Recent Achievements of Heller Faculty and Researchers

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April 2015


**NEW PUBLICATIONS**

**AGING**


**ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES**


NEW PUBLICATIONS


NEW PUBLICATIONS


GRANTS

Margie Lachman (PI)
“Boston Roybal Center for Active Lifestyle Interventions”
Funder: National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health
The aim of the center is to develop and test novel, evidence-based strategies to motivate and support active and engaged lifestyles, especially in vulnerable populations at risk for poor aging outcomes. The Center conducts interdisciplinary research drawing on resources and expertise across five Boston-area institutions: Brandeis University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, and Harvard Medical School.

Andrea Acevedo (PI), Lee Panas, Deborah Garnick, Dolores Acevedo-Garcia
“Understanding Disparities in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drug Disorders”
Funder: National Institutes on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
This study will focus on how community characteristics may impact disparities in access to high-quality treatment of substance use disorders. The researchers will also examine whether the characteristics of the communities in which clients reside influence disparities in two treatment outcomes, employment and criminal justice involvement.

Mary F. Brolin (PI), Margot Davis, Robert Dunigan
“Evaluation of MA ATR-IV – Building Upon and Sustaining Success”
Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
The researchers are evaluating a program that provides recovery support services in Suffolk and Hampden Counties to people with substance use disorders who are re-entering the community after incarceration, currently involved with a Massachusetts Drug Court, veterans, and pregnant and parenting women.
Mary F. Brolin (PI), Sharon Reif
“Evaluation of YouthBuild USA Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Initiative”
Funder: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from YouthBuild USA
The researchers are evaluating a model implemented within 130 vocational programs across the country. They will assess its effectiveness in decreasing alcohol and other drug use among youth and young adults and improving program retention and employment outcomes. If the model is proven effective, the evaluation will support YouthBuild USA in establishing the model as an evidence-based practice.

Mary F. Brolin (PI), Robert Dunigan
“Wiser Men Evaluation”
Funder: Bureau of Justice Assistance; subcontract to Brandeis from Worcester County Sheriff’s Office
The researchers are evaluating Wiser Men, a program which will enhance assessment and service provision within the Worcester County House of Correction and provide re-entry services to reduce recidivism and improve health outcomes. The team will conduct a comprehensive process and outcomes evaluation to document implementation and assess effectiveness.

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Mary Brolin, Margot Davis
“Evaluation of the Transition Age Youth Project”
Funder: Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
The researchers will evaluate a pilot Community Support Program offered by South Middlesex Opportunity Council in Worcester, MA, that is providing rental housing vouchers and support services to encourage employment and job training to 40 young adults (ages 18-24) who have been homeless. The study will analyze three waves of interview data and pre- and post-health care utilization records for program participants to assess housing stability, use of treatment, and increased workforce preparation and participation.

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Rachel Sayko Adams, Sharon Reif
“Longitudinal Study of Post-Deployment Complementary and Alternative Medicine Pain Management”
Funder: National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
This study will evaluate how chronic pain is experienced and treated among Army service members returning from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in FYs 2008-14, and how the type of treatment impacts long-term health-related outcomes. The researchers will examine if patients whose chronic pain is managed with complementary and alternative medicine, such as chiropractic therapy or mind/body counseling, are less likely to experience long-term depression or addiction compared to those whose pain is treated with opioids exclusively.
Dolores Acevedo-Garcia (PI), Pamela Joshi
“Race/Ethnic Equity Issues in Early Childhood Education Pilot Dissemination Project”
Funder: Annie E. Casey Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Center for Law and Social Policy
This project focuses on presenting the complexities of racial/ethnic minority children's access to high-quality early education opportunities. The goal is to translate complex research into user-friendly policy briefs to disseminate to a policy audience.

Lindsay Rosenfeld (PI), Dolores Acevedo-Garcia
“An Environment Problem-solving Strategy for Parents of Youth with Disabilities”
Funder: American Occupational Therapy Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Boston University
This project involves adapting a promising intervention for youth with disabilities to create a training program for parents of children with special needs - focusing on parents' ability to recognize and address environmental barriers.

