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THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

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Welcome to the
Heller Social Policy
Impact Report

In this time of growing inequalities and disparities, the Heller School motto of “knowledge advancing social justice” resonates with our community more than ever. Even after nearly 60 years, Heller distinguishes itself by having one foot firmly rooted in graduate education and the other in the research world. As our tag line suggests, the knowledge that brings our classrooms alive and that flows out of our research centers and institutes has a specific purpose: to advance social justice.

But what does that mean, exactly? This powerful phrase can be interpreted many different ways, but most often we operationalize it as using our scholarship to understand the sources of and means to redress social inequality, including inequality in income, health care access, housing, social services, access to opportunities, and the accumulation of savings. The work reflected in this (and every) issue of The Heller Social Policy Impact Report conveys just that.

Consider the five feature stories presented in these pages: In a new analysis of child care costs, the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy shows that center-based care is unaffordable for most parents — but especially black and Hispanic families. Allyala Nandakumar is making global HIV/AIDS spending more efficient through his work with the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator in the U.S. State Department. The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum and researchers at the Institute for Behavioral Health are shining a light on the impact of opioid addiction on the workforce — especially in industries such as construction and fishing. Mary Brolin’s recent work with Lahey Hospital is helping to promote programs that treat the underlying needs of frequent emergency room patients to address the social and economic underpinnings of good health. And PhD candidate Giselle Routhier has designed a new way to measure housing insecurity among urban renter households.

When we talk about generating knowledge that advances social justice, this is what we mean: powerful, rigorous research that allows our society to better measure, understand, resolve and repair social inequalities wherever they occur. If not now, when?

Sincerely,

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The Challenges of Paying for Child Care

ICYFP study finds center-based child care to be unaffordable for the majority of full-time working parents, especially low-income and black and Hispanic parents.
Among full-time working parents, low-income parents are the most likely to be burdened with unaffordable child care — costing more than a quarter of their total family income, according to a new study from the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (ICYFP). On average, working parents would have to spend about 10 percent of their income for center-based care.

“These numbers show it’s very hard to afford the basic supports families need in order to work,” says ICYFP Associate Director Pamela Joshi, PhD’01, who co-led the study with Senior Research Associate Maura Baldiga. “High child care cost has a serious impact on the U.S. economy because increasing child care costs and the lack of family support policies have been linked to women’s declining labor force participation.”

The study, which focused on center-based child care, found that the majority of full-time working parents — 63 percent — would have a hard time paying for market-price full-time care. For low-income parents, that percentage balloons to 95 percent. This analysis is based on the federal affordability benchmark of 7 percent of family income, set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The price of child care disproportionately affects Hispanic and black working parents, exacerbating racial and ethnic disparities in family economic security and child well-being. Forty percent of Hispanic and 32 percent of black working parents are low-income, compared to just 13 percent of both white and Asian parents.

Baldiga and Joshi used a national dataset measuring family income and combined it with state-level data on child care costs. They created two indicators of child care affordability: one is the ratio of the price of child care to family income, and the other compares that ratio to the federal affordability benchmark.

This study is different from most existing research on child care affordability in two ways. First, this study used actual family income, rather than the median income in a particular area. “You can find statistics that child care is unaffordable, but much of it relies on assumptions about family size and uses median measures of income. We’re using data about individual working parents — their family income and number and ages of children — to add detail and nuance,” Baldiga says.

Second, the study looks at what families would pay if they chose center-based child care, rather than how much they’re actually paying for child care.

“You don’t know if parental expenditures on child care reflect parents’ preferred care arrangement, or if their choices are constrained by what they can afford,” Baldiga says. “We’re asking, if parents wanted this type of care, which tends to be higher quality than other care options, what would they have to spend?”

To keep mothers and fathers in the labor force, it’s essential to understand the availability and affordability of child care across the country. The next step for Baldiga and Joshi is to analyze the costs of family child care, since this type of care is important for parents who have non-standard work schedules.

Joshi says, “We’re trying to give both advocates and policymakers more data to help them quantify the problem. This could help them support policies at the federal and state levels, and help expand programs that target low-income working parents, like the child care subsidy program.”

By Karen Shih
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


DISABILITIES


GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT


HEALTH


**LABOR AND WORKPLACE**


**MANAGEMENT**


**PHILANTHROPY**


**PHILOSOPHY**


Global Health Economics for the Future

Allyala Nandakumar is helping the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator make HIV/AIDS spending more efficient
The best way to reduce social inequities at a monumental scale is through a career in global health, says Professor Allyala Nandakumar. He says, “You want to eliminate AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis? Save three million children from dying every year of avoidable causes? Then you have to be in global health, working on the big problems, designing the health care systems of the future.”

Last year, Ambassador Deborah Birx, the United States Global AIDS Coordinator, invited Nandakumar to join her team as the first chief economist at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), an agency of the U.S. State Department. Nandakumar balances the position with his academic appointment at Heller, where he is interim director of the master’s in Global Health Policy and Management program and director of the Institute for Global Health and Development. For him, bringing health economics to bear on the global AIDS response is the challenge of a lifetime.

After the 2008 recession, U.S. funding for global health initiatives plateaued, and agencies began to ask harder questions about how funds are spent. At the same time, many low- and middle-income countries (such as India and Kenya) became some of the world’s fastest-growing economies. Says Nandakumar, “Once donors feel that a country is no longer low-income, they pull back their funding. And the path is not smooth — it’s a sudden cliff.”

To Nandakumar, this unique combination of problems was intriguing. “This question of how to leverage economic transition and also optimize our investments — it’s fantastic,” he says. “We know we need a new path ahead, we know some of what the future holds. We need to build a glide path off of donor assistance for countries whose economies are growing, without pushing them off that cliff. We know that as countries become richer, their citizens want access to market-based health care solutions. And we know that our systems for spending donor funds are opaque and rarely sustainable or efficient.”

To move forward on all of these fronts, Nandakumar is supporting Ambassador Birx in an initiative to make HIV/AIDS spending more efficient and sustainable. Along with the Global Fund and UNAIDS, there is an effort underway to create an activity-based costing and management system, or ABCM, in seven to 10 African nations over the next three years. If successful, ABCM will provide a transparent way to track and manage the true costs of HIV/AIDS response efforts. He also wants to coordinate a global thought leadership process to explore how market-based solutions can be leveraged to support the response.

In practice, he says, he spends a lot of time on “internal education, and what I call ‘global health diplomacy.’ Having a health economist asking questions and pushing this agenda is a major culture shift. I can’t simply walk into a partner agency or a country and say, ‘This is what we’re doing now.’ I have to convince people of the value of this shift, build consensus, assuage their concerns. The technical piece is the easy part — we know how to do that. Laying the groundwork takes a lot more time and effort.”

“It’s been quite a journey so far, and we hope to do this change in the next three years. If we can accomplish that, we’ll have taken a huge, huge step forward. And that’s the exciting stuff for me.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA’17
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Jessica Santos (PI) “Boston Builds Credit Evaluation”; Funder: United Way of Greater Seacoast

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) will partner with the Boston Builds Credit Initiative to conduct key informant interviews and write a one-year progress report of the BBC initiative. The activities and deliverables will be conducted in tandem with the ongoing evaluation of the start-up and early implementation phases of the Roxbury neighborhood-based credit-building strategy.

