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THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

Published by
The Heller School Office of Communications
Brandeis University

Photography by
Liz Linder, Mike Lovett, Max Pearlstein ’01, Bethany Romano, MBA’17, Ken Schles and Patrick Singleton.
Photo on pages 14-15 by Abdullah Al Mamun, MA SID’16.
Welcome to the Heller Social Policy Impact Report

Every six months, we compile and publish the collective research achievements of the scientists, faculty and students at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. While the sheer volume of work produced by an institution of our size is always notable, it’s just as remarkable to realize how much of it is on the cutting edge of our researchers’ respective fields, and how it impacts families and communities on a national and global scale.

In every issue of *The Heller Social Policy Impact Report* we showcase five of these research projects in brief articles. In this issue, you’ll read about:

» The Institute on Healthcare Systems, which is leading a national project for Medicare that could redefine how physicians are paid for the medical care they provide

» The Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy’s multifaceted, online tool that allows researchers and policymakers to explore hundreds of measures of child wellbeing

» The Center for Global Development and Sustainability’s groundbreaking evaluation of India’s school lunch program

» The Lurie Institute’s launch of a unique online resource hub called the National Research Center for Parents With Disabilities

» And, PhD student Sara Chaganti, who is exploring the effects of short-term job readiness training — a ubiquitous social program that has never been properly evaluated

I hope you’ll join me in celebrating the great work catalogued in the pages ahead. We are proud of this bold, important research, and we believe it sets the Heller School apart.

Sincerely,

Cindy Parks Thomas, PhD’00
Associate Dean for Research
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From Blank Canvas to a Full Picture

The Institute on Healthcare Systems is developing the solutions for Medicare payment reform
The Institute on Healthcare Systems (IHS) at Heller's Schneider Institutes for Health Policy is focused on improving the ways in which we provide, receive and pay for health care services. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, or MACRA, has the same vision. In 2015, President Obama signed it into law to replace a Medicare reimbursement system that paid doctors for the services they provided, meaning the more tests a doctor ordered, the more that doctor was paid. MACRA takes a different approach: rewarding physicians for giving better care instead of simply providing more services.

“The MACRA legislation, for the first time, announced that Medicare was going to put physician reimbursement and payment systems front and center,” says IHS Director Christopher Tompkins, MMHS’82, PhD’91. “It said we will create an infrastructure that is going to measure quality and report it back to you. We are going to measure costs and report it back to you. It created a culture that supports doctors while entrusting them to transform care delivery and make higher value decisions.”

But how will it be structured? Tompkins and his team were part of the initial kickoff meetings with the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services when CMS summarized the requirements of the new law and how they could be developed into a supporting system. From the beginning, the IHS researchers have partnered with the MITRE Corporation, which CMS contracted to build the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System, or MIPS. “MITRE asked us to help them develop the complex payment design features, and to provide modeling support using an enormous, diverse set of data requirements,” Tompkins explains.

MITRE has been so impressed by the MIPS work that, earlier this year, it awarded the project team — which includes Tompkins and Heller colleagues Anju Joglekar, Moaven Razavi, MS’06, PhD’11, John Chapman and Sue Lee — with one of the corporation’s most significant awards across all of its many projects.

In addition to this work, IHS has also partnered with the American College of Surgeons to develop an alternative payment model for consideration by Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. This new model focuses on “episodes of care,” which considers the group of services that are typically provided when treating a patient for a specific condition.

“Using administrative claims data, we are now able to identify each condition that each patient has, and we can build a very detailed analysis of how each provider is interacting with each patient in a meaningful and clinical context,” Tompkins says. “I think of the old Medicare payment model as an empty canvas, whereas now we can sketch out all the details and draw inferences about the relative quality and costs involved for the entirety of treatment. We can compare a physician’s performance over time to the performance of other providers treating similar patients. It allows us to really drive toward higher value.”

In April, the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee recommended to Secretary Price that the Heller model proceed with limited-scale testing with a small group of medical practices. If that evaluation goes well, the hope is that it will eventually be implemented by CMS.

“I believe this can be the first meaningful alternative payment model for the United States’ health care system,” Tompkins says. “It has the potential to scale up and become an enormous option for virtually any specialty.”
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE


DISABILITIES


HEALTH


PHILOSOPHY


SOCIAL POLICY


Policy Power Tool

Heller School researchers use diversitydatakids.org to better understand legislation’s impact on children.
When Community Catalyst, a nonprofit organization that works with community partners and policymakers in pursuit of quality, affordable health care for all, wanted to know how repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would affect children, it turned to the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (ICYFP) at Heller.

ICYFP Director Dolores Acevedo-Garcia and her team are the researchers behind diversitydatakids.org, a comprehensive online research tool created to help answer critical questions like this one about child health equity issues.

The website’s data tools revealed that undoing the ACA could result in five million children ages 6 to 19 losing their Medicaid eligibility, with Hispanic and black children disproportionately affected. (The policy brief is available at http://bit.ly/DDKonACA).

“The findings were important because they told us that the proposed Medicaid rollback plan was certainly not a ‘marginal’ change that would affect only a handful of children in a handful of racial/ethnic groups or places,” says ICYFP’s Erin Hardy, who led the analysis. “Instead, the results told us that a relatively modest change in the federal eligibility threshold for Medicaid, if realized, would have a sweeping impact felt by millions of school-age children of all races and ethnicities, in all states across the U.S.”

Hardy noted that the impact could also exacerbate health inequities. “We know from the research that access to health insurance coverage for children is vital to supporting child development and well-being. The Medicaid program plays an important role in how we make coverage accessible to black and Hispanic children, who, on average, are more likely to live in low-income and poor families,” she says.

According to the ICYFP team, about 14 percent of Hispanic and 12 percent of black school-age children would become newly ineligible, compared to about 6 percent of white children.

“The ACA analysis is an example of how diversitydatakids.org can insert the equity implications of potential policy changes into a discussion that is often just about the general or average effects, says Acevedo-Garcia. “Similarly, we have shown that expanding paid family and medical leave would benefit all groups, but particularly Hispanic and black families who have more limited access to leave. This type of analysis, which considers the diversity of our child population, is essential.”

Earlier this year, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded Acevedo-Garcia and her colleagues a $3.07 million grant to build the next generation of diversitydatakids.org. The funding will allow the ICYFP team to significantly expand the database, enhance their data storytelling and visualization capacity, and conduct comprehensive targeted outreach and dissemination efforts.

“We know from the research that access to health insurance coverage for children is vital to supporting child development and well-being.”

By Max Pearlstein ’01
Janet Boguslaw (PI) “In-Practice Paper, Examining the Impacts of the Hilton Foundation’s Program Related Investments With the Corporation for Supportive Housing Program”; Funder: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from VIVA Consulting

The project will produce an in-practice paper examining the impact of the Hilton Foundation's Program Related Investments With the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which aims to reduce homelessness in Los Angeles by increasing the availability of supportive housing.

Sara Chaganti (PI) “MASSCAP Data-Driven Decision-Making Workshop”; Funder: MASSCAP (Massachusetts Association for Community Action)

The workshop, part of the MASSCAP leadership development institute, instructed participants in how to use the data they collect to help them make decisions about agency programming and priorities. Participants learned to develop questions about community needs and agency priorities that data can help to answer, utilize data gathered from key sectors of the community during the community assessment process, and adjust plans and priorities based on information that the data yield.

