

Fall 2015

THE
HELLER
SOCIAL
POLICY
IMPACT
REPORT

CONTENTS


Fall 2015

- 2 THE RACIAL WEALTH AUDIT
- 4 NEW PUBLICATIONS
- 10 COURSE CORRECTION
- 12 GRANTS
- 18 A PIVOTAL EPISODE
- 20 PRESENTATIONS
- 28 TACKLING THE OPIOID CRISIS
- 30 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- 32 AWARDS AND HONORS
- 34 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- 36 RICARDO GODOY'S 20-YEAR STUDY
IN THE BOLIVIAN AMAZON
- 38 STUDENT RECOGNITION

THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

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Welcome to the Heller Social Policy Impact Report

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management encompasses a vibrant community of scholars who are fighting inequities and injustice around the world. They share a passionate commitment to creating new knowledge to solve seemingly intractable social problems. Ongoing projects range from combating poverty and improving health care in the United States to devising creative approaches that address the needs of the world's poorest citizens in the Global South.

We are rightly proud of the contributions our internationally recognized Heller faculty, scientists and students have made to improve the policies that shape the lives of vulnerable, marginalized people globally.

We invite you to explore some of the work being done at Heller, which is highlighted in this new magazine. We encourage you to contact us or the people featured in this report for further information. We welcome your conversation, engagement and partnership with the Heller School, and we hope this report will catalyze your own initiatives to advance social justice.

Sincerely,

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The Racial Wealth Audit

Unraveling the U.S. legacy of racial wealth inequality through policy



The now-famous GI Bill of 1944 facilitated college entry and homeownership for millions of returning World War II veterans, kick-starting the growth of the U.S. middle class. It's often forgotten that black veterans rarely benefitted from the GI Bill's housing provisions due to discriminatory redlining and mortgage practices. While white families soared into a post-war middle class, many black families remained behind, widening the already-established racial wealth gap.

This story is not unique, as policymakers rarely consider how new legislation will affect economic inequality, notes Thomas Shapiro, director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP). In an IASP report from March 2015 titled “The Racial Wealth

Gap: Why Policy Matters,” Shapiro and colleagues calculated that by 2011, the divide had grown to \$104,033 between white and black families and \$103,798 between white and Hispanic families. Key drivers of the gap include homeownership, college graduation rates and income disparities — all policy-driven outcomes.

These findings were generated through pioneer usage of the Racial Wealth Audit™, a tool conceived by Shapiro and developed by his team, including scientist Tatjana Meschede, alumna Laura Sullivan, PhD'13, and PhD candidate Lars Dietrich. In partnership with the policy organization Demos, they have modeled the distributional impact of several policies — both real and hypothetical — on the economic divide. Shapiro says, “Our goal with the Racial Wealth Audit is for policymakers to view proposed legislation through a new filter; that they start to ask, ‘What will be the impact of this policy on the racial wealth gap?’ before it gets signed into law.”

IASP and Demos have used the Racial Wealth Audit not only to measure the width of the gap, but also to show how these inequalities are the result of historical policy choices, and to emphasize their impact in current policy conversations. The team's recent work, which has been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *Forbes*, *Salon.com* and *The Washington Post*, generates simulations to predict what might happen if certain circumstances — such as homeownership or educational levels — were made more equal, or if certain policies were signed into law.

“There is a hunger out there for something like the Racial Wealth Audit,” says Catherine Ruetschlin, senior policy analyst at Demos and co-author of the report. “In many ways, the

In many ways, the racial wealth gap is ... the outcome of simply not looking in the right places. The Racial Wealth Audit is about looking in the right places.

racial wealth gap is a policy outcome from deliberate choices that we've made as a society, but in other ways it's the outcome of simply not looking in the right places. The Racial Wealth Audit is about looking in the right places.”

Looking in the right places to close the gap has never been more important. As our nation's minority-majority youth ages into adulthood, a much larger portion of the U.S. workforce will have been subject to policy-driven economic disenfranchisement and disadvantage than ever before. “The Racial Wealth Audit allows us to interrogate and disprove many popular ideas about why racial disparities exist in our society,” says Shapiro. “It ignites a different, more proactive way of thinking about policy creation.”

