBA’19, was featured in “Shock and Awe,” Harvard Medicine Magazine, Spring 2018 issue.

PhD candidate Brandy Henry contributed to a legislative briefing on solitary confinement, hosted by the Harm Reduction and Drug Law Reform Caucus of the Massachusetts State Legislature, in Boston in January 2018.

Brandy Henry presented “Criminal Justice Reform” at the National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts Legislative Education and Advocacy Day in Boston in April 2018.


Ninette Ibararuta, MA SID’18, was mentioned in a May 21, 2018, article in Portland Press Herald, “SMCC Graduates Record Number of Students.”

Benjamin Kreider, PhD candidate, contributed to the following:

» He was quoted in a May 2, 2018, article in Wicked Local Waltham, “Brandeis Students Protest Lack of Progress in Student Union Talks.”

» He presented “Not Your Father’s Labor Movement: How Immigrants, Unions and Women Are Fighting for the 99%” at the Ferry Beach Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center in Saco, Maine, June 2018.

Ye Z. Pogue, PhD candidate, contributed to the following:

» She was quoted in a Feb. 8, 2018, article in The Boston Globe, “After Backlash, Panel Seeks to Collect Data on All Ethnic Groups, Not Just Asian-Americans.”

» She authored a March 6, 2018, op-ed in The Justice, “Condemn Collection of Ethnic Data on Government Forms.”

» She was quoted in a March 9, 2018, article in Connecticut Post, “A Preemptive Strike Against an Asian Registry in Connecticut.”
» She authored a March 27, 2018, op-ed in The Justice, “Criticize the Harmful National Origin Data Collection on Immigrant Community.”
» She participated in a discussion covering medical research, language services, social-economic support, census data and more, on WestfordCAT on April 11, 2018.

Robyn Powell, PhD candidate, authored the following:
» “No, Donald Trump, the Paralympic Games Are Not ‘Tough to Watch,’” HuffPost, May 1, 2018.

Robyn Powell was quoted in the following:
» “Parents With Disabilities Face Obstacles to Keep Their Children,” radio interview, WPR (NPR affiliate), Jan. 18, 2018.

PhD student Morgan Shields was cited in an April 6, 2018, article in Healio, “Expanding Civil Commitment Laws Is Bad Mental Health Policy.”


AWARDS AND HONORS

PhD student Robbie Dembo was awarded the Duke University Social Networks and Health Fellowship for 2018-19.

Robbie Dembo received the 2018 AcademyHealth Disability Research Interest Group (DRIG) Best Student Presentation award for his talk on the impact of violence victimization against youth and young adults with disabilities.

PhD candidate Brandy Henry was elected to the National Association of Social Workers Delegate Assembly.

Benjamin Kreider, PhD candidate, received grant funding to support his dissertation, “Advancing Justice for Vulnerable Immigrant Workers: Assessing the Collaborative Potential of Worker Centers and Unions in the Boston Metro Area.” First, he received a Grassroots Workers’ Rights Fellowship from the National Employment Law Project, a national nonprofit. He also received a Brandeis Provost Research Grant.

MA SID student Meredith Beaton Marx was awarded the Brandeis-India Fellowship for a one-month research internship at Navdanya Biodiversity Farm and Learning Center (Bija Vidyapeeth) in Uttarakhand, India, which works to keep seeds, biodiversity and traditional knowledge in people’s hands to generate sustainable, sovereign livelihoods and protect against debt and poverty.

PhD candidate Robyn Powell received a Brandeis Provost Research Grant for her dissertation, “Barriers and Facilitators to the Application of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Within the Child Welfare System: A Qualitative Study.” This study will document the barriers and facilitators to applying the ADA within the child welfare system through telephone interviews with a national sample of child welfare workers, attorneys and disabled parents.
Robyn Powell is once again a recipient of the 2018 American Public Health Association Disability Section Student Scholarship award. She also received the award in 2017.

Heller teams won more than $22,000 in prize money at Brandeis’ fourth Annual SPARKTank startup pitch competition, hosted by Brandeis Innovation, in February 2018. Their ventures all focused on making a difference in the world through entrepreneurship. The Heller teams that successfully pitched and received funding were:

- **African Women Energy Solutions (AWES):** $9,000. This venture by Enet Mukurazita, MA SID’19, Priscilla Rwandarugali, MA SID’19, and Gbenga Oni, MA COEX’19, economically empowers African women by bringing renewable sources of energy to their communities in a sustainable manner. AWES is partnering with a cooperative in Africa run by women to set up a local business that produces biogas from a community biodigester. AWES won the Hult Prize at the Brandeis competition in the fall.

- **Nomad Dairy:** $7,000. Led by Roba Bulga, MA SID’18, this venture partners with pastoralist communities to distribute quality camel milk in Ethiopia. They provide existing cooperatives with the technical and business knowledge to access markets, starting with refrigerated transportation and expanding to value-added products. This team includes Elizabeth Keeffe, MBA/MA SID’18, Kyle Plummer, MBA’18, and Iwona Matczuk, MBA’19, and won the Heller Startup Challenge in the fall.

- **SafeRide:** $4,500. This Liberia-focused venture aims to make motorcycle taxis safer. The goal is to create a network of licensed riders trained in defensive driving and equipped with safety gear. Passengers can request a ride through the SafeRide website or hotline and pay a standardized rate using a mobile money account. The project will begin in Monrovia with a pilot focused on university students, who are some of the largest users of motorcycle taxis. This team is led by Joe Wilson, MS/MA SID’19, and includes Lena Mumentamba, MBA/MA SID’18, and Baker Kasawuli, MA SID’18.

- **sySTEMic Flow:** $2,000. This nonprofit organization by Jessica Sanon, MBA’18, and Adwoa Asare, MBA’19, works with female minorities from 11th grade through the second year of college to stimulate their success in STEM careers. sySTEMic Flow provides precollege courses, mentorship and access to practical experience to bridge the transitional gap that young women of color face when entering college.
Robert Kuttner wrote the following op-eds:

» The Boston Globe on April 12, 2018, “Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?”
» Social Europe on May 23, 2018, “Crisis of Globalization, Restoring Social Investment is Key!”
» Social Europe on June 3, 2018, “Reforming Finance.”
» HuffPost on June 24, 2018, “Trump’s Trade Fight With Canada Highlights Two Approaches to Capitalism.”

Robert Kuttner was interviewed about his book “Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?”

» Fresh Air on NPR, April 11, 2018.
» WGBH with Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, April 26, 2018.
» Morning Joe on MSNBC, May 16, 2018.

Robert Kuttner’s book “Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?” was reviewed in:

» The New Yorker on May 14, 2018, in “Is Capitalism a Threat to Democracy?”

Leonard Saxe wrote the Feb. 8, 2018, commentary on WBUR.org, “Why Do We Value Truth in the Abstract, But Not in Practice?”

PUBLIC FINANCE

Robert Tannenwald was interviewed on the March 16, 2018, segment on WGBH, “Lights, Camera, Action! Breaking Down the Mass. Film Tax Credit.”

SOCIAL POLICY

Rajesh Sampath contributed to the following:

» He was interviewed on WCUW-FM on Dec. 21, 2017, “Key Talking Points on Social Justice Advocacy With Rajesh Sampath.”
» He wrote a May 3, 2018, article in Political Anthropologist, “Race and Caste: Worlds Apart But Closer Than You Think.”
» He was an invited participant at the February 2018 Executive Meeting of the Drafting Committee to Propose a U.N. Convention Against Discrimination in Work Based on Descent, Including Caste, in Washington, D.C.
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