Tatjana Meschede (PI), Susan Gershenfeld “Evaluation of Management Leadership for Tomorrow’s Career Prep and Ascend Scholars Program”; Funder: Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT)

Getting into college, graduating from college and accessing good employment are central to achieving the American Dream. While there has been extensive research on helping underrepresented students get into college and a fair amount is known about graduation results for these students, not enough is known about what happens after college. This evaluation centers on the impacts of MLT’s Ascend College program and MLT’s Career Prep program — the first two steps in MLT’s leadership pipeline to transform minority talent into senior leaders in the business and technology sectors.

Tom Shapiro (PI), Tatjana Meschede “Building Bold: Translational Research for an Inclusive Economy”; Funder: Ford Foundation

This grant provides one-year core support for the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) to conduct and disseminate translational research on inequality, economic mobility and the racial wealth gaps.
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Mary Brolin, Constance Horgan (Co-PIs), Sharon Reif, Dominic Hodgkin, Rachel Sayko Adams, Robert Dunigan, Carol Prost, Margaret Lee, Jennifer Miles, Grant Ritter, Lee Panas “Evaluation of the Lahey Lowell Joint CHART Initiative”; Funder: Argosy Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Lahey Health Behavioral Systems

This evaluation studies the implementation and effectiveness of an intensive case management program for high utilizers of emergency department services with substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment needs. The team will (1) conduct a process evaluation of the CHART Initiative to fully understand and document the intervention, including variations by sites; (2) gather input from key health care system stakeholders to learn about system barriers and facilitators for adoption and sustainability; and (3) conduct a quantitative outcomes analysis of the CHART Initiative, using a pre/post comparison design to determine if the CHART model successfully reduced use of, and costs related to, acute treatment services.

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

The project will provide technical assistance to CDC Prevention for States and Data-Driven Prevention Initiative grantees regarding Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) best practices and use of PDMP data for public health surveillance.

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia (PI) “diversitydatakids.org 2.0: An Indicator and Policy Analysis Project to Advance a National-to-Local Child Racial/Ethnic Equity Agenda”; Funder: W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (ICYFP) has been awarded a three-year, $3.07 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to build the next generation of diversitydatakids.org, its pioneering research project to monitor and analyze whether children of all racial/ethnic groups have adequate and equitable opportunities for healthy development.

Erin Hardy (PI) “Child-Focused Data Dashboards/Profiles of W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) Priority Grantmaking Communities (2.0)”; Funder: W.K. Kellogg Foundation

WKKF aims to collect indicators related to key child wellbeing outcomes across five topical areas (education, early care and education, health, family economic security, and employment equity), for children and families living in WKKF “priority places” — selected communities across the U.S. where WKKF makes a majority of its grantmaking investments. The foundation has a strong focus on alleviating and addressing racial/ethnic disparities through its grantmaking, and therefore requires that the child outcome indicator data be disaggregated by race/ethnicity. The indicator data will be used by the foundation to inform its planning, research and evaluation efforts and also by external stakeholders.

Pamela Joshi (PI), Kate Giapponi Schneider, Erin Hardy, Diana Serrano “Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Implementation Research and Evaluation Planning Partnership”; Funder: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

ICYFP researchers were awarded a new contract with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to establish a research partnership to (1) provide research support for EEC’s review of policies in response to new federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) regulations focused on quality improvement, and (2) develop a plan to evaluate the implementation/effectiveness of a change in state CCDBG policy aimed at increasing access to high-quality care.
**DISABILITIES**

**Ilhom Akobirshoev (PI)** “Trends, Patterns, Quality and Costs of Hospital Utilization Among Working-Age Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorders”; Funder: Brandeis University Office of the Provost

The project will use population-based data to identify national trends, patterns, quality and cost of hospital utilization among working-age adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Monika Mitra (PI), Susan Parish** “Disability-Related Disparities in Sex Education, Contraceptive Use and Unintended Pregnancy”; Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration; Maternal and Child Health Field Initiated Research Program

The researchers will examine disability-related disparities in sex education, contraceptive use and unintended pregnancies.

**Monika Mitra (PI), Susan Parish** “Pregnancy Experiences of Women With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Family Caregiver Perspectives”; Funder: National Institutes of Health; subcontract to Brandeis from Eunice Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The researchers will examine the pregnancy experience of women with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the perspectives of family caregivers.

**EDUCATION**

**Susan Eaton (PI)** “21st Century School Integration: Taking Stock, Strengthening and Advancing the Field”; Funder: Ford Foundation and Einhorn Family Charitable Trust

This project aims to systematically map, strengthen and advance the active and multifaceted field of individuals and organizations working to (1) reduce racial and economic segregation in K-12 schools, and (2) create more equitable, intentionally anti-racist, diverse K-12 schools.

**HEALTH**

**Diana Bowser (PI)** “Achieving Excellence in Primary Health Care in Ethiopia”; Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

The project will assist the Ethiopian team with three main research activities: (1) An analysis of effective coverage of primary health care in Ethiopia, (2) an analysis of the equality of quality of care in Ethiopia and (3) understanding respectful care in Ethiopia.

**Diana Bowser (PI)** “Health Care Financing in India”; Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

This project will develop the methodology for and conduct the analysis for two main research activities: (1) a Benefits Incidence Analysis of Public Sector health care in India, and (2) a substitution analysis of central and local health care financing in India.

**Donald S. Shepard (PI), Yara Halasa, Wu Zeng** “Quality of Life of Dengue Patients”; Funder: Sanofi Pasteur

This study aims to increase knowledge on the adverse impact of dengue illness on quality of life based on a systematic literature review and analysis of an original data set. This information will allow for more accurate estimates of burden of disease and cost-effectiveness analyses of preventive interventions.

**Wu Zeng (PI)** “Comprehensive Pricing Survey of the Pharmaceutical Sector in Bangladesh”; Funder: World Bank

The study will provide technical support on examining the prices, availability and affordability of medicines in Bangladesh.

**Wu Zeng (PI)** “Review of Value for Money in Results-Based Financing Programs”; Funder: World Bank

This study will conduct a literature review of cost-effectiveness of health system interventions on maternal and child health in low- and middle-income countries.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Joseph Assan (PI), Afia Adaboh** “Perceptions of Charity, Cash Assistance and State-Led Welfare in Ghana”; Funder: John Templeton Foundation

The study employs ethnographic research to examine the initial impact of Ghana’s Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program. LEAP is a social cash transfer program that provides cash and health insurance to extremely poor households across the country with the objective of reducing poverty and enhancing sustainable human capital development.

**Marion Howard (PI)** “Forgotten Voices: Ocean Identity and Heritage”; Funder: Brandeis University Office of the Provost

This grant includes field-based research to explore ocean heritage and marine “sense of place” in the world view of the Raizal people of Colombia’s San Andres Archipelago, Western Caribbean.
Measuring India’s Grade School Lunch Program

Researchers from the Center for Global Development and Sustainability evaluated the impact in India’s largest state.
In an ideal educational setting, lunch would be as much a staple of the standard grade school day as math and history. But that hasn’t always been the case in India, which is home to 61 million malnourished children.

To combat the problem, in 2001 the Supreme Court of India passed an order directing state governments to provide schoolchildren with a free, nutritious lunch. To carry out this ambitious “Mid-Day Meal Scheme,” many local governments hired private and nonprofit organizations to implement the program.

One of those nonprofit partners is Akshaya Patra, a U.S.-based foundation that serves meals to more than 1.6 million children in over 13,000 Indian schools. It recently built a centralized kitchen in Lucknow, the capital of India’s most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, and wanted to assess its performance.