By Bethany Romano

AGING

Lachman, M.E., Agrigoroaei, S., and Hahn, E.A. (2015). Making Sense of Control: Change and Consequences. In Scott, R., and Kosslyn, S. (Eds.), *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: An Interdisciplinary, Searchable and Linkable Resource*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

Rickenbach, E.H., Agrigoroaei, S., and **Lachman, M.E.** (2015). Awareness of Memory Ability and Change: (In)Accuracy of Memory Self-Assessments in Relation to Performance. *Journal of Population Ageing*. 8(1-2), pp. 71-99.

Song, J., **Mailick, M.R.**, Greenberg, J.S., Ryff, C.D., and **Lachman, M.E.** (2015). Cognitive Aging in Parents of Children with Disabilities. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*. Published online March 24, 2015.

Vargas-Lascano, D., Galambos, N., Krahn, H., and **Lachman, M.E.** (2015). Growth in Perceived Control Across 25 Years from the Late Teens to Midlife: The Role of Personal and Parents' Education. *Developmental Psychology*. 51(1), pp. 124-135.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Boguslaw, J., Behe, K., and Taylor, J. (2015). Strategic Philanthropy: Integrating Investments in Asset Building: A Framework for Impact. Evanston, IL: Asset Funders Network.

Meschede, T., Bercaw, L., **Sullivan, L.**, and **Cronin, M.** (2015). Post-Recession Senior In-Security Remains High. *Living Longer on Less* series. Waltham, MA: Institute on Assets and Social Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Meschede, T., and **Chaganti, S.** (2015). Home for Now: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of a Short-Term Housing Support Program for Homeless Families. *Evaluation and Program Planning*. Published online April 9, 2015.

Meschede, T., **Chaganti, S.**, and **Routhier, G.** (2015). Secure Jobs for Homeless Families: Expanding an Integrated Service Model. *Secure Jobs, Secure Homes, Secure Families Series Report 3*. Waltham, MA: Institute on Assets and Social Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Meschede, T., Darity, W., and Hamilton, D. (2015). Family Financial Resources Among Boston Residents: Flow by Race and Ethnicity. *Community Development Issue Brief 2*. Boston, MA: Boston Federal Reserve Bank.

Meschede, T., Darity, W., and Hamilton, D. (2015). Financial Resources in Kinship and Social Networks: Flow and Relationship to Household Wealth by Race/Ethnicity Among Boston Residents. *Community Development Discussion Paper No. 2015-02*. Boston, MA: Boston Federal Reserve Bank.

Sullivan, L., Meschede, T., Dietrich, L., Shapiro, T., Traub, A., Ruetschlin, C., and Draut, T. (2015). The Racial Wealth Gap: Why Policy Matters. Waltham, MA: Demos and Institute on Assets and Social Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Sullivan, L., Meschede, T., Mann, A., Ramirez-Kuykendall, S., and **Shapiro, T.** (2015). Navigating an Unclear Path: Preparing for Retirement in the 21st Century. *Leveraging Mobility Series, Report 6*. Waltham, MA: Institute on Assets and Social Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Acevedo, A., Garnick, D.W., Dunigan, R., Horgan, C.M., Ritter, G., Lee, M.T., Panas, L., Bidorini, A., Campbell, K., Haberin, K., Lambert-Wacey, D., Leeper, T., Reynolds, M., and Wright, D. (2015). Performance Measures and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. 76(1), pp. 57-67.

In this study, the authors examined racial/ethnic disparities in the treatment of substance use disorders (SUDs) in four states. They found that some minority groups are less likely to receive the widely accepted minimal level of outpatient treatment for SUDs, a performance measure known as “treatment engagement.” Also, although this minimal level of services was associated with a reduction in post-treatment arrests for white clients, this was not the case for minority groups in some states.

Hodgkin, D., Thomas, C.P., O'Brien, P.L., Levit, K., Richardson, J., Mark, T.L., et al. (2015). Projected Spending on Psychotropic Medications 2013-2020. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health*. Published online June 4, 2015.