Susan Parish (PI), Ilhom Akobirshoev
“Improving Pregnancy Outcomes for Women with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”
Funder: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development; subcontract to Brandeis from University of Massachusetts Medical School
This project will investigate pregnancy outcomes for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ensuring that this highly marginalized group of women and their infants have high-quality health outcomes is an important public health priority.

Jennifer Gaudet Hefele (PI), Christine Bishop
“Chasing Medicare: The Impact of Post-Acute Specialization on Long-Stay Quality”
Funder: Donaghue Foundation
This project will use seven years’ of nursing home data to determine whether increases in Medicare post-acute patients are associated with decreases in quality for long-stay residents.

Palmira Santos (PI)
“Healthcare Performance and Intelligence”
Funder: Ascension Health
Ascension Health has partnered with the Heller School’s Healthcare Performance: Research and Evaluation Partnership to evaluate hospital and system-level data to determine variation in evidence-based practice and provider, payer, and patient cost. Evaluation work will include areas that require an assessment of value defined as quality and cost.
Donald S. Shepard (PI)
“The Global Cost of Dengue”
Funder: Sanofi Pasteur
While a number of original studies have examined the cost of dengue in individual countries, most endemic countries have not yet had any such study. Using regression analyses and other modeling techniques, this study is projecting the cost of dengue on a global basis, and also examining less tangible costs, such as the disruption caused by a dengue outbreak.

Donald S. Shepard (PI), Wu Zeng
“Toolkit for Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Results-based Financing and Its Application to Zambia”
Funder: World Bank
Results-based financing, also termed performance-based financing and pay for performance (P4P), is increasingly used to improve the quality and quantity of care in both industrialized and resource-limited settings. Little is known, however, about its cost-effectiveness. This project is developing a toolkit for assessing its cost-effectiveness and applying the toolkit to results from an impact evaluation in Zambia.

Donald S. Shepard (PI), Wu Zeng, Cynthia Tschamp
“Medical Respite Care for People Experiencing Homelessness”
Funder: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation; subcontract to Brandeis from National Health Care for the Homeless Council
Medical respite care provides a brief residential setting for persons experiencing homelessness after an acute hospitalization to avoid prolongation of their hospitalization or return to a shelter or other setting that might cause readmission or another complication. This study is measuring the costs of this program and the cost offsets to the health care system in a multi-site program.

Cindy Thomas (PI)
“Evaluation Services Related to the State Innovation Model Grant (SIM)”
Funder: State of Vermont-Green Mountain Board
This three-year study will evaluate the impact of Vermont health system and payment reform on population health and health spending.

Cindy Thomas, Stanley S. Wallack (Co-PIs)
“State Health Policy Database for Research”
Funder: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
The goal of this project is to develop a national research database to assess the impact of the Affordable Care Act on states, including coverage and spending.

Wu Zeng


Shapiro, T. “The Web of Wealth: Resiliency and Opportunity or Driver of Inequality?” Presented at Neighborhood Partnerships RE:Conference, Salem, OR, October 2014.


Kreiner, P. “Mitigating the Epidemic: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.” Presented at Utah Poison Control Center 60th Anniversary Symposium, sponsored by University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2014.


Mary Jo Larson


Merrick, E., Hopwood, J., and Lane, N. “Use of Recovery Support Navigators and Client Incentives to Improve Care and Outcomes for Repeat Detoxification Clients.” Presented at:
• Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Health Care Innovations Award Summit Meeting, Baltimore, MD, October 2014.


**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**


Simon, L. “Development for All: Overcoming Inequality and Discrimination.” Presented at:
- Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, National Law School at India University, Bangalore, India, October 2014.
- TERI University-Brandeis University Inaugural Conference, TERI University, New Delhi, India, October 2014.


Simon, L. “We Shall Overcome: Social Movements for Equality.” Presented at Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, October 2014.

**MANAGEMENT**

Jody Hoffer Gittell


Gittell, J.H. “Coordinating Care in Accountable Care Organizations – The Role of Relational Coordination.” Presented at Annual Meeting of the National Association of Accountable Care Organizations, Washington, DC, September 2014.