Akshaya Patra hired the Center for Global Development and Sustainability (GDS) at Heller to conduct the evaluation, led by Joseph Assan (PI) and GDS Director Laurence Simon.

“On its surface, it may sound like just a feeding program, but it is also a significant food security and nutrition intervention, as well as a human capability development program,” Assan says. “In that sense, it is very much a social policy initiative.”

Akshaya Patra provides lunch at more than 1,000 schools in Uttar Pradesh alone. The GDS team wasn’t tasked with accessing each school’s performance, but instead examined the high-level social, educational and nutritional impacts of the program. They also set out to gain an understanding of student and teacher satisfaction levels.

The GDS researchers prepared data collection tools and arranged for Abdullah Al Mamun, MA SID’16, a statistician and field survey specialist, to train a group of local university students to gather information from more than 2,000 individuals. Assan then worked with Heller GDS PhD students Dinar Kharisma and Afia Adaboh to clean and analyze the data.

“In the technical sense, the program is doing well,” Assan says. “Akshaya Patra’s goal is to ensure a high standard of food quality and consistent delivery. Thanks to the centralized kitchen in Lucknow, the logistical routines are operating smoothly and the program has a positive reception. There are, of course, some variations in terms of food occasionally arriving early or late. Overall, however, teachers are engaged in the program, and the children are consistently being fed.”

In looking through the data, the researchers noticed that how children are fed highlighted an unexpected issue.

“When we asked how the program could be improved, a significant number of respondents asked for utensils and cutlery, which was a surprise,” Assan says. “In traditional Indian culture, you wash your hands before a meal and then you eat with your hands. We dug into the data to understand what might have contributed to this view, and it turns out that because school meals are traditionally taken on the floor instead of at tables, many children would have to touch the floor to sit down before eating and wanted to avoid cross-contaminating the food.”

The study also identified at-risk children who require additional nutritional support.

The GDS team delivered its report to Akshaya Patra in early summer. “The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is valuable, and it’s vital for Akshaya Patra to communicate to its donors that this needs to be a continuous program and not just a one-off intervention,” Assan says. “One problem in many developing countries is that when programs achieve a goal, it’s exciting for a time. But once that initial elation fades, the whole thing falls apart and everything goes back to the original state of affairs. This report highlights and stresses the need for continuous monitoring/evaluation, expansion and improvement of the program.”

By Max Pearlstein ’01
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


Shapiro, T. “Toxic Inequality: How America’s Racial Wealth Gap Threatens Our Future.” Presented at:


Shapiro, T. “America’s Widening Racial Wealth Gap—Why It Distances All of Us From Each Other.” Presented at Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas, June 2017.


**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**


Hodgkin, D., Reif, S., Stewart, M.T., Mohr, B., Horgan, C.M., and Ma, A. “Target Attainability and Provider Response in Pay-For-Performance: Evidence From Substance Use Disorder Treatment.” Presented at:

» 13th Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry, sponsored by International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics, Venice, Italy, March 2017.

» Mental Health Seminar, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C., April 2017.


Kolodny, A. “Responding to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: An Epidemic of Addiction.”


» Keynote lecture delivered at the Orange County District Attorney’s Office Opioid Crisis Summit, Santa Ana, Calif., May 2017.


Kolodny, A. Keynote speaker, Lake County California Second Annual Opioid Safety Summit, hosted by Marymount California University, Lucerne, Calif., February 2017.


Kolodny, A. Introduced “Warning: This Drug May Kill You” (Perri Peltz, director, 2017), HBO Documentary Films Special Preview Screening, National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, sponsored by Operation Unite, Atlanta, April 2017. Dr. Kolodny served as medical advisor on the film and appears in its web extras.


Kreiner, P., Thomas, C., and Horgan, C.M. “CBHSQ Research Seminar: Prescription Behavior Surveillance System (PBSS) Project.” Webinar supported by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Administration for Children and Families (ACF).


Reif, S., Creedon, T.B., Stewart, M.T., Horgan, C.M., and Garnick, D.W. “Commercial Health Plan Coverage of Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders From 2003-2014 — Results From a National Survey.” Presented at:
» 40th Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting, Denver, June 2017.

Reif, S., Horgan, C.M., Stewart, M.T., Garnick, D.W., Quinn, A.E., Evans, B., Garito, L., and Creedon, T.B. “Behavioral Health Provider Network Structures and Adequacy Standards in Private Health Plans.” Presented at:
» College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Montréal, June 2017.
» 40th Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting, Denver, June 2017.

Supported by NIDA R01 DA029316, NIAAA R01 AA01086 and by the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (P30 DA035772).

Reif, S., Stewart, M.T., Davis, M.T., Torres, M.E., Nguyen, A.M., Hodgkin, D., and Horgan, C.M. “Incentivizing Clinicians in Outpatient Substance Use Treatment for Program-Level Performance — Early Results From an RCT.” Presented at:
» College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Montréal, June 2017.

Supported by NIDA R01 DA029316, NIAAA R01 AA01086 and by the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (P30 DA035772).


**CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE**


Lempereur, A. “Contemporary Belgium at the Heart of Europe.” Inter-University Lecture, Antwerp, Belgium, May 2017.


DISABILITIES


Lorenz, L.S. “The Continuum of Care for Severe Brain Injury and the ‘Case’ of Massachusetts.” Presented at Ethics Series II: Ethics of Care, webinar sponsored by the National Association of Head Injury Administrators, June 2017.


Mitra, M. “Pregnancy Outcomes and Barriers to Perinatal Care Among Women With Physical Disabilities: Making the Case for Inclusion.” Presented at:

» Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch Speaker Series, hosted by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver


**HEALTH**


Mechanic, R. “Applying Lessons From Medicare Total Joint Replacement Bundles to Other Conditions.” Presented at the CoHSTAR Summer Institute on Health Services Research, Boston, June 2017.


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT


Howard, M. Delivered a series of guest lectures on small island sustainable development and environmental conservation, sponsored by the University College of the Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands, British West Indies, February 2017.


MANAGEMENT

Gittell, J.H. “Transforming Relationships for High Performance: The Power of Relational Coordination.” Presented at:

» Visiting speaker series, Alberta School of Business, sponsored by the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta., Canada, February 2017.

» Care Redesign Workshop, sponsored by the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, March 2017.


» Emory Quality Conference, sponsored by Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, June 2017.

» University College Zealand Research Forum, Online, June 2017.


Work,“ sponsored by the Labor and Employment Relations Association, Anaheim, Calif., June 2017.


**SOCIAL POLICY**

Bridging the Information Gap

Lurie Institute launches National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities
In recent decades, people with disabilities have become increasingly integrated into mainstream employment, education, housing and public life. Among them, a growing number are choosing to become parents, and yet they encounter a lack of support and increased discrimination when they do so. Many people assume that people with disabilities are inherently unfit as parents, although the evidence shows that this assumption is false.

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy has identified a scarcity of information about parenting with a disability, for parents themselves, as well as advocates, policymakers, health care professionals, family members, legal professionals and social workers.

In response to this information gap, Lurie Institute Interim Director Monika Mitra and a team of researchers are launching a web-based resource hub called the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities. This project is the product of a five-year grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research, and its huge coalition of supporters includes an advisory board of parents with disabilities, research partners at eight universities, and dissemination partners at 15 national advocacy and professional organizations.

The project has three main prongs, says Mitra. “One is conducting research — building a body of evidence and systematically analyzing existing state legislation that applies to parents with disabilities. The second piece is developing a knowledge base of interventions, and the third is disseminating resources to a broad set of stakeholders. We want to be inclusive of parents with a very diverse set of disabilities, as well as physicians, attorneys, judges, child welfare professionals, social workers and so forth.”