The authors project that the spending on psychotropic medications will grow at a slower rate between now and 2020, compared to past growth. Reasons include slower development of new drugs, upcoming patent expirations which will lower prices, and payers' growing ability to manage utilization and promote generic use.

Kolodny, A., Courtwright, D.T., Hwang, C.S., **Kreiner, P.,** Eadie, J.L., **Clark, T.W.,** and Alexander, G.C. (2015). The Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Public Health Approach to an Epidemic of Addiction. *Annual Review of Public Health*. 36, pp. 559-574.

The article describes the scope of the public health crisis of opioid overdoses, its historical context, contributing factors, and lines of evidence indicating the role of addiction in exacerbating morbidity and mortality. It goes on to provide a framework for interventions to address the epidemic of opioid addiction in terms of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.



CHRISTOPHER TOMPKINS, MMHS'82, PHD'91
(See related story on page 18.)

Zhu, J., Weingart, S.N., **Ritter, G.A., Tompkins, C.,** and **Garnick, D.W.** (2015). Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Patient Experience with Communication in Hospitals: Real Differences or Measurement Errors? *Medical Care*. 53(5), pp. 446-454.

Focusing on the widely used Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, the results provide strongest support for racial/ethnic comparisons on communication with nurses and doctors, and reason to caution against comparisons on communication about medicines.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Della M. Hughes and **Cathy Burack** have completed development of a strategic framework management tool with the Interaction Institute for Social Change, located in Boston, MA.

Della M. Hughes, Sharon Singleton, Jenny Gutbezahl, and Chris Kingsley prepared a first-year formative evaluation report on Oasis Center's replication of the Wyman Center's evidence-based TEEN OUTREACH PROGRAM®. Oasis Center adapted the model to train staff in congregate care facilities across the state of Tennessee. Hughes and Kingsley facilitated a learning session in Nashville on June 30, 2015 to review staff and participant experience and evaluate findings and recommendations.



DOLORES ACEVEDO-GARCIA

Della M. Hughes and Lori Strumpf (Strumpf Associates: Center for Strategic Change) have prepared a self-assessment tool to help organizations and partnerships assess their capacity to implement quality youth work programs using the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other resources. The tool will also help organizations and partnerships determine whether they meet WIOA standards and the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence at the highest level. Brandeis and Strumpf will consult with organizations and partnerships to conduct the assessment, help them meet the standards, and develop the necessary systems, policies and practices to sustain them.

Melchior, A., Burack, C., Gutbezahl, J., Hoover, M., and Marcus, J. (2015). FIRST Longitudinal Study: Participant Characteristics, Program Experience and Initial Impacts, Year 2 Report. Manchester, NH: U.S. FIRST.

Melchior, A., and Lanspery, S. (2015). Evaluation of the YouthBuild Pathways/Social Innovation Fund Postsecondary Education Initiative — Mid-Term Implementation Report. Waltham, MA: Center for Youth and Communities, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

DISABILITIES

Dababnah, S., and **Parish, S.L.** (2014). Incredible Years Program Tailored to Parents of Preschoolers with Autism: Pilot Results. *Research on Social Work Practice*. Published online November 10, 2014.

Leutz, W., Warfield, M.E., Timberlake, M., and Chiri, G. (2015). The Infrastructure of Participant Direction for Medicaid-Funded In-Home Autism Services for Children in Massachusetts. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*. 12(1), pp. 27-36.

The authors examined the Autism Waiver Program instituted by the Autism Division of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. The program was designed to help low-income children with autism under age 9 from diverse cultural backgrounds gain access to therapeutic supports. The program used a participant-(parent-)directed model to help families to choose and manage services, staff and their own budget. Factors contributing to successful program operations included educated/trained families, skilled in-home therapists, clear communication with families and among staff, good information systems and participation of families in “carryover” of interventions. Families varied in their capacities and time to choose and manage services, but staff adjusted their levels of assistance to compensate.

Lorenz, L.S. (2015). Book Review: *Picturing Disability: Beggar, Freak, Citizen and Other Photographic Rhetoric* by Robert Bogdan, Martin Elks and James A. Knoll. *Visual Studies*. Published online March 26, 2015.