Thomas Shapiro (PI), Laura Sullivan, Tatjana Meschede, Fernanda Escobar, Jessica Santos “Building Evidence for Transformative Equity”; Funder: Ford Foundation

IASP’s Racial Wealth Audit™ is a framework and empirical tool that assesses the impact of specific policies on the racial wealth gap. This tool facilitates constituency, organizational, advocate and policymaker equity-based engagement in the policy process and public debate. With core support from this grant, IASP will continue to expand this work in two areas: (1) model the racialized impacts of work/wealth protections and community-driven solutions; and (2) initiate a critical assessment of the potential of universal basic income for economic security and wealth building.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Rachel S. Adams (PI), Mary Jo Larson “Improving Treatments and Outcomes Among Soldiers Identified With Severe Alcohol Use After Return From OEF/OIF/OND Deployment”; Funder: Uniformed Services University; subcontract to Brandeis from Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

This health services research study will examine the Military Health System response to soldiers with positive screens for post-deployment severe alcohol use to determine if organizational characteristics of military treatment facilities (e.g., care volume, psychological resources) are associated with variation in identification of alcohol use disorder, treatment initiation and treatment engagement. Knowledge gained will identify areas for quality improvement related to treating soldiers with alcohol use disorder, and will inform our understanding of how improvements in the care continuum may improve readiness and retention outcomes vital to the mission of the Department of Defense.
Mary Brolin (PI), Lee Panas, Carol Prost “Evaluation of Community Counseling of Bristol County’s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Grant”; Funder: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; subcontract to Brandeis from Community Counseling of Bristol County

Brandeis researchers are collaborating with Community Counseling of Bristol County to study the implementation and outcomes of their Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion.

Mary Brolin (PI), Carol Prost “Evaluation of Massachusetts Community Health Centers Supporting Opioid Addiction Recovery (MA-SOAR)”; Funder: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

MA-SOAR will add nurse care management and recovery coaches to existing MAT services in three community health centers in Massachusetts, and will support additional prescribers to receive buprenorphine waivers. Brandeis’ evaluation will monitor program implementation and outcomes using a continuous quality improvement framework. The process evaluation will highlight changes to policies and procedures within community health centers and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and document facilitators and barriers to sustainability. Patient outcomes will focus on opioid and poly-substance use and life functioning.

Dominic Hodgkin (PI), Sharon Reif, Mary Brolin, Meelee Kim “Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Serious Emotional Difficulties”; Funder: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); subcontract to Brandeis from Hancock County, Ohio, ADAMHS Board

In Hancock County, Ohio, the county government has implemented a recovery-oriented system of care to address substance use disorders, using grant funding from SAMHSA. Brandeis will be evaluating this intervention, documenting infrastructure improvement efforts, overseeing collection of client assessment forms, and contributing to reports to SAMHSA.

Meelee Kim (PI) “Building Communities of Recovery”; Funder: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; subcontract to Brandeis from Focus on Friends

The Building Communities of Recovery project aims to: (i) develop a technology-based infrastructure; (ii) enhance community education, training and reduce stigma; and (iii) expand and enhance a peer recovery support system. Brandeis University is providing evaluation services to FOCUS: Recovery and Wellness Community, a peer recovery center that provides support and resources to individuals impacted by mental health, addiction or trauma issues in Hancock County, Ohio.

Andrew Kolodny (PI) “Measuring the Impact of New Jersey’s New Opioid Laws”; Funder: Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Andrew Kolodny (PI) “Overdose Risk Management and Compensation in the Era of Naloxone”; Funder: NIDA; subcontract to Brandeis from National Development and Research Institute

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Rachel S. Adams “Association of High-Risk Medications With Health Outcomes and Early Attrition Among Post-Deployment Soldiers With Pain — A Study That Reuses SUPIC Study Data”; Funder: Department of Defense/Uniformed Services University

The goal of the present study is to examine the occurrence and consequences of polypharmacy and other high risk medication (HRM) use among Army soldiers treated for pain who returned from a deployment. In addition, we will determine predictors for soldiers successfully ending their HRM, and examine whether HRM is an independent predictor of early separation from military service.

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Rachel S. Adams “Understanding Provider Influence on Initiating Opioid Prescriptions”; Funder: Uniformed Services University; subcontract to Brandeis from Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

The goal of the project is to develop new evidence on the opioid-prescribing patterns of physicians and other prescribers serving military members. This baseline evidence is critical to assess whether unexplained variation in prescribing patterns is influenced by the Military Health System’s adoption of effective opioid strategies.

Maria Madison (PI) “Mental Health and Racial Equity Among Waltham Black/African American Youth: Devine Dialogues”; Funder: Community Health Network Area 17 (CHNA17)

CHNA17 has identified accessing mental health support as a singular, most pressing, public health problem among Black/African American youth in Waltham, Mass. Building on sample work from Dr. Beverly Tatum (“Intergroup Dialogues”), Patricia Devine, et al. (“Prejudice Habit Breaking Interventions”), Bertrand and Duflo (“Field Experiments on
Discrimination”), and Howard Stevenson (“RECAST Theory, promoting racial literacy in schools”), the researchers will work with Waltham youth and individuals in their spheres of influence to better understand and reduce barriers to accessing mental health support.

Sharon Reif (PI), Rachel S. Adams, Monika Mitra, Joanne Nicholson, Cindy Parks Thomas, Mary Brolin, Constance Horgan “INROADS: Intersecting Research on Opioid Misuse, Addiction, and Disability Services”; Funder: Administration for Community Living/DHHS

The researchers will examine the intersection of addiction, disability and services perspectives to explore opioid use disorders (OUD) within the population of people with disabilities, to help them successfully access the treatment they need, attain recovery from OUD and achieve their goals for functioning well in significant life domains. The overarching goal is to contribute to evidence-based policy and practice on behalf of people living with disabilities and opioid use disorder (OUD).

Maureen Stewart (PI) “State Residential Treatment for Behavioral Health Conditions Regulation and Policy”; Funder: ASPE; subcontract to Brandeis from IBM Corporation

This project examines how states regulate residential care for mental health and substance use disorders.

Gail Strickler (PI), Meelee Kim, Peter Kreiner “Massachusetts Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Data Analysis and Evaluation Assistance, 2018-2019”; Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Researchers from the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative are assisting the Massachusetts PDMP with analysis of PDMP and death data and program evaluation.

Cindy Parks Thomas (PI) “Brandeis Opioid Resource Clearinghouse”; Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Cindy Parks Thomas (PI) “Prescriptive Authority and Nurse Practitioner Opioid Prescribing Practices”; Funder: NCSBN; subcontract to Brandeis from Regents of the University of California

Cindy Parks Thomas, Palmira Santos (Co-PIs), Maureen Stewart, Cynthia Tschampl “Treatment Initiation Driving Engagement (TIDE)”; Funder: Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

This study, part of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission’s evaluation of its Sustainable Healthcare Innovations Fostering Transformation program, will examine the success of programs aimed at connecting emergency department patients with medication-assisted treatment and outpatient services for opioid use disorder.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia (PI), Clemens Noelke “Leveraging the Child Opportunity Index to Improve Equitable Access to Healthy Communities”; Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The project will: (1) first conduct systematic research about how stakeholders across the U.S. are using the Child Opportunity Index (COI), and about the conditions under which the COI is helping advance child health equity; and (2) then use this knowledge to develop and implement a strategy to deepen the COI’s impact on increasing awareness of equity and catalyzing community actions to improve equity.