On the website, parents with disabilities will find information on adaptive parenting, training related to their parental rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other resources. Attorneys can access guides on civil rights protections for parents with disabilities. Advocates can utilize campaign strategy toolkits based on successful state initiatives to pass legislation that protects parents with disabilities.

“Whether you’re a social worker, a policy wonk in a state senator’s office or a parent with a disability, you can come to this website and get an array of relevant information.”

“This will be the central hub for all of that, and more,” says Mitra. “We’re doing this in a very systematic way.”

The team is also deeply committed to inclusiveness and accessibility for people with a broad range of disabilities. “Everything we write, we look at through the lens of accessibility, including for people with intellectual disabilities, and we structure it so that it’s appropriate for cross-disability support as well,” says Michelle Techler, Lurie Institute assistant director.

“Resources are useless if you can’t actually access them,” adds Robyn Powell, a PhD candidate and Lurie Institute research associate. “That’s also why we’re making sure that all of our resources are fully accessible to people with diverse disabilities, as well as free.”

“Until now, there’s been no centralized hub for this diverse set of stakeholders,” says Mitra. “Whether you’re a social worker, a policy wonk in a state senator’s office or a parent with a disability, you can come to this website and get an array of relevant information. And we know from our research that people from all of these different groups really want this information. There’s a real gap here, and this is one way to fill it.”

Bethany Romano, MBA'17
AGING

Christine Bishop was interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio’s June 2, 2017, segment “What’s Behind the High Cost of Caring for Seniors?”

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

In November 2016, the Institute on Assets and Social Policy held a convening in New York City entitled “Reimagining Work and Wealth,” which was supported by a grant from the Institute of International Education and the Ford Foundation. IASP speakers included Janet Boguslaw, Jessica Santos, PhD’15, and Thomas Shapiro, who discussed “Occupational Segregation and the Racial Wealth Gap.”

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy’s research was cited in the following:


» NextCity’s Feb. 6, 2017, article “The Racial Wealth Gap Is a Policy Problem, Not a Behavior Problem.”

» The Root’s Feb. 6, 2017, article “Attending College Doesn’t Close Wage Gap and Other Myths Exposed in New Report.”

» Bloomberg’s Feb. 8, 2017, article “The Big Reason Whites Are Richer than Blacks in America.”


» Slate’s Feb. 9, 2017, article “This Damning Chart Shows How Much of a Head Start White Families Have Over Black Families.”


Rebecca Loya, PhD’12, provided testimony for the Oregon State House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee regarding House Bill 3367 on April 4, 2017.

Rebecca Loya, PhD’12, provided testimony for the Oregon State Senate Education Committee regarding Senate Bill 996 on April 4, 2017.
Thomas Shapiro contributed the following:

- He authored The Boston Globe's Feb. 24, 2017, article “Seven Ideas for Curing Toxic Inequality.”
- He was interviewed for The Atlantic's March 20, 2017, article “Why Black Families Struggle to Build Wealth.”
- He produced This Is Hell's April recording “On the Origins of America’s Racial Wealth Divide, and the Endpoint of Toxic Inequality.”
- He authored AlterNet's April 11, 2017, article “How Did America’s Wealth Inequality Reach This Level of Toxic?”
- He was quoted in The Portland Tribune's May 9, 2017, article “Many Missed the Homeownership Boat.”
- He was interviewed for PolicyLink's May 11, 2017, article “Visionary Opposition: Thomas Shapiro on the Growing Racial Wealth Gap and How to Reduce It.”
- He was interviewed for The Big Picture's May 17, 2017, video “Is Inequality Tearing Apart Our Democracy?”
- He authored the Bill Moyers May 17, 2017, article “How Our Tax Code Makes Inequality Worse.”
- He was quoted in KGW Portland's June 6, 2017, article “How Market Forces and Bias Displaced African Americans in Portland.”
- He was interviewed on Slate's The Gist's June 20, 2017, podcast, “Is Terrorism Coverage Racist?”
- He was interviewed on The Majority Report's June 29, 2017, segment “Toxic Inequality: How America’s Wealth Gap Destroys Mobility, Deepens the Racial Divide, and Threatens Our Future.”

Mary Brolin, PhD’05, co-authored CommonWealth Magazine's May 29, 2017, article “How to Stop Prison’s Revolving Door.”

Tom Clark was quoted in The Washington Post's Jan. 14, 2017, article “New State Rules are Forcing Opioid Prescribers to Confront ‘Doctor Shopping’.”

The Institute for Behavioral Health was cited in an April 20, 2017, LinkedIn blog post “Preventing Chronic Opioid Therapy Addiction: PDMP’s Alone Are Not the Answer!”

Andrew Kolodny contributed to the following:

- He was quoted in PRI Science Friday's Dec. 31, 2016, article “In 2015 Alone, 33,000 Americans Died of an Opioid-Related Overdose. What’s Fueling the Epidemic?”
- He was quoted in Addiction Now's Jan. 11, 2017, article “OxyContin Targets the World.”
- He was quoted in USA Today's Feb. 4, 2017, article “N.J. Opioid Story: From Football Field to Addiction.”
- He was interviewed on WBUR’s On Point with Tom Ashbrook's Feb. 8, 2017, segment “America’s Ongoing Opioid Crisis.”
- He was quoted in CBS San Francisco Bay Area's Feb. 16, 2017, article “Price of Drug That Saves Overdose Victims Soaring out of Reach.”
- He was quoted in Philly.com's Feb. 21, 2017, article “Health Insurers Make it Easier for Doctors to Prescribe Addiction Treatment.”
- He was quoted in CNN's Feb. 24, 2017, article “Are Recreational Marijuana and Opioid Addiction Linked?”
- He was quoted in FOX31 Denver's Feb. 26, 2017, article “73% of Overdose Deaths in 2015 Were From Opioids.”
- He was quoted in The New York Times' March 13, 2017, article “As Drug Deaths Soar, Mayor Offers Plan to Cut Toll.”
- He was quoted in USA Today's March 14, 2017, article “Federal Advisory Panels Agree Opana’s Risks Outweigh Benefits.”
- He was quoted in Modern Healthcare’s March 30, 2017, article “Trump Opioid Commission Leaves Out Key Stakeholder.”
- He was quoted in The Intercept's April, 4, 2017, article “Donald Trump’s Pick to Oversee Big Pharma Is Addicted to Opioid-Industry Cash.”
- He was quoted in Fox News’ April 11, 2017, video “Drugged: Big Pharma, the FDA, and the Opioid Crisis.”
- He was quoted in Modern Healthcare’s April 12, 2017, article “Trump’s Rumored Pick for Drug Czar Panned by Addiction Experts.”
He was quoted in *The International Business Times'* April 14, 2017, article “Trump’s Pick for Drug Czar Hauled in Thousands of Dollars From Drug Distributors He Wrote Bill to Protect.”

He was quoted in *Modern Healthcare’s* April 24, 2017, article “Surgeon General Murthy’s Departure Paints Uncertain Path Ahead for Opioid Crisis.”

He authored *The Hill’s* April 25, 2017, article “Trump Is Not Off to a Good Start With Opioid Addiction.”

He was quoted in *The Los Angeles Times’* May 3, 2017, article “Congressional Representatives Warn WHO of OxyContin Maker’s Global Push.”

He was quoted in *Mother Jones’* May 10, 2017, article “Trump’s Health Secretary Says Addiction Meds Are ‘Substituting One Opioid for Another.’”