Gittell, J.H. “Relational Coordination for High Performance.” Presented at Tufts University School of Medicine Physician Executive Education, Boston, MA, December 2014.


Christine Bishop participated in a planning group for the Institute of Medicine Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence to develop a two-day workshop on the future of home health care. The workshop was held September 30 - October 1, 2014.

Christine Bishop chaired the John Heinz Dissertation Award Committee for the National Academy of Social Insurance.

Christine Bishop consulted with the Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis on behalf of the Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association at the Adult Day Health Rate Review Meeting Provider Session on October 16, 2014.

Margie Lachman was quoted in an October 12, 2014 Wall Street Journal article, “The Myth of the Midlife Crisis: Research Is Debunking the Notion of Angst-Filled Years.” http://on.wsj.com/1b5o1iS

Thomas Shapiro appears in the documentary “Black Heirlooms,” which was released in December 2014. The film, which explores the racial wealth gap, stresses the importance of wills and estate planning as well as the importance of family discussions on financial goals within the black family.

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy’s (IASP) work on the racial wealth gap and income inequality received extensive coverage in media outlets during the fall of 2014, including:

- Atlanta Black Star (9/1/14): “After Her Ferguson Speech, What Hillary Clinton Needs to Say to Black People”
- Newswire (9/12/14): “America’s Middle Class Is Poorer Than You Think.”
- Atlanta Black Star (9/15/14): “Income Inequality Not Just Hurting African-Americans; State Budgets Are Suffering, Too.”
- The Root (9/29/14): “We Need to Focus on Strategies for Building Generational Wealth.”
- The Washington Post (10/24/14): “This is what the legacy of ‘white privilege’ looks like in Bill O’Reilly’s hometown.”
- Bay State Banner (11/12/14): “Another undeserved attack on an African American institution.”
- Atlanta Black Star (11/25/14): “Years of Economic Inequality Push Wealthy Blacks to Be More Conservative with Investments than White Counterparts.”

(IASP coverage continued)

- Risk Without Borders (12/3/14): “Skin Color and Health: It’s Not About Race.”
- The St. Louis American (12/4/14): “Ferguson and white rage.”
- Al Jazeera America (12/16/14): “The Year in Inequality: Racial disparity can no longer be ignored.”
- The Houston Chronicle (12/17/14): “US wealth gap shows dynamic differences between ethnicities.”
Peter Kreiner was quoted in a September 16, 2014 Time Magazine article about doctor shopping and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

Lawrence Bailis was a member of the Transition Team on Safer, Stronger Communities for Massachusetts governor-elect Charlie Baker and lieutenant governor-elect Karyn Polito, November 2014-January 2015.

In October 2014, Cathy Burack, Susan Lanspery, and Susan P. Curnan from the Center for Youth and Communities hosted a conference for former grantees of Project Compass, a five-year regional postsecondary success program funded by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. The grantees, public postsecondary institutions in New England, each sent representatives to the meeting. A focus was to better understand the factors that contributed to the sustainability of successful policies, programs, and practices. The Center had served as the evaluation and learning partner for Project Compass.


Dolores Acevedo-Garcia and Pamela Joshi were interviewed by PBS NewsHour for a December 2014 piece, “Can government policies correct race and ethnicity disparities in child health?” http://to.pbs.org/1OPhoQC

Lawrence Bailis delivered the welcoming address to 1600 AmeriCorps members, staff, and supporters at the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps celebration at Tufts University in September 2014. Bailis also had a letter to the editor published in the Boston Globe about AmeriCorps, "Mass. can serve as measure of program’s value," following the celebration.

Lawrence Bailis participated in the White House Summit Meeting on Civic Learning and National Service in October 2014.

Lindsay Rosenfeld presented “Prematurity and Infant Health” as part of an expert panel for the Brandeis March of Dimes Chapter’s Prematurity Awareness Month, in Waltham, MA, on November 11, 2014.
Lindsay Rosenfeld and Erin Hardy published a letter to the editor in the Milton (MA) Times regarding affordable housing.

BrandeisNOW featured an article on the Ruderman Scholars in Disability Program’s commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities, October 28, 2014.