Della Hughes (PI) “Boston Youth Online Resource Directory and Program Census”; Funder: Economic Development and Industrial Corporation

DISABILITIES

Ilhom Akobirshoev, Monika Mitra (Co-PIs), Robbie Dembo “Understanding the Health Care Needs and Experiences of Boston Children With Special Health Care Needs”; Funder: Noonan Memorial Research Fund
This study will break new ground by understanding children’s health care access, service utilization, quality and disparities through a representative sample of children in Boston. Study findings will identify the extent and determinants of disparities in health care access, service utilization and quality of care for Boston children with and without special health care needs.

**Irina Cain (PI)** “Switzer Fellowship: Barriers and Facilitators for Transition to Independent Living for Youth with Developmental Disabilities”; Funder: National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research

The Switzer study will investigate the experiences of youth with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities, their families and service providers with transitioning to independent living. As the first study to document direct experiences of this population, the goal is to identify facilitators, barriers and effective supports, and document the state of need for supports in families not receiving services.

**Monika Mitra (PI)** “Effects of SNAP on Healthcare Costs and Utilization”; Funder: NIH; subcontract to Brandeis from the University of Southern California

This study will examine the moderating effect of disability status on the relationship between Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and healthcare costs and utilization.

**Monika Mitra, Joseph Caldwell (Co-PIs), Ilhom Akobirshoew, Tatjana Meschede** “Community Living Policy Center—YR 1”; Funder: DHHS/Administration for Community Living

The Community Living Policy Center aims to improve policies and practices that promote community living for individuals with disabilities. The Center will analyze policies and programs related to provision of home and community based services, identify policy barriers and facilitators, and provide rapid, timely data and policy analyses to inform new policies.

**Robyn Powell (PI)** “Community Inclusion Legislative Changes and Supporting Parents with Disabilities Survey”; Funder: DHHS/Administration for Community Living; subcontract to Brandeis from Temple University

The study will evaluate the effectiveness of recent Idaho legislation prohibiting discrimination against parents with disabilities. As Idaho is the first state to pass such comprehensive laws, the lessons learned and best practices may inform implementation and similar policy decisions for other states.

**Marji Erickson Warfield (PI)** “Assessing Shared Living as a Residential Option for Youth Transitioning to Adult Services”; Funder: Noonan Memorial Research Fund

This study will gain an in-depth understanding of the implementation and operation of shared living opportunities among youths transitioning to adult services and assess the ways in which shared living must evolve in the future.

**HEALTH**

**Diana Bowser (PI)** “Access to Eye Care in Gambia”; Funder: OneSight Corporation

This project will analyze facility data from eye care clinics in Gambia to understand the drivers to improved access to eye care.

**Gary Gaumer (PI)** “Establishing an Analytical Hub”; Funder: U.S. Department of State; subcontract to Brandeis from BAO Systems, LLC

**Jennifer Perloff (PI)** “Implementation and Scaling of HNHC Initiatives in ACOs”; Funder: Institute for Accountable Care

**Jennifer Perloff (PI)** “Looking at Military Health System Surgical Procedures Through the Lens of an Episode Grouper”; Funder: Uniformed Services University; subcontract to Brandeis from Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

**Moaven Razavi (PI)** “Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute — Informatics Program”; Funder: NIH; subcontract to Brandeis from Tufts University

**Donald Shepard (PI), Wu Zeng** “Economic and Disease Burden of Dengue in Thailand: A Pilot Cohort Study in Tak Province”; Funder: Takeda Pharmaceutical

This study aims to determine the quality of life and economic burden during acute and persistent phases of dengue illness in Tak Province, Thailand.

**Wu Zeng (PI)** “Efficiency of County Health Systems in Kenya”; Funder: World Bank
The Impact of Opioids in the Workforce

Massachusetts Health Policy Forum brings together diverse state stakeholders at November event
One million people in the United States are not working due to opioid use disorder (OUD), while 55 percent of people with an opioid addiction are employed. These stark numbers reflect the negative impact of the opioid epidemic on the U.S. workforce, which results in lost productivity and increased health care costs. The opioid epidemic devastates individuals and families and triggers severe economic consequences at the national, state and local levels. In Massachusetts, the annual impact of prescription opioid misuse on employers, employees and dependents is about $1.7 billion.

That’s what spurred the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum to bring together 200 health policy leaders in Massachusetts to discuss “Opioids in the Workforce” in November 2018. This forum and accompanying issue brief were produced in partnership with the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) Center and Opioid Policy Research Collaborative, with funding from RIZE Massachusetts. The issue brief was written by Institute for Behavioral Health Director Constance Horgan, PhD student Heidi Sulman, visiting research scholar Nancy Lane, and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, Michael Doonan, PhD’02.

“Heller is a leader in behavioral health research and it was a pleasure to work with our partners on how Massachusetts employers can help address the opioid crisis,” says Horgan. “The issue brief quantifies the problem and provides examples of how employers can help prevent substance use disorder, facilitate access to evidence-based treatment and support successful recovery.”

Heller researchers found that employers vary widely in their awareness of opioid use and addiction. The incidence of OUD also varies and can be especially high in physically demanding and stressful industries such as construction and fishing. The report and presentation suggest ways for employers to work with employees and health plans to better understand, prevent and treat OUD. Primary prevention includes injury reduction, while secondary prevention includes appropriate treatment and pain management when injuries occur. In addition, employees need seamless access to recovery and evidence-based treatment for OUD. Finally, the report provides examples of employers creating recovery-friendly workplaces. This includes reducing stigma and allowing time for recovery, such as time to attend recovery-related appointments.

At the forum, Horgan and Lane presented the research findings and offered recommendations. They were joined by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Health, Dr. Monica Bharel, who outlined what Massachusetts is doing to address OUD at the state level. The panel also included J.J. Bartlett, president of the Fishing Partnership Support Services, who spoke about a range of innovations being undertaken by the fishing industry in Massachusetts to support their members.

The research panel was followed by a stakeholder panel, which discussed practical action steps employers can use to implement some of the strategies.

“While much has been written about the opioid crisis, less was known about the impact on employers, employees and their dependents,” says Doonan. “With support from RIZE Massachusetts and the deep expertise in behavioral health at Heller, this is a great example of how research can have a direct impact on people’s lives.”
AGING

Bishop, C. “Integrating Post-Acute Care: Relational Contracting Between Medicare Accountable Care Organizations and Post-Acute Providers.” Presented at the International Long-term Care Policy Network’s International Conference on Evidence-Based Policy in Long-term Care, Vienna, Austria, September 2018.


Bishop, C. “Addressing Future Home-Based Health and Personal Care Needs for a Growing and Diverse Population.” Presented at the Mongan Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital, sponsored by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Boston, December 2018.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


**Santos, J.** Keynote, “Inside Inequality.” Presented at the Dartmouth Summit on Poverty and Equity, Hanover, N.H., October 2018.


**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**


**Hodgkin, D., Garnick, D.W., Horgan, C.M., Busch, A.B., Stewart, M.T., and Reif, S.** “Is It Feasible to Pay Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers Based on Patient Outcomes?” Presented at the 2018 Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Savannah, Ga., October 2018.


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


Escobar, M.F. “Programa de Apoyo ‘Coaching’ para Estudiantes Latinoamericanos en Escuelas Secundaria en los Estados Unidos.” Presented at the 3ra Conferencia Binacional México-Estados Unidos (3rd Mexico-United States Binational Conference), sponsored by the Facultad de Trabajo Social y Desarrollo Humano, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (Social Work and Human Development School at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León), Monterrey, Mexico, November 2018.