He was quoted in *Philly.com’s* May 15, 2017, article “Ready to Get off Opioids? How to Make Recovery Stick.”

He was quoted in *USA Today’s* May 15, 2017, article “Trump Administration Missing Mark on Opioids, Advocates Say.”

He was quoted in *Refinery29’s* May 19, 2017, article “What Everyone Should Know About Opioids.”

He was quoted in *Vox’s* May 23, 2017, article “Trump’s Budget Makes it Official: He’s Doing Little to Nothing About the Opioid Epidemic.”

He was quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education’s* May 31, 2017, article “To Counter Opioid Crisis, NIH Pushes Researchers to Invent More Drugs.”

He was interviewed in *NBC’s Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly’s* June 4, 2017, video “Addicted to Profit?”

He was quoted in *The Chicago Tribune’s* June 5, 2017, article “Chronic Pain Patients Say Opioid Crackdown Is Hurting Them.”

He was a guest speaker in *Democracy Now!’s* June 7, 2017, video “Worst Epidemic in U.S. History? Opioid Crisis Now Leading Cause of Death for Americans Under 50.”

He was quoted in *Forbes’* June 8, 2017, article “Wow. In a First, FDA Requests an Opioid Be Pulled From the Market.”

He was quoted in *STAT News’* June 8, 2017, article “FDA Wants to Yank an Opioid Painkiller Over Concerns About Abuse.”

He was quoted in *USA Today’s* June 11, 2017, article “Medical Responses to Opioid Addiction Vary by State, Analysis Finds.”


He was quoted in *STAT News’* June 21, 2017, article “Addiction Experts Say GOP Proposal to Replace Medicaid Spending Won’t Help.”

He was a panelist for *The Washington Post’s* June 21, 2017, panel “Live: Addiction in America: Cause and Effect.”

He was a guest speaker on *WBUR’s On Point with Tom Ashbrook’s* June 27, 2017, segment “Health Care, Medicaid Cuts and the Opioid Crisis.”

He was quoted in *Vox’s* June 27, 2017, article “3 Ways the Senate Health Care Bill Would Make One of America’s Deadliest Public Health Crises Worse.”

He was quoted in *Politico’s* June 29, 2017, article “Opioid Cash to Sweeten Senate Health Bill for Moderates.”

He was quoted in *Vox’s* June 29, 2017, article “America’s Failed Response to the Opioid Epidemic, in One Statistic.”

**Andrew Kolodny** appeared on a panel at the Tribeca Film Festival, held in New York, N.Y., in April 2017, following a screening of the HBO documentary film “Warning: This Drug May Kill You” (Perri Peltz, director, 2017). Dr. Kolodny served as medical advisor on the film and appears in its web extras.

**Peter Kreiner** was quoted in the following:

- In the (Minneapolis/St. Paul) *Star Tribune’s* Feb. 20, 2017, article “Could Mandatory Database Curb Opioid Abuse?”
- In *Triad Business Journal’s* April 5, 2017, article “OxyContin Maker Launches Initiative to Tackle Opioid Crisis in North Carolina.”
- In *Behavioral Health Executive’s* May 24, 2017, article “How Effective Are PDMPs?”

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**Maura Baldiga and Pamela Joshi, PhD’01**, co-authored the article “Making Leave Affordable” in the following publications:

- *The Huffington Post* on June 1, 2017.

**Erin Hardy** contributed to the following:

- She was interviewed in *WBUR’s All Things Considered’s* June 2, 2017 segment.
She was cited in Community Catalyst’s May 30, 2017, blog post “Rolling Back Progress: Medicaid Cuts Would Deny Children of Color Access to Care.”

She was cited in Education Votes’ May 31, 2017, blog post “Trump’s Health Care Bill Puts Millions of Children in Harm’s Way.”

The Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy’s research was cited in the following:

- The research section of the most recent Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Policy (the FAMILY Act) in the Senate (see #21) on Feb. 7, 2017.
- BrandeisNOW’s May 30, 2017, cover story “Heller School Researchers Estimate that 5 Million Children Will Lose Medicaid Eligibility Under ACA Repeal.” The story was also picked up by Speak Now for Kids for a May 31, 2017, article under the same title.
- The Miami New Times’ June 6, 2017, article “In Florida, 88,000 Black and 118,000 Hispanic Kids Would Lose Coverage Under Obamacare Repeal.”
- WDEF TV’s June 9, 2017, article “Chattanooga Group Protest Republican Healthcare Plan.”

Nancy McArdle, Maura Baldiga, Pamela Joshi, and Dolores Acevedo-Garcia co-authored The Society Pages’ May 18, 2017, article “Myths and Facts for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.”

Lindsay Rosenfeld co-authored The Huffington Post’s May 19, 2017, article “National School Lunch Program Threatened: Students Need Healthy, Nutritious Food.”

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE

Mari Fitzduff contributed to the following:

- She authored The Huffington Post’s Feb. 17, 2017, article “Fostering Transformative Leadership and Peaceful Plurality in the Age of Trump.”
- She was interviewed on The Matt Townsend Show’s May 31, 2017, segment “Why Irrational Politics Appeals.”

Ted Johnson authored The Worcester Telegram’s April 23, 2017, article “As I See It: Syria & R2P: A Path Away From Hypocrisy.”

ECONOMICS

David Weil contributed to the following:

- He was quoted in The Washington Post’s June 8, 2017, article “Trump Officials Quietly Scrap Obama-Era Plan to Protect Fast Food Workers.”
- He was interviewed on NPR’s June 9, 2017, segment “The Faceless Boss: A Look Into the Uber Driver Workplace.”
- He was interviewed for Equitable Growth’s June 22, 2017, article “Equitable Growth in Conversation: David Weil.”
- He was quoted in Politico’s June 30, 2017, article “5 Things Trump Did While You Weren’t Looking.”

EDUCATION

Susan Eaton contributed to the following:

- She was cited on WCVB’s Jan. 16, 2017, video segment “METCO: Parents Fight for Education.”
- She was quoted in The Ct. Mirror’s June 12, 2017, article “English Learners: Other Places Are Showing What Works.”
ENIRONMENT

Eric Olson published the following in The Newton TAB:
» “Commentary: Aggregation Presents a Rare Opportunity,” March 17, 2017.

HEALTH

Stuart Altman contributed to the following:
» He was quoted in Boston.com’s Feb. 27, 2017, article “Massachusetts Was Ranked as the No. 1 State in the Country. And Governor Charlie Baker is Pretty Pumped.”
» He was quoted in Boston Magazine’s March 13, 2017, article “We Can’t Go Back to Romneycare: How an ACA Repeal Endangers Massachusetts.”
» He was quoted in CommonHealth’s March 29, 2017, article “Massachusetts Tightens Cap on Health Care Spending for 2018.”
» He was quoted in Boston Business Journal’s March 30, 2017, article “We Have to Do It; State Lowers Caps on Health Care Spending.”
» He was quoted in State House News Service’s April 3, 2017, article “State Panel Seeks Lower Rate of Growth in Health Care Costs by Fiat.”
» He was a guest on WBUR’s On Point with Tom Ashbrook’s June 26, 2017, segment, “Senate Takes a Swing at Health Care.”

Diana Bowser and Monica Jordan co-authored The Huffington Post’s Feb. 9, 2017, article “Why You Should Study Global Health Policy and Management in the Age of Trump.”

Jon Chilingerian was quoted in Modern Healthcare’s March 25, 2017, article “Teaching Physicians How to Lead.”