The photos and arguments in this book — which presents disability photographs from the 1860s to early 1970s — are intended to show how the photos fit into the lives of the people who produced them. The book is a valuable scholarly contribution to the field of disability studies.

Mitra, M., **Parish, S.L.**, Clements, K.M., Diop, H., and Ciu, X. (2015). Maternal Characteristics and Birth Outcomes of Women with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 48(3), pp. 300-308.

In this paper, the authors examined pregnancy outcomes of Massachusetts women with intellectual and developmental disabilities from 1998–2010. In comparison to other women, women with intellectual and developmental disabilities were less likely to receive prenatal care during the first trimester. Furthermore, deliveries to women with intellectual and developmental disabilities were associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes, including preterm delivery, low Apgar scores, and babies with very low and low birth weight.

Parish, S.L., Thomas, K., Williams, C.S., and **Crossman, M.K.** (2015). Autism and Families' Financial Burden: The Association with Health Insurance Coverage. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. 120(2), pp. 166-175.

The authors examined the relationship between family financial burden and children's health insurance coverage in families raising children with autism, using national data. Families raising children who had private insurance were more than five times as likely to have any out-of-pocket spending compared to families with publicly insured children. The most common out-of-pocket expenditure types were medications, outpatient services and dental care. This study provides evidence of the relative inadequacy of private insurance in meeting the needs of children with autism.

Parish, S.L., Whisnant, A.I., and Swaine, J.G. (2015). Policies and Programs for Children and Youth with Disabilities. In Jenson, J.M., and Fraser, M.W. (Eds.), *Social Policy for Children and Families: A Risk and Resilience Perspective, Third Edition*. Chapter 7. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Warfield, M.E., **Crossman, M.K.**, Delahaye, J., Van Der Weerd, E.J., and Kuhlthau, K. (2015). Physician Perspectives on Providing Primary Medical Care to Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. 45(7), pp. 2209-2217.

The authors conducted in-depth case studies of 10 health care professionals who actively provide primary medical care to adults with autism spectrum disorders. The study sought to understand their experiences in providing this care, the training they had received, the training they lack and their suggestions for encouraging more physicians to provide this care. Challenges to providing care as well as solutions and needed interventions were identified at the systems, practice and provider, and education and training levels. The findings have implications for health care reform, medical school and residency training programs, and the development of best practices.

HEALTH

Altman, S., and **Mechanic, R.** (2015). Limited Health Care Spending Growth Will Force Providers to Develop More Cost-Effective Delivery Systems. *FutureScan 2015: Health Care Trends and Implications 2015-2020*. Chicago, IL: Health Administration Press.

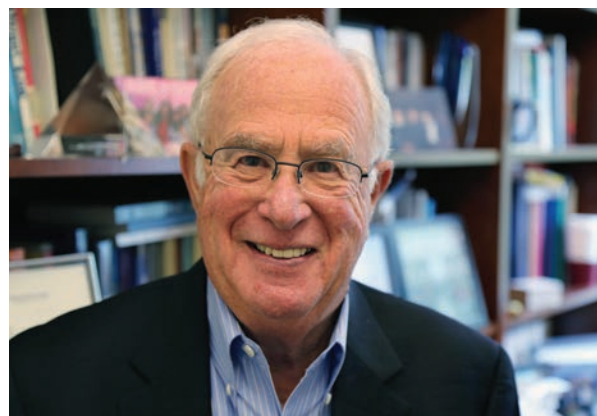
Bowser, D., and Limbu, M. (2015). Human Rights Principles in Maternal Health. In Byrom, S., and Downe, S. (Eds.), *The Roar Behind the Silence: Why Kindness, Compassion and Respect Matter in Maternity Care*. Chapter 12. London, UK: Pinter and Martin Publishers.

Bowser, D., Okunogbe, A., Oliveras, E., Subramanian, L., and **Morrill, T.** (2015). A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Community Health Workers in Mozambique. *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*. Published online April 9, 2015.