Ha, Y., Joshi, P., Schneider, K.G., and Bowne, J. “Patterns of Subsidized Children Enrollment Instability Among Child Care Providers.” Presented at the Association for Public Policy and Management 40th Annual Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2018.


Joshi, P. “State Administrative Data Sharing Agreements: Researcher Perspective.” Presented as a webinar on Child Trends, October 2018.


DISABILITIES

Akobirshoev, I., Mitra, M., and Dembo, R. “Inpatient Hospital Mortality Among Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder in the United States: A Retrospective Analysis of U.S. Hospital Discharge Data.” Presented at:

» CityMatch Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference, Portland, Ore., September 2018.


Mitra, M. “Unequal Access: Confronting Disability Related Disparities in Perinatal Health.” Invited presentation at the International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom, October 2018.


CONSTANCE HORGAN (SEE STORY ON PAGE 16)


EDUCATION


GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT


HEALTH


Altman, S. “Massachusetts as a Regional Laboratory to Control Health Spending.” Presented at the MGH Health Policy Rounds, Boston, October 2018.


Bowser, D. “Linking Financing, Workforce, and Clinical Care to Improve Behavioral Health Integration for the Most Vulnerable.” Presented at the Tufts CTSI Health Equity Research: Fall 2018 Symposium Plus, sponsored by Tufts Medical Center, Boston, October 2018.


Shepard, D.S. “Economic Analysis of Scaling up Wolbachia to Control Dengue in Indonesia.” Presented to the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Sardjito General Hospital, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July 2018.


Shepard D.S. “Cost Analysis in Dengue Technology Assessment.” Presented at the Health Technology Assessment Advisory Board Meeting, Tokyo, September 2018.


LABOR AND WORKPLACE


MANAGEMENT


Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J. “Stakeholder Alignment and Collaborative Engagement.” Presented at Project Leadership conference sponsored by University of Sydney, Australia, November 2018.


Gittell, J.H. “Relational Coordination and Leadership Module.” Presented at the Danish National leadership programme in Health Care, sponsored by the Implement Consulting Group, Valby, Denmark, October 2018.


**PRESENTATIONS**

**PHILANTHROPY**


Gittell, J.H. “Relational Coordination.” Presented at the Engineering High-Reliability Learning Lab, sponsored by Harvard Medical School, Boston, December 2018.


**POLITICS AND POLICY**


Kuttner, R. “Another Polanyi Moment: Must We Repeat the 1920s?” Invited lecture presented at the Polanyi Institute, Concordia University, Montreal, November 2018.


**SOCIAL POLICY**

Conrad, P., and Bergey, M. “ADHD Goes Global: Notes on Variations in Medicalization and Responses to a Diagnosis in 16 Countries.” Presented at XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Toronto, July 2018.
On November 7, Heller welcomed retired U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA, 1984-2014) for two talks that covered his decades-long advocacy for labor and disability rights. Harkin’s visit began with the “Conversations with the Dean” event hosted by Dean David Weil in Zinner Forum. In the evening, Sen. Harkin returned as the featured speaker at the Lurie Institute’s annual Distinguished Lecture in Disability Policy. See listings on page 40.

**TOP:** During their conversation, Dean Weil gives Sen. Harkin a copy of his book “The Fissured Workplace.”

**MIDDLE AND RIGHT:** Sen. Harkin delivers the Distinguished Lecture in Disability Policy.

**BOTTOM:** Lurie Institute Director Monika Mitra talks with Sen. Harkin (left). Sen. Harkin converses with Dean Weil and Provost Lisa M. Lynch (right).
A Holistic Approach to Decreasing Hospital Admissions

Mary Brolin evaluates a Lahey program that cuts costs and reduces ER visits
For the most frequent emergency room patients, it isn’t enough to simply treat their immediate medical problems — health systems must look at the bigger picture, addressing any housing, food, legal or other social needs that could trigger constant readmission.

That’s the key takeaway from a new evaluation of the Lahey-Lowell Joint CHART Program at three Lahey hospitals. Scientist Mary Brolin, PhD’05, of the Institute for Behavioral Health (IBH) led the evaluation, which found that the program demonstrated a gross savings of $4.5 million over the two-year pilot period, or $5,122 per patient. This is largely the result of reduced hospitalizations, including both decreased hospital admissions and fewer days in the hospital — all good news for patients, too.

Brolin says, “Patients may come in with a broken arm or difficulty breathing, but if you talk to them, there are underlying issues: They may have mental health or substance use problems, or they may have a condition like diabetes and aren’t taking their medication properly. Social issues wrap around that: If you have unstable housing, you can’t work. It’s hard to stay healthy if you’re living outdoors. And food insecurity can exacerbate health issues.”

The CHART Phase 2 Program (Community Hospital Acceleration, Revitalization and Transformation Investment) was a two-year initiative funded by the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission from 2016-17 to improve health care delivery and reduce system costs at 25 locations across the state.

Lahey’s CHART program embedded community health workers at each hospital to work with patients who were admitted to the emergency room eight times or more over a 12-month period. In traditional medical care management, a nurse might provide a top-down clinical assessment, refer the patient to behavioral health services and discharge the patient. But through CHART, a social worker or community health worker partners with the patient on the assessment to address their needs and follows up regularly over six to 12 months to make sure the patient is accessing appropriate services in the community.

In addition to a quantitative analysis, Brolin and a team of IBH researchers also conducted qualitative interviews with CHART team members and key stakeholders, like emergency room staff, housing and social service organizations, and the police.

CHART staff highlighted three aspects of the program that made a difference. First, they transported clients to the services they needed, rather than simply making referrals. Second, they gained valuable information from home visits, such as lack of heat or food, that patients wouldn’t always share in a hospital environment. Third, they stressed the importance of having social service providers within the community — if they were too far away, patients wouldn’t use them.

Both inside and outside the hospital, CHART was a success. Emergency room staff valued the program because it allowed them to focus on medical care. In the community, CHART partnered with task forces that brought social services and police together, giving them an opportunity to work collaboratively to help their most vulnerable residents.

Ultimately, however, Lahey recognizes that although the CHART program is innovative, further interventions could be more disruptive and transformative, and is, therefore, pursuing additional pilot programs now that CHART is over.

“For real system transformation, we need bigger changes,” Brolin says. “Instead of dealing with a problem when someone is really sick, what can we do to prevent them from having that problem?”

The project described in this article was supported by a Community Hospital Acceleration, Revitalization and Transformation (CHART) Investment from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC).
AGING

Walter Leutz, PhD’81, is starting his third year as director and chair of the evaluation team of Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging. The organization now has more than 30 senior volunteers and 15 city and nonprofit agencies collaborating to make Waltham more age friendly, particularly for seniors who are isolated, have low incomes and/or are immigrants.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Tatjana Meschede and PhD candidate Joanna Taylor were both quoted in the following:


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Andrew Kolodny contributed to the following:

» He was quoted in a July 14, 2018, article in The Washington Post, “Amid the Opioid Crisis, Some Seriously Ill People Risk Losing Drugs They Depend on.”

» He was quoted in a July 23, 2018, article on Vox.com, “Opioid Addiction Is Plateauing. But the Crisis Isn’t Over.”

» He was quoted in a July 31, 2018, article in The New York Times, “After Doctors Cut Their Opioids, Patients Turn to a Risky Treatment for Back Pain.”