Michael Doonan, PhD’02, was quoted in The MetroWest Daily News’ March 7, 2017, article “In Mass., Federal Funds at Risk Under GOP Health Care Proposal.”

Donald Shepard was quoted in Public Health Post’s Feb. 13, 2017, article “Understanding Cost Disparities in Dengue-Endemic Countries.”


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Clark Abt was a guest speaker on the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action’s June 21, 2017, podcast “Serious’ Games: Innovative Learning in the Humanitarian Sector.”

Joseph Assan was interviewed for Bloomberg News’ Feb. 1, 2017, segment “Africa is Rising,” which covers the perception of recent economic development in Africa and the current development trajectory of African countries.

The Center for Global Development and Sustainability was cited for its contribution to the inauguration of the bust of B.R. Ambedkar in the Brandeis University library in the following articles:
» BrandeisNOW’s April 24, 2017, article “Uniting Against Untouchability: Social Reform and the Caste System.”
» Two Circles’ April 25, 2017, article “Late Dr. Omar Khalidi and Others to Be Honored at Brandeis University.”
» Two Circles’ May 2, 2017, article “Ambedkar’s Bust Inaugurated in Boston, USA.”
» BrandeisNOW’s May 2, 2017, article “Brandeis Awarded Bust of Indian Legal Champion.”
» India New England News’ May 3, 2017, article “Ambedkar Bust Inaugurated at Brandeis as the University Hosts Its Third Annual Conference on Caste.”

Joshua Ellsworth, MA SID’07, authored The International River Foundation’s Feb. 23, 2017, blog post “USA-Mexico Twinning Takes Off.”
**Nader Habibi** contributed to the following:

» He was interviewed for *Radio Sputnik*’s January segment “Restoring Relations With Moscow Helped Turkey to Preserve Its Economy.”


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**Marion Howard, MA SID’04**, contributed to the following:

» She attended the 26th Session of the Governing Council (GC 26) of UN-Habitat at United Nations Africa Headquarters as the only special guest from a U.S. university for the Colombian delegation and conference organizers.

» She attended the Young Diplomats of Kenya Conference at the United Nations as the only special guest from a U.S. university, where she supported an event jointly sponsored by the Turkish Embassy on the role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building, in accord with UN Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).

» She was on sabbatical leave on-site in the Caribbean from January through mid-March and in Kenya from April until mid-July. The purpose of the sabbatical was to advance community-based, applied research into the effectiveness of Marine Spatial Planning as a tool to achieve sustainable development and improve resilience of coastal and marine resources and the communities that depend upon these resources for their livelihoods.

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**Robert Kuttner** wrote *Alternet*’s May 9, 2017, article “Will Macron Move Left, or Feed Populist Anger?”

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**Rajesh Sampath** contributed to the following:

» He authored *The Huffington Post*’s Feb. 16, 2017, article “Why Study Global Development in the Isolationist Age of Trump?”

» He was quoted in *India Abroad*’s May 5, 2017, article “Heart of Darkness: Caste or Color? Both Spark Hostilities in India.”

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**Our Generation Speaks** was recognized in the following:

» In *BrandeisNOW*’s May 17, 2017, article “Our Generation Speaks Wins Innovation Award.”

» In *The Boston Globe*’s May 19, 2017, article “Could a Cluster of Startups Incubate Peace in the Mideast?”

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**Robert Tannenwald** was quoted in *The Boston Herald*’s Jan. 4, 2017, article “Film Tax Credit’s Bottom Line: ‘A Bum Deal.’”

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**Joan Dassin ’69** was a participant at the Reunion of the Social Science Research Council Staff in New York on May 1, 2017.

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**Michael Doonan, PhD’02**, authored *The Huffington Post*’s Jan. 5, 2017, article “Why You Should Study Public Policy in the Age of Trump.”
Anita Hill contributed to the following:


» She was interviewed for *BrandeisNOW*’s Feb. 3, 2017, article “Supreme Court Nominee Neil Gorsuch’s Philosophy of Constitutional Originalism Makes Him Likely to View Protection of Rights Narrowly, Hill Says.”

» She co-authored *Variety*’s Feb. 23, 2017, article “The Need for Female Equality and Diversity in Hollywood.”

» She authored *The Washington Post*’s April 6, 2017, article “Fox News, Bill O’Reilly and How to Stop Companies that Tolerate Harassment.”

» She was interviewed for *NPR*’s April 8, 2017, segment “Anita Hill on Workplace Harassment.”

» She was interviewed for *Bloomberg*’s April 20, 2017, video “Anita Hill and Ellen Pao on Workplace Harassment.”

» She was interviewed for *MSNBC*’s April 25, 2017, video “Anita Hill: Sexual Harassment Is a Cultural Problem.”

» She was interviewed for *The San Diego Tribune*’s June 2, 2017, article “Anita Hill Urges San Diego Lawyers to Take a Stand Against Inequality.”

Robert Kuttner authored the following articles in *The Huffington Post*:


» March 5, 2017, “The Search for Trump’s Smoking Gun.”

» March 12, 2017, “Higher Interest Rates – Oh, Goodie!”


» June 18, 2017, “What Will It Take to Dump Trump?”


David Weil was recognized for his appointment as the new dean of the Heller School in the following articles:

» In *BrandeisNOW*’s May 18, 2017, article “Scholar and Former Obama Appointee David Weil Named Dean of the Heller School.”

» In *Boston Business Journal*’s May 18, 2017, article “Former Obama Official Gets a New Gig at Brandeis.”
Larry Bailis was elected president and chair of the Board of the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Policy.

Christine Bishop was selected as the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation for the Technical Advisory Group for Trends in Home Care project.

Joan Dassin ’69 was selected as a reader for the Yidan Prize for Education Research, which is administered by the Institute of International Education.

Joan Dassin ’69 served as reviewer for a research project submitted to the European Commission for funding. The project, “Tracking Agents of Change: Western Education and Democratic Governance in the Developing World,” will be led by Anar Ahmadov, assistant professor at Leiden University, the Netherlands.

In June 2017, Joan Dassin ’69 was invited by the Graduate Program in Media and Technology at the State University of São Paulo, Brazil, to work on strengthening the Brandeis-State University of São Paulo institutional partnership and research on information and communications technology for development.

Susan Eaton was appointed to the Advisory Board of Embrace Race.

On June 1, 2017, the Wellesley College Class of 1967 honored Janet Zollinger Giele with a bequest designated by her former Wellesley student Elizabeth Bates Johnson and her husband, Joel Johnson, to name three student research internships in Janet’s honor. The interns will work with researchers at the Wellesley Centers for Women, based at Wellesley College.

Jody Hoffer Gittell served as an expert adviser for the RX Foundation Grant Project in January 2017.

Jody Hoffer Gittell served on an expert panel for the Cambridge Health Alliance Innovation Fellowship Symposium, a partner of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

Erin Hardy was named a mentor for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Program in January 2017.

Alain Lempereur served as external examiner at Trinity College in Dublin.

Alain Lempereur served as a scientific committee member for the academic journals Négociations, Politique et Management Public and Question de Management.

Donald Shepard received a biographical listing in Who’s Who in America, 71st edition.