Cortez, R., **Bowser, D.**, Gemello, V., **Etolue, J.**, Quinlin-Davidson, M., and Ousmane Diadie, H. (2015). Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Burkina Faso. *Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice Knowledge Brief*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

Edillo, F.E., **Halasa, Y.A.**, Largo, F.M., Erasmo, J.N.V., Amoin, N.B., Alera, M.T., Yoon, I.K., Alcantara, A.C., and **Shepard, D.S.** (2015). Economic Cost and Burden of Dengue in the Philippines. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 92(2), pp. 360-366.

Global Burden of Disease 2013 Mortality and Causes of Death Collaborators (includes **Halasa, Y.A.**, **Shepard, D.S.**, and **Undurraga, E.A.**). (2015). Global, Regional and National Age-Sex Specific All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality for 240 Causes of Death, 1990–2013: A Systematic Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *The Lancet*. 385(9963), pp. 117-171.



STUART ALTMAN

Global Burden of Disease 2013 Mortality and Causes of Death Collaborators (includes **Halasa, Y.A., Shepard, D.S.,** and **Undurraga, E.A.**). (2015). Global, Regional and National Incidence, Prevalence and Years Lived with Disability for 301 Acute and Chronic Diseases and Injuries in 188 Countries, 1990–2013: A Systematic Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *The Lancet*. Published online June 7, 2015.

These articles are part of a comprehensive effort led by Chris Murray at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, to measure epidemiological levels and trends worldwide with the support from collaborators from various universities and research centers in the U.S. and elsewhere. Findings from these studies have had a wide impact on health policy across the globe and have received extensive press coverage, including The New York Times, BBC, The Guardian, The Washington Post and The Economist, through various press agencies (EFE, AFP, UPI, Reuters, etc.).

Halasa, Y.A., Zeng, W., Chappy, E., and **Shepard, D.S.** (2015). Value and Impact of International Hospital Accreditation: A Case Study from Jordan. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*. 21(2), pp. 90-99.

Lorenz, L.S. (2015). Video Review: *Extreme by Design*. *Visual Studies*. 30(1), pp. 100-101.

Extreme by Design is a documentary film on the power of design thinking. The film centers on three students, their background and motivations, their classroom and hands-on learning processes, and their actions at home and in the field, as they seek to solve problems faced by underserved communities far from home.

Packierisamy, P.R., Ng, C-W., Dahlui, M., Venugopalan, B., **Halasa, Y.A.,** and **Shepard, D.S.** (2015). The Cost of Dengue Vector Control Activities in Malaysia by Different Service Providers. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health*. Published online June 5, 2015.

Undurraga, E.A., Betancourt-Cravioto, M., Ramos-Castañeda, J., Martínez-Vega, R., Méndez-Galván, J., Gubler, D.J., Guzman, M.G., Halstead, S.B., Harris, E., Kuri-Morales, P., Tapia-Conyer, R., and **Shepard, D.S.** (2015). Economic and Disease Burden of Dengue in Mexico. *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* 9(3):e0003547.

Dengue fever presents a formidable burden on health systems and populations in tropical and subtropical countries globally. Around half of the world's population is estimated to be at risk

of infection. Dengue transmission has increased dramatically in Mexico during the past decades. As promising technologies for vaccination, vector control and disease management are being developed, systematic, comparable estimates of disease burden are essential to inform evidence-based policy and assess the impact of control technologies.

Walker, B., McGown, J., **Bowser, D.,** Patev, A., Reade, F., **Razavi, M.,** Dzielek, D., and Southward, L. (2015). An Assessment of Emergency Department Use Among Mississippi's Medicaid Population. *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*. 56(5), pp. 120-124.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Undurraga, E.A., Cruz, Z., and **Godoy, R.A.** (2015). Demografía y Territorialidad de la Población Tsimane' Actual. In Reyes-García, V., and Huanca, T. (Eds.), *Cambio Global, Cambio Local: La Sociedad Tsimane' ante la Globalización*. Chapter III, pp. 91-120. Barcelona, Spain: Icaria, Institut Catala d'Antropologia.