» He was quoted in an Aug. 9, 2018, article on STATnews.com, “Clinicians Were Told Their Patient Had Died of an Overdose. Then Opioid Prescribing Dropped.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 10, 2018, article in The Philadelphia Inquirer, “Enmeshed in the Opioid Epidemic, AmerisourceBergen Seeks Goodwill Through Its Foundation.”


» He was quoted in a Sept. 7, 2018, article in Financial Times, “Opioid Billionaire Granted Patent for Addiction Treatment.”
He was quoted in a Sept. 26, 2018, article on Vox.com, “Solving America’s Painkiller Paradox.”

He was quoted in an Oct. 25, 2018, article in The Washington Post, “The Health 202: Here’s How to Tell When the Opioid Crisis Is Starting to Recede.”


He was quoted in a Nov. 20, 2018, article in The Atlantic, “America’s Health-Care System Is Making the Opioid Crisis Worse.”

He was quoted in a Dec. 3, 2018, article in The Washington Post, “Study: Dental Painkillers May Put Young People at Risk of Opioid Addiction.”

He was quoted in a Dec. 24, 2018, article in The Progressive Farmer, “Pandora’s Pill Bottle: What Needs to Be Done About Opioids?”

Mary Jo Larson, PhD’92, was interviewed in the Sept. 7, 2018 (Vol. lxx, No. 18), NIH Record, “Military a ‘Perfect Lab’ for Studying Pain, Larson Says.”


Susan Curnan, Director of the Center for Youth and Communities (CYC), traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December at the invitation of Save the Children and USAID to explore a possible learning exchange program between Ethiopian universities and CYC. The university exchange would draw on CYC’s long experience designing and evaluating education and employability development programs and systems for young people. The Ethiopian universities specifically sought CYC’s guidance for developing private sector partnerships and creating university-based career centers focused on transferable life skills and work readiness. Over the course of the week-long visit, Curnan delivered a keynote address and met with the leadership of the universities, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Country Director for Ethiopia and partners.

The Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy’s (ICYFP) report on housing affordability, unit size, and educational opportunities for families with children was cited in a July 18, 2018, article in Partnership for Strong Communities, “Brandeis Report Illuminates Important Family Tradeoffs.”

ICYFP’s Child Opportunity Index was cited in an Aug. 28, 2018, article in American City and County, “City of Albany Revitalizes Neighborhoods and Playgrounds.”

Clemens Noelke and ICYFP were profiled on Sept. 3, 2018, by the Boston Area Research Initiative, “Research Profile: Brandeis University’s National Equity Research Database (NERD) for Boston.”

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE

Alain Lempereur was quoted in an Oct. 2, 2018, article in The Boston Globe, “How to Navigate a Tense Conversation in These Contentious Times.”

DISABILITIES


EDUCATION

Susan Eaton was a guest on the Sept. 20, 2018, episode of KCUR (Kansas City) radio’s talk show, “Up To Date.” The topic was “Integration of Schools.”

ENVIRONMENT

Eric Olson, Chairman of the Newton, Mass., Citizens Commission on Energy, contributed to the following:

He participated as a speaker in a Nov. 27, 2018, panel at the Newton Free Library, “Greening Our Community/Newton Power Choice.”

He wrote a Nov. 29, 2018, op-ed in the Newton Tab, “Newton Signs Historic Green Energy Contract.”
He helped conduct on-street surveys about Newton residents’ willingness to pay, and met repeatedly with Newton officials, including then-mayoral candidate and now Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.

**EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Maria Madison was the introductory speaker for the Sept. 17, 2018, Walden Woods Project Stewardship Lecture, featuring Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., descendant of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Robbins House in Concord, Mass., of which Madison is founder and president.

On Nov. 27, 2018, Maria Madison delivered a lecture at the BOLLI Distinguished Speakers Series at Brandeis University, entitled “Ellen Garrison Jackson, Citizen of Concord, Civil Rights Pioneer.”

**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**


Joan Dassin ’69 participated in the Social Emancipation Summer School: Post-Development, Comunidad and Decoloniality, held at Universidad de la Tierra, Oaxaca, Mexico, Aug. 5-14, 2018.

Joan Dassin wrote an Aug. 13, 2018, article at Australian Policy and History (aph.org.au), “Senator Fulbright, We Need You Now.”

**HEALTH**

Stuart Altman contributed to the following:

- He was quoted in a July 18, 2018, article in CommonWealth magazine, “Health Care Watchdog: BI-Lahey Merger Will Hike Costs.”
- He was quoted in a Sept. 26, 2018, article on MassLive.com, “Health Policy Commission to Study Nurse Staffing Ballot Question.”
- He was quoted in an Oct. 3, 2018, article in CommonWealth magazine, “Health Panel Ventures Into Political Arena.”
- He was interviewed for the Oct. 14, 2018, Federation of American Hospitals’ podcast Hospitals in Focus with Chip Kahn, “Stuart Altman Discusses the Development of the Modern Hospital.”
- He was quoted in an Oct. 17, 2018, article on MassLive.com, “Confusion Swirls Around Nurse Staffing Ballot Question.”
- He was quoted in a Nov. 13, 2018, article in CommonWealth magazine, “Nurse Staffing Study Left Union in the Dark.”
- He was featured as a guest on the Nov. 28, 2018, edition of WBUR’s Radio Boston, “Patients Hit With ‘Surprise Bills’ After Urgent Care Visits.”
- He was quoted in a Dec. 13, 2018, article on MassLive.com, “Massachusetts Residents Spent $80 Million on Low-Value Health Care, Report Finds.”

Stuart Altman and Robert Mechanic authored a post on the July 13, 2018, Health Affairs Blog, entitled “Health Care Cost Control: Where Do We Go From Here?”

Cynthia Tschampl, PhD’15, provided testimony on health care cost implications of infectious disease outbreaks at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission’s Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing, held Oct. 16, 2018, in Boston.

**IMMIGRATION**

On Oct. 27, 2018, Susan Eaton’s book, “Integration Nation,” was selected as a “Subway Read” by the New York Immigrant Coalition.
**Anita Hill** contributed to the following:

» She was interviewed on the July 29, 2018, episode of HBO’s Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, “Workplace Sexual Harassment: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.”

» She was quoted in a Sept. 10, 2018, article in *Variety*, “Anita Hill: Next CBS CEO Will Be Invited to Fill Moonves Slot on Sexual Harassment Commission.”

» She was quoted in a Sept. 14, 2018, article in *Politico*, “Anita Hill: Kavanaugh Accuser Deserves ‘Fair and Neutral’ Process.”

» She wrote a Sept. 18, 2018, article in *The New York Times*, “Anita Hill: How to Get the Kavanaugh Hearings Right.”

» She was interviewed on the Sept. 19, 2018, episode of PBS NewsHour, “Anita Hill on Kavanaugh: ‘Without an Investigation, There Cannot Be an Effective Hearing.’”

» She was interviewed on the Sept. 25, 2018, episode of WBUR’s *All Things Considered*, “Anita Hill Says Kavanaugh Accuser Hearing ‘Cannot Be Fair.’”

» She was quoted in a Sept. 28, 2018, article in *The New York Times*, “Anita Hill to Christine Blasey Ford: ‘Don’t Do Anything That Will Dehumanize You.’”

» She was quoted in an Oct. 3, 2018, article in *Fortune*, “Anita Hill: ‘We Want to Believe That Christine Blasey Ford Can Survive.’”

» She was quoted in an Oct. 8, 2018, article in *TheWrap*, “Anita Hill Calls on Hollywood to Make ‘Tangible Commitments’ to Address Harassment and Equality Goals.”