Donald Shepard received a biographical listing in Who’s Who in the World, 34th edition.
Scholars of caste — India’s long-standing, religious-based system of social hierarchy — gathered at Brandeis for the third annual conference on social exclusion in South Asia organized by the Center for Global Development and Sustainability. In recognition of the center’s commitment to this major human rights issue, during the conference the Boston Study Group dedicated a bust of B.R. Ambedkar, the politician and social reformer who is credited as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, to Brandeis in the university library.
The **Brandeis University Africa Forum** and the **Heller School** sponsored an African Cultural Night, “Celebrating the Social and Economic Achievement of Africa and Its Culture,” on April 22, 2017. The event was facilitated by Professor **Joseph Assan**, with Professor Khalid Kodi of Boston University as guest speaker.

The **Center for Global Development and Sustainability** held its third annual international conference on the unfinished legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Brandeis April 28-30, 2017. This year’s three-day conference, titled “Reimagining Religion, Caste and Social Justice in South Asia,” was attended by 155 registrants from South Asia and North America. Brandeis President **Ronald Liebowitz** opened the conference, and Cornel West of Harvard Divinity School was a featured speaker. Heller faculty and student speakers included the following:

- **Professor Rajesh Sampath** presented the keynote address “The Unthinkable: Why the Justification of Caste Requires Discord Between Religion and Morality.”
- **Professor Joseph Assan**, assisted by PhD students **Dinar Kharisma** and **Afia Adaboh**, presented “An Examination of India’s School Feeding Program as a Strategy for Reducing Inequality.”
- **Eamon Anderson**, MA SID’16, affiliated expert at the Center for Global Development and Sustainability, presented “Applying a Framework of Historical Trauma to the Psychological Impacts of Caste.”
- **B.K. Man**, Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Center for Global Development and Sustainability, presented “Inclusion From the Bottom: A Study on Microfinance Cooperatives in Nepal.”
- **Professor Andreas Teuber** presented “A Society of Equals: Ambedkar’s Pragmatic Egalitarianism.”
- **Jaspreet Mahal**, MA SID joint with WGSS’17, Fulbright's Fellow, presented “Implications of Decentralization Process in Haryana, India.”
- **Adiba Nasser**, MA SID’17, presented “Secular Bangladesh: Redefine Co-existence Now or Never.”
- **Nidhi Sen**, MA SID joint with WGSS’17, Fulbright's Fellow, presented “The Moral Imperative of Gender-Just Personal Laws and a Uniform Civil Code in India.”
- **Sohani Sirdeshmukh**, MA SID’17, presented “Analysis of the Relationship Between Religion, Personalization of Politics, Indian Identity and Social Media.”
The **Program in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence** organized the following events:

- A lecture by Hideaki Shinoda, professor at the Graduate School of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, titled “Managing Territorial Disputes Constructively: The Case of Japan,” in March 2017.

The **Council on Health Care Economics and Policy**, under the leadership of chairman **Stuart Altman** and director **Michael Doonan, PhD’02**, held its 24th Princeton Conference, titled “Implications of the Election for the Health Care System,” at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, N.J., May 23-25, 2017. The conference assembled over 130 attendees, including health care industry leaders, academic experts and policymakers, who discussed pressing issues and challenges facing the U.S. health care system. The aims of the meeting were to incite policy recommendations and some conclusions regarding session topics, and to offer attendees meaningful opportunities to network and connect with professionals from varied sectors and with diverse areas of expertise. The Princeton Conference also aimed to create discussions that could be the fodder for policy creation and industry transformation as attendees return to their respective organizations with new knowledge and insights into health care topics and use that material to inform their future work.

The **Health Industry Forum**, under the leadership of chairman **Stuart Altman** and executive director **Robert Mechanic**, hosted a forum in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 27, 2017, titled “The 2016 Election: How Will It Affect the U.S. Health Care Industry?” This forum examined the potential impact of repeal-and-replace efforts from the perspective of the health care industry. The meeting covered a range of issues, including options for creating stable efficient health insurance markets, the future of Medicare value-based payment initiatives, and the environment for pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

On March 31, 2017, the **Health Industry Forum** hosted a forum in Washington, D.C., examining “The Future of Medicare Advantage.” More than 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries now select private Medicare Advantage (MA) plans for their health coverage. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, payments to MA plans averaged 15 percent more than fee-for-service coverage, and plans could profit simply by targeting counties where premiums exceeded underlying costs. The Affordable Care Act lowered MA premiums close to parity and added a star rating system with additional payments to reward high-quality plans. Republicans generally favor using private plans to provide public health benefits and will likely propose new policies to advance the MA program. This forum examined current key policy issues, including pricing and risk adjustment, reviewed innovative delivery models developed by MA plans, discussed the new administration’s potential approach to MA and examined the implications of possible changes for beneficiaries and taxpayers.

The **Institute for Behavioral Health** and the **Brandeis/Harvard NIDA Center** co-sponsored the following events:

- A statistical seminar by Thomas McGuire, PhD, professor of health economics in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, titled “Differences, Disparities and Discrimination in Health Care: Conceptual and Methodological Issues,” at Brandeis University on April 27, 2017.
When Social Programs Reinforce Social Inequality

PhD student Sara Chaganti studies short-term job readiness training
In community-based career centers across the U.S., the most common strategy to help unemployed people find work is job readiness training. In these programs, participants learn to write a resume and cover letter, get interview tips and learn the basics of workplace behavior, including how to shake hands, make eye contact and the importance of showing up on time. Over the last three decades, these programs have moved away from vocational training (such as learning to operate a factory machine) and instead are focusing on getting people through the hiring process — and into any job — as quickly as possible.

“Job readiness training is a really simplistic way of understanding unemployment,” says Sara Chaganti, a student in Heller’s joint PhD program in social policy and sociology. For her dissertation, Chaganti is examining these programs with an eye toward inequality. “Tons of research shows that unemployment has to do with the economy, race, gender — structural forces. But these programs are our main intervention and they don’t take any of that into account. They’re based on the assumption that unemployed people simply don’t know how to get a job. That seemed flawed to me.”

Furthermore, workplace behavior training reinforces cultural norms that are biased toward a white, middle-class presentation. “Employers say they are looking for these ‘soft skills,’ but allowing employers to dictate how an ideal worker should present means they never have to examine their own biases. They may be biased to believe that white workers are more trustworthy, or that eye contact and a firm handshake indicate reliability. Does training people to conform this way reproduce systems that marginalize people?” Chaganti asks.

After participating in these programs and conducting interviews, Chaganti was surprised to learn that participants really enjoy the program, saying it gave them more confidence. They also loved learning the potential reasons they weren’t getting calls back on their resumes, which helped them better understand their situation. Many participants also referenced an internal transformation, using this program as a catalyst to pivot and make positive changes in their lives and relationships.

Chaganti also noticed moments when participants asked questions such as, “How can the employer get away with being a bad person?” “Those questions were never really addressed, which seemed like a missed opportunity,” Chaganti says. “In the program, they say you have to make yourself into the kind of person the employer wants you to be. That was very troubling to me, and sad.”

As Chaganti finishes data analysis and begins writing her dissertation, she says, “One of the most important questions I learned to ask at Heller is: Are there ways that a policy, either intentionally or unintentionally, is driving inequality? I think I can safely say yes, these job readiness programs are reproducing systems that marginalize certain groups of people.”

Chaganti continued, “But I went into this research wanting to write these programs off, and I don’t feel like I can do that, because participants do get something out of it — a feeling of confidence, anyway. Mostly they get jobs paying around $12 an hour, not enough to sustain a household, but better than nothing. They’re getting out of a place of real desperation. That’s all positive.”


**PRESENTATIONS**


Henry, B. “Drug Court Clinical Screening: A Call for Quality Performance Measurement.” Presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Regional Student Conference, with funding from the Brandeis University Graduate Student Association, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University, Arlington, Va., April 2017.