The Justice, Brandeis’ student newspaper, gave an overview of the Ruderman Scholars in Disability Program and looked at the research the current cohort of Ruderman Scholars explored with Senior Scientist and Lecturer Marji Erickson-Warfield, September 23, 2014.

Ruderman Scholars Deanna Marion ’15 and Elizabeth Chalfin ’15 discussed their summer intern experiences in The Brandeis Hoot, September 19, 2014.


Jennifer Lee’s participation in the Ruderman Scholars in Disability Program was also highlighted in an article entitled “Jennifer Lee selected for Ruderman fellowship” in The Republican. (Springfield, MA), November 12, 2014.

A study by Donald Shepard, Yara Halasa, and colleagues, Economic and Disease Burden of Dengue Illness in India, which appeared in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in October 2014, found that the number of dengue cases in India is significantly underreported. Prof. Shepard was interviewed for articles in The Economist, The Guardian, and The New York Times, and the study generated media coverage both in the U.S. and abroad, including:

• ABC.es (Spain) (10/7/14): “Un estudio dice que el dengue en la India es 300 veces mayor de lo reportado”
• DPA International (German News Agency) (10/7/14): “Dengue cases vastly under-reported in India, study says”
• The Economist (10/7/14): “The billion-dollar disease”
• The Guardian (10/7/14): “India dengue fever cases 300 times higher than officially reported - study”
• The Indian Express (10/7/14): “India under-reporting dengue cases: study”
• The Wall Street Journal (10/7/14): “Study Says India Undercounts Dengue Fever Cases”
• Hindustan Times (10/8/14): “India’s dengue cases 282 times ‘higher’ than data”
• The New York Times (10/8/14): “Study Points to Vast Underreporting of Dengue Cases in India”

On November 6 and 7, 2014, Jody Hoffer Gittell and a colleague provided a customized Relational Coordination intervention training program for about 25 co-investigators as an activity of a Health Resources and Services Administration grant through the University of Washington. Professor Gittell also provided a Leadership Training Workshop. The goal of this proposed project is to integrate Relational Coordination (RC) skills and metrics into TeamSTEPPS training, along with lean concepts, in order to better serve the needs of complex heart failure patients.
Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, director of the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy, was invited to join the advisory board of *Cityscape*, the scholarly journal of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Lawrence Bailis was selected as Outstanding State Service Commissioner in the United States by America’s Service Commissions (ASC) for the 2014 AmeriCorps Innovation and Leadership Awards.

Christine Bishop was inducted as a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America in November 2014.

Tam Emerson, Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program Director, was selected for the New Leaders Council (NLC), a 501(c)(3) that works to recruit, train and promote the progressive political entrepreneurs of tomorrow. She will matriculate through the NLC Institute, the nation’s premier political entrepreneurship training program.

Donald Shepard was guest editor of the *Public Library of Sciences (PLoS) Neglected Tropical Diseases* journal, 2014.

Yara Halasa, MS ’06, research associate, lecturer, and PhD student, received the 2014 Plant-Insect Ecosystem (P-IE) Section Integrated Pest Management Team Award from the Entomological Society of America (ESA). The award was presented at the P-IE Networking session on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the ESA Annual Meeting.

Professor Emerita of the Practice Susan Holcombe was the co-editor of a special issue of the Taylor and Francis journal Development in Practice, published online on September 15, 2014 and later in hard copy. The issue focuses on Endogenous Development in Africa. In addition to three articles by Professor Holcombe, there are contributions from five Heller graduates: Ariel Delaney, MA/SID ’13; Danielle Fuller-Wimbush, PhD ’13; Mariama Khan, MA/SID ’08; Angelique Rwiyereka, MS ’07, PhD ’13; and Nathalie Tinguery, MA/SID ’06. Work on this took place over the past two years. http://bit.ly/1aEr7tD

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**


MA-SID student Robel Tamirat, who is currently an International Affairs Intern at the Hunger Project in Washington, DC, has published the following blog posts and editorials during the course of his internship:

MPP/MBA student Emilia Dunham was an Application Reviewer for Florida’s Department of Health Bureau of Tobacco-Free Florida, in Tallahassee, FL, from November 20 to December 17, 2014. She reviewed proposals for Community-Based Tobacco Prevention Interventions.