» She was quoted in an Oct. 10, 2018, article in *The Guardian*, “Anita Hill: Kavanaugh Confirmation Hearing ‘Disservice to the American Public.’”

» She was interviewed in an Oct. 14, 2018, article in *New York* magazine, “Women and Power: Chapter 1.”
She was quoted in a Nov. 2, 2018, article in TheWrap, and featured in the associated video, “Anita Hill Vows to Do What the Government Won’t: ‘The Down and Dirty Work of Changing Culture.’”

She was quoted in a Nov. 18, 2018, article on Reflector.com, “Hill Sees Turning Point in Fight Against Harassment.”

She was interviewed in a Dec. 6, 2018, article in The New York Times, “‘Clearly the Tide Has Not Turned’: A Q&A With Anita Hill.”

She was quoted in a Dec. 13, 2018, article in Fortune, “Anita Hill: Companies Should Treat Sexual Harassment as an Abuse of Power.”

David Weil contributed to the following:

» He was interviewed in a July 6, 2018, article in Het Financieele Dagblad, “The Rise of Uber Is a Shakespearean Tragedy for Workers.”

» He was quoted in a July 25, 2018, article in Bloomberg, “Inside Google’s Shadow Workforce.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 17, 2018, article in The Dallas Morning News, “Unpaid: After Hurricane Harvey, Texas Failed to Defend Workers Against Wage Exploitation.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 20, 2018, article on NBCNews.com, “Trump Hits Corporate Violators — With a Feather.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 23, 2018, article in Bloomberg, “Microsoft Bug Testers Unionized. Then They Were Dismissed.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 28, 2018, article in The Wall Street Journal, “Trump Administration Launches Effort to Help Employers Comply With Labor Laws.”

» He wrote an article published on Sept. 2, 2018, by the Institute for New Economic Thinking, “Why We Should Worry About Monopsony.”

» He was quoted in a Sept. 4, 2018, article in Jacobin, “Uber’s Big Lie.”

» He was quoted in a Sept. 8, 2018, article in The New York Times, “Harvard Is Vaulting Workers Into the Middle Class With High Pay. Can Anyone Else Follow Its Lead?”

» He was quoted in an Oct. 10, 2018, article in Bloomberg Law, “Walmart, White Castle Raises Could Color Trump Overtime Rule.”

» He was quoted in a Nov. 1, 2018, article in Bloomberg, “Amazon Raises Minimum Pay for Everyone — Except These Workers.”

» He was quoted in a Nov. 15, 2018, article on Marketplace.org, “How Temp Workers Became the Norm in America.”

» He was quoted in a Nov. 25, 2018, article in The Wall Street Journal, “Store Traffic Falls Again on Black Friday but Not All News Is Bad.”

» He was interviewed for the Dec. 12, 2018, broadcast of the eFM “This Morning” (South Korea), “Inequality of Labor and Decent Work.”

» He was cited in a Dec. 19, 2018, article in HuffPost, “Happy Birthday, GOP Tax Law. More Workers Might Become Contractors Because Of You.”

**MANAGEMENT**

David Weil was quoted in a Nov. 2, 2018, article in The Wrap, “Anita Hill Vows to Do What the Government Won’t: ‘The Down and Dirty Work of Changing Culture.’”

David Weil contributed to the following:

» He was interviewed in a July 6, 2018, article in Het Financieele Dagblad, “The Rise of Uber Is a Shakespearean Tragedy for Workers.”

» He was quoted in a July 25, 2018, article in Bloomberg, “Inside Google’s Shadow Workforce.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 17, 2018, article in The Dallas Morning News, “Unpaid: After Hurricane Harvey, Texas Failed to Defend Workers Against Wage Exploitation.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 20, 2018, article on NBCNews.com, “Trump Hits Corporate Violators — With a Feather.”

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» He wrote an article published on Sept. 2, 2018, by the Institute for New Economic Thinking, “Why We Should Worry About Monopsony.”

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» He was quoted in a Sept. 8, 2018, article in The New York Times, “Harvard Is Vaulting Workers Into the Middle Class With High Pay. Can Anyone Else Follow Its Lead?”

» He was quoted in an Oct. 10, 2018, article in Bloomberg Law, “Walmart, White Castle Raises Could Color Trump Overtime Rule.”

» He was quoted in a Nov. 1, 2018, article in Bloomberg, “Amazon Raises Minimum Pay for Everyone — Except These Workers.”

» He was quoted in a Nov. 15, 2018, article on Marketplace.org, “How Temp Workers Became the Norm in America.”

**PHILANTHROPY**

Sheryl Seller ’11, MA’13, authored an Aug. 16, 2018, post on the YouthGiving.org blog, “Youth Philanthropy, Trust Building, and Sharing Power.”

Sheryl Seller authored a Sept. 7, 2018, post on the National Center for Family Philanthropy blog, “How to Start a Youth Philanthropy Program.”
Robert Kuttner contributed to the following:

- He wrote the following articles for **HuffPost**:
  - July 1, 2018, “Trump’s Tax Cut Snake Oil Should Be the Story Of the Midterms”
  - July 15, 2018, “The Most Incompetent Demagogue in History”
  - July 23, 2018, “Yes, Democrats Need to Run Left — On Economics”
  - Aug. 6, 2018, “Donald Trump Won’t Be the 2020 Republican Nominee, and Other Predictions”
  - Nov. 19, 2018, “Movement Against Nancy Pelosi Is a Classic Democratic Circular Firing Squad”

- He wrote the following articles for **The American Prospect**:
  - Aug. 22, 2018, “Trump’s Fall: The End Game”
  - Nov. 13, 2018, “Will Mueller Survive?”
  - Dec. 17, 2018, “As Trump Comes Apart, Can Democrats Come Together?”


- His book “Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?” was reviewed in:
  - **Foreign Affairs**, September/October 2018 issue, “Brand New Left, Same Old Problems”

- He was quoted in an Aug. 31, 2018, article in **The New Yorker**, “What Does Trump Want With Canada and NAFTA?”

- He was interviewed on the Dec. 19, 2018, CBC radio segment, “‘The Ship Deserting the Sinking Rat’: How Will Republicans Respond to Mounting Allegations Against Trump?”


**PUBLIC FINANCE**

Robert Tannenwald was quoted in the Reason.com blog on Nov. 28, 2018, “Pennsylvania Subsidized Creed II With $16 Million in Tax Breaks, Even Though It Mostly Takes Place in California.”

**SOCIAL POLICY**


Rajesh Sampath was interviewed for the Oct. 19, 2018, episode of “Bridge the Divide” on Cedarburg Public Library Radio, “Bridge the Divide — Special Report — ‘To Kill a Mockingbird in Shorewood, WI.’”
Stuart Altman was the 2018 Gustav O. Lienhard Award Recipient for the Advancement of Health Care, given for outstanding achievement in improving health care services in the U.S., which was awarded at the National Academy of Medicine Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., October 2018.

Janet Boguslaw contributed to the following:

» She was on the Workforce Development Steering Committee on Racial Equity at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

» She was the humanities advisor on the film *The Kitchenistas of National City*, funded by the Beyster Foundation for Enterprise Development.

Diana Bowser was appointed to the editorial board for *Health Systems and Reform*.


Joan Dassin ’69 contributed to the following:

» She is the chair of the External Advisory Committee for the MSc program in International Health and Tropical Medicine at the Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health in the Nuffield Department of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

» She was a reviewer to evaluate the Mastercard Scholarship Program in South Africa, Ghana and Uganda.