Henry, B. “Translational Research in Behavioral Health Screening, Assessment and Referral to Treatment in Juvenile Justice Systems.” Presented at the Health Services and Research Administration Behavioral Health Fellowship Seminar, sponsored by the Boston College School of Social Work, Boston, April 2017.

Henry, B. “Evidence-Based Programs and Management Strategies in Trauma-Informed Correctional Care.” Presented at the AcademyHealth 2017 Annual Research Meeting, New Orleans, June 2017.


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT


Finn Gardiner, MPP’18, authored NOS Magazine’s April 19, 2017, article “50+ Autistic People You Should Know.”

Finn Gardiner, MPP’18, was quoted in CNN’s April 22, 2017, article “In Autism Arrest, the Only Thing New Was the Video.”

Zion Griffin ’15, MA SID’17, authored The Huffington Post’s June 12, 2017, article “Ending Child Abuse and Maltreatment in the U.S: What We Know and How to Move Forward.”

Brandy Henry, PhD student, was quoted in The Justice’s Jan. 30, 2017, article “Speakers Examine Implications of Mass Incarceration at Event.”

Jared Hite, MBA/MPP’17, authored The Huffington Post’s March 9, 2017, article “GOP Healthcare Bill Uses Smokescreen of ‘Personal Responsibility’ to Abandon Pre-Existing Condition Protections.”

Rebecca Huber, MPP joint with WGSS’18, authored The Huffington Post’s March 30, 2017, article “When it Comes to Reproductive Rights, both Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Arguments Must Evolve.”

Ben Kreider, PhD student, contributed to the following:


» He moderated and spoke at the Feb. 13, 2017, panel discussion “Stand Up Fight Back: How Labor is Fighting Trump to Save the 99%,” sponsored by the Brandeis Labor Coalition, Graduate Labor Coalition, and Service Employees International Union Local 509.

» He was quoted in The Justice’s May 2, 2017, article “Graduate Students to Conduct a Vote for Unionization.”

Huong Le, MBA/MA SID’17, authored Rysn News’ article “Saving Son Doong.”


Robyn Powell, PhD candidate, contributed to the following:

» She authored Vox’s Jan. 6, 2017, article “I’m a Disabled Woman. I’m Scared About What Trump Will Do to My Health Care.”

» She authored The Establishment’s Jan. 9, 2017, article “How Jeff Sessions Could Threaten the Disability Rights Movement.”


» She authored Bustle’s Jan. 19, 2017, article “As a Disabled Woman, I’m Calling on My Sisters to Roll and March Against Trump.”
» She authored Bustle's Jan. 24, 2017, article “Don’t Thank Me for Marching Because I’m Disabled — Join Me.”

» She authored Vice’s Feb. 17, 2017, article “Gun Control Shouldn’t Mean Stigmatizing the Mentally Ill.”

» She authored Rewire’s Feb. 24, 2017, article “Are the Courts the Solution to Ensuring Disability Rights During the Trump Era?”

» She authored The Establishment’s Feb. 27, 2017, article “Until It Honors Disabled Performers, the Oscars Can Never Truly Be Diverse.”

» She authored The Establishment’s March 6, 2017, article “What I Wish I’d Known About Disability When I Was Younger.”

» She was quoted in The Columbia Chronicle’s May 8, 2017, article “It Takes a Village — How Parents With Mental Health Conditions Can Be Successful.”

» She authored Rewire’s May 8, 2017, article “With Health Care Bill, GOP Forgets That People With Disabilities Vote.”

» She authored The Establishment’s May 11, 2017, article “How We Treat Disabled Mothers.”


» She authored Dame Magazine’s June 15, 2017, article “Can We Do Away With ‘Inspiration Porn’?”

» She authored Rewire’s June 27, 2017, article “How Media Coverage of Health Care Protests by People With Disabilities Missed the Point.”

Taylor Rippy, MA COEX’18, was quoted in The Justice’s March 14, 2017, article “Community Leaders Convene for International Women’s Day.”

Kayla Scire, MPP/MBA’18, was quoted on WBUR’s March 15, 2017, segment “What the House GOP Health Bill Would Mean for Mass.”

Morgan Shields, PhD student, contributed to the following:

» She was quoted in The Establishment’s Jan. 2, 2017, article “We Need a Review Site for Psychiatric Hospitals, So I Built One.”

» She was quoted in The Daily Dot’s March 23, 2017, article “Psych Ward Reviews Shows the Dire State of Mental Health Care in the U.S.”

» She was quoted in Undark’s (an MIT publication) June 27, 2017, article “A Yelp for Psychiatric Facilities.”

» She authored Health Affairs’ June 28, 2017, blog post “How Could the 21st Century Cures Act and the Joint Commission Improve Eating Disorder Care?”

AWARDS AND HONORS

WorkAround, the company founded by Wafaa Arbash, MA SID/COEX’17, Shai Dinnar ’20, Jennie Kelly, MA SID/MBA’17, and Shadi Sheik Saraf MA SID/COEX’17, was chosen for the MassChallenge Accelerator.

Brandy Henry, PhD student, was appointed to the Boston College School of Social Work Field Education Advisory Board.

Megan Madison, PhD candidate, was elected as the first student representative to the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Robyn Powell, PhD candidate, was reappointed for a third term as Commissioner for the American Bar Association Commission on Disability Rights.

Kate Giapponi Schneider, PhD’17, was awarded the Society for Research in Child Development’s (SRCD) Post-Doctoral State Policy Fellowship (2017-2018). She is one of only two researchers selected for this fellowship nationwide.

Morgan Shields, PhD student, was selected for the Harvard Kennedy School’s Rappaport Public Policy Fellowship, where she will be working with Massachusetts State House Representative Kay Khan.

In January 2017, the Eli J. and Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program at the Center for Youth and Communities selected two Heller students to join the lifelong network of emerging citizen leaders: Sylvia Stewart, MPP’18, and Kayla Scire, MPP/MBA’18. Over the summer, Kayla supported Mass. Representative Jeffrey Sanchez, chair of the Joint Committee for Health Care Financing, while Sylvia joined the Farm Aid team based in Cambridge, Mass., on an exciting project to support black farmers across the U.S.
The Relational Coordination Research Collaborative, under the direction of Jody Hoffer Gittell, presented the following:

» Jody Hoffer Gittell facilitated a Jan. 19, 2017, research webinar presented by Caroline Logan, PhD’16, associate at Abt Associates, titled “Improving Interdisciplinary Teamwork in Surgical Care Through a Relational Coordination Change Initiative.” Kent Haythorn, vice president of Surgical Services at Emory Healthcare, served as discussant.

» Jody Hoffer Gittell facilitated a Feb. 9, 2017, research webinar presented by Julia Lee, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan, titled “Relational Self-Affirmation: Changing the Stories We Tell Ourselves.” Amy Wrzesniewski, professor at Yale University, served as discussant.


» Jody Hoffer Gittell facilitated an April 20, 2017, research webinar presented by Birgitte Torring, PhD candidate at Aalborg University, titled “Improving the Interdisciplinary Team Work in the Operating Room: Using Relational Coordination as a Framework and Model for Organizational Change.” Tim Vogus, associate professor at Vanderbilt University, served as discussant.


MEET HELLER’S NEW DEAN

In August, the Heller School welcomed Dean David Weil, an employment and labor market policy expert who served as President Obama’s administrator in the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor from May 2014 to January 2017.

Learn more about Dean Weil at heller.brandeis.edu/about/dean