Undurraga, E.A., and **Godoy, R.A.** (2015). Actividades Generadoras de Ingresos y Distribución de la Riqueza Material. In Reyes-García, V., and Huanca, T. (Eds.), *Cambio Global, Cambio Local: La Sociedad Tsimane' ante la Globalización*. Chapter VI, pp. 177-202. Barcelona, Spain: Icaria, Institut Catala d'Antropologia.

Globalization, climate change, the expansion of markets and other global dynamic processes are affecting not only western societies but also, and in some ways more dramatically, developing countries and indigenous people across the globe. For the past two decades, a group of interdisciplinary scholars, led by Professor Ricardo Godoy, has been studying the effects of these global changes on a group of forager-farmers in the Bolivian Amazon, the Tsimane'. They have focused on understanding how the Tsimane' adapt their social, economic and cultural institutions to cope with change. Using the Tsimane' as a case study, the authors of this book present several elements and ideas that shed a light on ongoing global processes and some of the main challenges faced by indigenous societies in the 21st century. These chapters summarize results from studies focusing on demography, land use and economic organization among the Tsimane'.

(See related story on page 36.)

MANAGEMENT

McLaughlin, T.A. (2015). The CEO Successor Pinch: Searching High and Low for the Next Visionary. *Nonprofit Times*. 29(2).

McLaughlin, T.A. (2015). Fixed Costs: Where's a Tuba When You Need One? *Nonprofit Times*. 29(6).

McLaughlin, T.A. (2015). Strategic ≠ Plan: The Two Ideas Can Either Be at Odds or Complementary. *Nonprofit Times*. 29(1).

McLaughlin, T.A. (2015). Tech Co-Ops: Sharing Costs, Upgrading Productivity. *Nonprofit Times*. 29(3).

PHILANTHROPY

Nemon, M.L., Jacobs, C.J., Phillips, M., and Sneath, J. (2015). The Family Foundation Life Cycle and the Role of Consultants. *The Foundation Review*. 7(1), Article 4.

The dynamics unique to family foundations, including a dedication to preserving a legacy and to sharing decision making among family members, are often a significant influence on a foundation's governance and operations and may extend to how their experiences with consultants differ from those of other foundations or nonprofits. The article looks at common experiences that lead family foundations to seek external help and how these foundations can learn from the experiences of their peers.

PHILOSOPHY

Sampath, R. (2015). Morality, Ethics and Justice in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* as an Antipode to Rawls' *A Theory of Justice*. *International Journal of Ethics*. 10(4), pp. 315-337.

Sampath, R. (2014). A Phenomenological Appropriation of Ricoeur's Critique of Rawlsian Contractualism and Kantian Deontology for the Purposes of Building a New Theory of International Economic Justice. *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*. 2(4), pp. 23-43.

Sampath, R. (2015). Philosophy of Development Economics: Creating a Dialogue Between Rawls and Development Economics. *Journal of Economics and Development Studies*. 3(1), pp. 231-238.

This article brings the work of the prominent American political philosopher John Rawls, best known for his original contribution to the theory of justice, in dialogue with contemporary development economists.

Sampath, R. (2014). A Review of *Rawls Explained: From Fairness to Utopia* by Paul Voice. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 44(6), pp. 843-847.

This book review covers a general work that introduces the prominent 20th-century American philosopher John Rawls. Rawls has had an enormous impact on law, public policy and the social sciences with regard to theories of justice, and *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* is the premier journal in its field.

Sampath, R. (2015). Speak or Forever Hold Your Peace: An Examination of the European Union's Venice Commission Report Addressing Freedom of Expression vs. International Criminalization of Blasphemy, Religious Insults and Incitement to Religious Hatred. *Current Politics and Economics of Europe*. 26(1), pp. 1-15.

This article assesses the philosophical assumptions underpinning debates in the European Union on the constraints of free speech and the protection of religious minorities' rights to be free from religious blasphemy and incitement to hatred.


Sampath, R. (2015). To Be or Not to Be: The Significance of Ricoeur's Philosophical Ethics and Heidegger on Time and Death for Judging Contemporary American Debates on Physician-Assisted Suicide. *International Journal of Ethics*. 10(4), pp. 339-358.