» She was a reader for applications to the Schwarzman Scholars Program in the 2018 cycle.

Susan Eaton was selected as a member of the Dual Language Research Alliance by the American Councils for International Education, based in Washington, D.C.

In December 2018, Susan Eaton was appointed to two terms as a member of the American Educational Research Association’s (AERA) Outstanding Book Award Committee by AERA President Amy Stuart Wells and AERA Executive Director Felice Levine.

This committee selects the best book-length publication in educational research and development. The key criterion for this award is that the winning book be concerned with the improvement of the educational process through research or scholarly inquiry.
Jody Hoffer Gittell contributed to the following:
» She is the vice chair of the Board of Trustees for the Endowment for Health.
» She is treasurer of NAACP Seacoast.
» She was a member of the program committee for the Labor and Employment Relations Association.
» She is on the editorial board of the Academy of Management Review.

Walter Leutz, PhD’81, was appointed president of the board of African Cultural Services (Africano), a Waltham, Mass., community organization serving Ugandan youth and their families.

Maria Madison contributed to the following:
» She was appointed to Suffolk University’s Public History Advisory Board.
» She was appointed as a practicum supervisor for the University of Global Health Equity, UGHE/PIH (Partners in Health).

Monika Mitra contributed to the National Institutes of Health, Reviewer Study Section on Pregnancy among Women with Disabilities in July 2018.

Joanne Nicholson contributed to the following:
» She was a guest associate editor of the Frontiers in Psychiatry special issue on Parents with Mental and/or Substance Use Disorders and their Children.
» She is co-editor of the Journal of Parent and Family Mental Health.
» She is a steering committee member of the Prato Centre’s International Research Collaborative for Change in Parent and Child Mental Health at Monash University.

Sharon Reif was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) ad hoc panel Review of Specific Programs in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

Donald Shepard was awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Laurence Simon was appointed to the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Social Inclusion Studies.
Redefining Housing Insecurity

PhD candidate Giselle Routhier assesses the pressures on urban renters
A new study by Heller PhD candidate Giselle Routhier shows that the majority of renters in 25 U.S. metropolitan areas experience some form of housing insecurity. The study, published in Housing Policy Debate, utilizes a new index of Routhier’s own invention, which measures housing insecurity in four key dimensions: overcrowding, unaffordability, poor physical conditions, and recent eviction or forced move.

“This index provides a way to expand our understanding of housing insecurity,” Routhier says. “It shows that over half of renter households in metro areas across the U.S. experience at least one indicator of housing insecurity, and 25 percent experience three or more.”

Routhier has built a career around housing policy and solutions to homelessness — a crucial field for promoting equity and social justice. She’s currently policy director at the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City, and also a PhD candidate in the Assets and Inequalities concentration at Heller. This study — the first portion of her doctoral dissertation — recognizes that housing insecurity can look very different from family to family.

For example, one family might be housing insecure due to moderate unaffordability (paying more than 30 percent of income on rent), while another family might be facing extreme unaffordability (paying more than half of income on rent) as well as living with severely inadequate physical conditions. Previous measures of housing insecurity have not differentiated between these households, which is why she thinks the field could benefit from this new index.

Her study incorporates data from 25 U.S. metropolitan areas, including Boston. The differences among them are illuminating, she says. “Boston is not as bad in terms of overall housing insecurity, because this index looks at more than just affordability — which we know is a problem here. For example, only 16 percent of Boston/Cambridge renter households had three or more indicators of housing insecurity, compared to 33 percent of renter households in Miami, the city with the worst levels of renter insecurity.”

To complete her dissertation research, Routhier intends to publish two more studies that build on this new index. The second will focus on predictors of housing insecurity, and the third will take a deep dive into metro New York, the city whose housing landscape she knows best.

“Housing has become more of a national topic in recent years, and for good reason,” says Routhier. “We’re seeing exploding rates of homelessness and high unaffordability, and people want to understand what’s going on. My hope is that this research will illuminate two things: first, that an extremely high number of renters are experiencing housing problems, and second, that every level of government should be involved in implementing a policy response to that problem.”

“I’m hoping to provide state, local and federal governments with the tools they need to understand the problems renters are facing, and move the conversation towards answers.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA’17
The Heller School’s Conversations with the Dean featured Sen. Tom Harkin in conversation with Dean David Weil, November 2018.

Heller’s Office of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity co-sponsored and co-organized the following events:


» Roundtable discussion and preparation for Dr. Beverly Tatum’s visit, September 2018.


» Dr. Edgar Villanueva presented “Decolonizing Wealth,” November 2018. This was co-sponsored, as a Sankofa Community Conversation, with the Institute on Assets and Social Policy.

» Roundtable consultation on the topic of “Transformative Conversations” with Dr. Amanda Kemp, November 2018.


On November 1, 2018, the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum brought together over 200 health policy leaders in Massachusetts to discuss “Opioids in the Workforce” at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. The event was cosponsored by the NIDA funded Brandeis/Harvard Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment and the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative, and supported by a special grant from RIZE Massachusetts. The forum provided analysis on how the opioid epidemic affects employers, employees and dependents and examined solutions that will lead to prevention and appropriate treatment.
The MPP Program presented its distinguished public policy lecture at the Heller School on November 12, 2018. Heller professor Robert Kuttner delivered the lecture on the topic “American Democracy: Diagnosis, Prognosis and Remedies and Special Post-Election Analysis.”

The Relational Coordination Research Collaborative (RCRC) hosted the following research webinars. RCRC executive director Jody Hoffer Gittell served as facilitator for each webinar.


» “Leveraging Strategic Human Capital to Improve Service Performance: The Role of Coordination Networks Among Frontline Employees,” November 2018.

The RCRC hosted the following RC in Action Cafés:

» “Feedback from the RCRC Community: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?” co-led by Jody Hoffer Gittell, September 2018.

» “Weaving the Principles of Relational Coordination into Inter-Professional Education,” October 2018.


The 8th Annual RCRC Roundtable, “Relational Dynamics of Multi-Level Systems Change,” was held at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass., in September 2018. Heller-affiliated presenters included:

» Joseph Assan and Pallavi Gupta, MA SID’18, “Bridging Organizations as Institutions of Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development”

» Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld, “Conflict Resolution in the Workplace: Connecting the Relational Coordination Community With the Program on Negotiation Community”

» PhD student Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, “Successes and Challenges of Quality Improvement in Pediatric Primary Care: The Relational Dynamics of Change in Team-Based Care”

» Lauren Hajjar, PhD’16, Research Advisor, RCRC, “An Integrated Model of Relational Coordination and Collaborative Policing”

» PhD candidate Benjamin Kreider, “Trust as an Element of Collaboration: Examining Worker Center-Union Cooperation of Greater Boston”

Rajesh Sampath participated in the following:

» Member of the IMPACT Design Lab: Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation, funded by the Mellon Foundation; Host: Peacebuilding and the Arts, International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., August 2018.


» Panelist, culminating talk by Perlmuter Artist in Residence at the Rose Art Museum, Tuesday Smillie, on the exhibition “To build another world,” MassArt, Boston, November 2018.

Stuart Altman was the host for the Stanley Wallack Distinguished Memorial Series featuring Alan Weil, Chief Editor of Health Affairs, speaking about “The End of U.S. Health Policy,” which was sponsored by the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy, at the Heller School in December 2018.
PUBLICATIONS


» “Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap,” pp. 136-137.