PhD candidate Kate Giapponi received a Health and Human Services/Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation Child Care Research Scholars mentoring grant for assistance with her dissertation, “Predictors of Provider Participation in Child Care Subsidy Systems: A Study of Child Care Providers in Massachusetts.”

In December 2014, MS student M. Ihsan Kaadan won the Center for International Private Enterprise’s Middle East and North Africa Youth Essay Competition for his article, “The Missing Link and the Role of Civil Society in Filling the Gap.” The article is available in Arabic at http://bit.ly/1PZe6LZ

Amity Quinn, PhD candidate, received a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for assistance with her dissertation, “Design and Impact of Bundled Payment for Alcohol Treatment.”

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Center for Global Development and Sustainability organized and held the first meeting of its Applied Knowledge and Intervention Network on Climate Change Induced Desertification and Sustainable Land/Water Use Management in Africa and Asia. The meeting was held in November 2014 at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Sde Boquer Campus, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Ten national and regional applied research organizations were present, representing nine countries in the Horn of Africa and Ghana, India and Mongolia. Several universities sent representatives including the University of Development Studies/Ghana, the University of Mongolia, Oxford University, the University of Liverpool, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ben Gurion University, and Brandeis.

In November 2014, the Center for Youth and Communities led the Invitational Conference “Enough is Known for Action: Ready to Employ, Educate, and Support Youth” at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in Washington, DC. Center Director Susan P. Curnan delivered the keynote address and was joined by Byron Zuidema, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, DOL. Heller colleagues Della M. Hughes, Marji Erickson Warfield, Susan Lanspery, and Susan P. Curnan moderated panel discussions focused on contemporary legislative topics, including: “College and Career Pathways Partnership”; “Employing, Educating, and Supporting Youth with Disabilities and/or Trauma Histories”; “Summers Matter: How Summer Jobs Programs Can Employ, Educate, and Support Youth”; and “Detroit Youth Employment Consortium: Private
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In September 2014, the Eli J. Segal Leadership Seminar, taught by Professor Larry Bailis and the Segal Program Director, hosted a speaker series on Citizen Leadership. MA State Representative Jay Kaufman kicked off the series with a presentation, “Theories of Leadership for Social Change,” then social activist and Boston Children’s Chorus Founder Dr. Hubie Jones presented “Citizen Leaders and Social Movements,” and Dr. Valerie Fein-Zachary, Radiologist, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Instructor, Harvard Medical School; Board Member, MassEquality; and Co-Founder, Freedom to Marry Coalition, led a discussion on “Citizen Leadership and the Marriage Equality Movement.”

The Health Industry Forum held a policy meeting in Washington, DC, on October 30, 2014, entitled “Tiered and Limited Network Health Insurance Plans: Balancing Access And Affordability.”

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy’s 4th Annual Distinguished Lecture was held on November 5, 2014. This year, the featured speaker was Michael Stein, JD, PhD, who is the co-founder and executive director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability. Dr. Stein spoke about “The Future of Disability Rights.”

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, in partnership with the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, held a forum on December 11, 2014, in Boston, entitled “The Time is Now: Tackling Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Massachusetts.” The forum examined the magnitude and persistence of racial and ethnic health care disparities with a focus on the delivery of behavioral health services. Ongoing challenges and potential solutions were examined in light of health care system and financing changes under state and national reform. The forum explored potential options and action steps to reduce disparities and move towards a more equitable distribution of critical resources.

The Fourth Annual Relational Coordination Research Collaborative Fall Roundtable, “Big Thinking in the Big Sky: Advancing the Practice of Relational Coordination,” was held at the Billings Clinic in Billings, MT, on September 4 and 5 with keynote speaker P.J. Lamberson of the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Nearly 60 participants traveled from around the U.S. and beyond to take part in this lively event, including both researchers and practitioners seeking to improve performance using relational coordination concepts, measures, tools and models.