» “Sexual Assault and Alcohol Use,” pp. 553-555.

» “Sexual Assault and Drug Use,” pp. 555-557.


Yaminette Diaz-Linhart (Trainee), Christine Bishop (Faculty) (Co-PIs), Nina Kammerer “Work Design and Well-Being in Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations: Understanding Organizational Factors That Impact Healthcare Worker Well-Being in Complex Care Management Programs”; Funder: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; subcontract to Brandeis from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Education and Research Center

The overarching goal of this mixed methods case study is to describe organizational factors that contribute to safety and well-being of healthcare workers employed to address needs of high-risk complex patients in a complex care management program of a Massachusetts Medicaid ACO.

**PRESENTATIONS**


Bandini, J., and Zhang, Q. “Interprofessional Spiritual Care Training for Geriatric Care Providers.” Presented at the Gerontological Society of America annual meeting, Boston, November 2018.

Dembo, R., Akobirshoev, I., and Mitra, M. “Violence Against Youth With Disabilities: Residual Physical and Mental Health Symptoms.” Presented at:

- CityMatch Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference, Portland, Ore., September 2018.

Evans, B. “Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Implementation: Factors Associated With Service Delivery Rates.” Presented at the 2018 Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Savannah, Ga., October 2018.

Evans, B. “Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): Implementation Characteristics and Implications for Sustainability.” Presented at the 2018 Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Savannah, Ga., October 2018.


Henry, B. “Trauma and Behavioral Health Disorders as Pathways to Prison: Implications for Prevention.” Presented at the 146th American Public Health Association Conference, San Diego, Calif., November 2018.


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT


Brandy Henry, PhD candidate, presented “Decoding Oppressive Language,” at the October 2018 meeting of the New Garden Society, Boston.

Brandy Henry presented “Psychiatric Morbidity of Gang Members: Embodied Trauma, and How to Heal From Life on the Street,” at the October 2018 System of Care Meeting at the Home for Little Wanderers, Boston.

Brandy Henry was featured in a Nov. 14, 2018, online article in Boston University School of Social Work, “BUSSW Lecturer Brandy Henry Appointed to Massachusetts Restrictive Housing Oversight Committee.”

Benjamin Kreider, PhD candidate, contributed to the following:

» He was quoted on Aug. 28, 2018, by the Associated Press, “Student Workers at Brandeis Get First Labor Contract.”

» He was quoted in an Aug. 29, 2018, article on WGBH Boston, “Brandeis Reaches Labor Deal With Grad Student Union.”

» He authored an Oct. 11, 2018, article on Medium.com, “Amazon's Wage Hike Shows the Importance of Worker Organizing, Not CEOs.”


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

» She was a panelist on “Asian Data Disaggregations — From Inclusion to Exclusion,” at the Chinese American Alliance 2nd National Conference, October, Boston, 2018.

» She offered a detailed memo on behalf of community organization Asian Americans for Equal Rights on the Federal Register notice (83 FR 26643) regarding data collection activities related to the 2020 Census.

PhD candidate Robyn Powell authored the following:

» “I Need Plastic Straws To Drink. I Also Want To Save The Environment,” HuffPost, June 12, 2018.

PhD candidate Robyn Powell was quoted in the following:


MPP student Mel Ptacek organized a candidates’ forum during the recent election for the 1st Franklin house seat in the Massachusetts legislature. The forum was hosted by Racial Justice Rising, a local social justice organization in which Mel is part of the Coordinating Committee, and specifically focused on issues of race, racism, and racial justice.

Mel Ptacek worked with State Representative Paul Mark (2nd Berkshire) to bring attention to a deficiency in current Massachusetts law, that students in higher education lack a state agency to which to bring complaints of discrimination. As a result of her work, legislation was introduced in January 2019 to prohibit sexual harassment of students at institutions of higher education and allow the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to investigate complaints of discrimination from students in higher education.

PhD student Morgan Shields contributed to the following:

- Her research was profiled in a Nov. 7, 2018, article on FierceHealthcare, “The ‘Next Frontier’ for Patient Safety: Inpatient Psychiatric Care.”
- Her research was cited in a Nov. 9, 2018, article in Forbes, “Ignored as an Election Issue, Deaths From Medical Errors Have Researchers Alarmed.”
- Her research was featured in Kaiser Health’s Research Roundup on Nov. 30, 2018.

Javed Iqbal Sofi, MA SID student, published a piece on the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and Biosphere blog, “How Blockchain Can Be Used to Address Food Security in India,” on Dec. 11, 2018.

PhD candidate Joanna Taylor was quoted in an Oct. 5, 2018, article in the Telegram & Gazette, “An Outlier in the State, Worcester Schools Look to Reduce Recent Spike in Emergency Removals.”

MA SID student Mina Yousefi authored a Dec. 28, 2018, post on Minds of the Movement, an International Center on Nonviolent Conflict blog on the people and power of civil resistance, entitled “Protesting Corruption in Iran: Real Demands for Real Change.”

AWARDS AND HONORS

Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, PhD student, was recognized for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work by the Boston University School of Social Work Alumni Association, September 2018.

Yaminette Diaz-Linhart was appointed to a four-year term as a commissioner on the Commission on Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, November 2018.

Brooke Evans, PhD candidate, received the Early Career Investigator Award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) for the 2018 Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Savannah, Ga.

Brandy Henry, PhD candidate, was appointed by Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker to the Restrictive Housing Oversight Committee.

PhD candidate Ben Kreider is a visiting scholar at the George Washington University School of Business, Department of Management, from Oct. 1, 2018, to summer 2019.

Ben Kreider is co-chair of the Labor and Employment Relations Association PhD consortium.

Morgan Shields was invited to be an abstract reviewer for AcademyHealth’s 2019 Annual Research Meeting, “Improving Safety, Quality, and Value.”

Naomi You, MPP’19, Ye Z. Pogue, PhD candidate, and Corrine Holliday-Stocking, PhD student, attended the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 40th Annual Fall Research Conference as three of the 40 selected Equity and Inclusion Fellows.
LABOR AND WORKPLACE

David Weil (PI) “Looking Under the Hood: How the Fissured Workplace Has Transformed Employment and the Dangers of Failing to Realize It”; Funder: Institute for New Economic Thinking

The aim of the project is to provide a detailed description of the fissured workplace and illustrate how its principles play out in a range of industries that have been transformed by it. It will then discuss the consequences of the fissured workplace on a variety of workplace and labor market outcomes. In particular, it will link the fissured workplace to the growth in earnings inequality and connect it to an emerging econometric literature that is consistent with the fissured workplace hypothesis. Finally, the project will explore why the fissured workplace perspective frames very different policy choices than are currently being discussed and why it is essential to change policy dialogues about how to address wage stagnation and economic inequality.


This project explores the adequacy of definitions of employment under statutes like the Fair Labor Standards Act that incorporates one of the broadest definitions of employment or those incorporated in the National Labor Relations Act and many state workplace laws that incorporate common law definitions arising from “master-servant” relationships. It also analyzes doctrines of joint employment, vicarious liability, and other principles of responsibility connected to these statutes and their limitations as applied to the modern workplace setting. Finally, it evaluates newer doctrines that might be developed to achieve longstanding principles of worker protection and fairness in the context of the changing nature of work.

MANAGEMENT


SOCIAL POLICY

Anita Hill (PI) “Imagining Equality for the 21st Century”; Funder: Ford Foundation
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