This article explores two prominent philosophers who have written on death and mortality. The author applied their works in an analysis of certain contemporary American legal and judicial debates on the ethics of physician-assisted suicide.



Course Correction

A paradigm shift for teacher diversity and quality



“A lot of policies are made with the best intentions,” says Megan Madison, a fourth-year Heller PhD student and former Head Start teacher, “but the way they play out on the ground can be really complicated.” This realization became difficult to ignore during her first year of teaching in Illinois, where state policy requires a greater proportion of early care and education teachers to have bachelor’s degrees. “My co-teacher had many, many more years of experience than I did, and she was teaching me how to be a good teacher every day, but I was making a living wage and she was making half of that.”

A growing body of research shows that receiving quality education in the earliest years (pre-K and kindergarten) is a critical component of a child’s healthy development. As a result, more states are focusing on professionalizing the early care and education workforce, primarily by requiring teachers to have four-year degrees.

Madison was deeply troubled by the impact this mandate would have on the early care and education workforce — disproportionately women of color — and also on the students they serve. “Are we supporting them to attain bachelor’s degrees?” she asks. “Or are we pushing them out of that workforce and replacing them with a credentialed workforce that is disproportionately white?”

Through her PhD research, she seeks to re-frame this issue from one that pits teacher diversity against teacher quality, to one that recognizes teacher diversity as a component of teacher quality. From a theoretical standpoint, she explores the issue’s influence on teachers and care providers, and also the students. “For young children in their first school experience, it matters that they enter a world that reflects

the world they come from. They need to see themselves reflected in positions of authority,” says Madison.

Madison is conducting interviews with women of color in the early care and early education spheres to document their experiences with professionalization policies. She’s also acquired nationally representative data that allows her to examine the workforce both before and after implementation of these state-level bachelor’s degree requirements.

As Madison progresses through the Heller PhD program, she’s recognizing that she’s asking the right question at the right time. Concerns around K-12 teacher diversity have risen to national attention in tandem with evidence on the importance of early childhood education — a cause championed by President Obama in his

Are we supporting them to attain bachelor’s degrees, or are we pushing them out of the workforce?

call for universal pre-K education at the 2013 State of the Union address. The ongoing Black Lives Matter movement has further elevated the national conversation around structural racism, inequity and injustice in the U.S.

“I think that my dissertation brings these worlds of teacher diversity, education quality and racial justice together,” says Madison. “Early care and education can be a tool for social justice, but we’re not going to get there if the system is reproducing inequities within itself. This workforce mirrors the population these programs are targeting. If we’re supporting the students and families that are the targets of these programs, how are we not supporting these teachers? We’re talking about the same people.”

By Bethany Romano

AGING

Margie Lachman (PI) “Health Outcomes of Tai Chi in Subsidized Senior Housing” Funder: National Institute on Aging; subcontract to Brandeis University from Hebrew Rehabilitation Center

The project aims to improve the health and reduce health care costs of frail elderly people living in low-income housing. The study will implement a cluster of randomized controlled trials of Tai Chi exercises in comparison to health education. Margie Lachman will examine the effects of Tai Chi on health and psychological well-being.

Cindy Thomas (PI) “Health Outcomes of Tai Chi in Subsidized Senior Housing” Funder: National Institute on Aging; subcontract to Brandeis University from Hebrew Rehabilitation Center

The project aims to improve the health and reduce health care costs of frail elderly people living in low-income housing. The study will implement a cluster of randomized controlled trials of Tai Chi exercises in comparison to health education. Cindy Thomas will analyze Medicare claims to look at spending and use of health care services from Tai Chi.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Tatjana Meschede (PI) “Asset Holdings of the Wealthier U.S. African Americans” Funder: Credit Suisse Securities

The new work with the Credit Suisse Research Institute builds on the researcher’s prior collaborative work on the top 5 percent of wealth holders among African-Americans. Specifically, the new work will investigate trends among these groups, focusing roughly on the first decade of the 21st century and better understanding business owners among them.

Tatjana Meschede (PI) “Needs Assessment of Homeless Shelter Users in the Scope of Services” Funder: Father Bill’s & MainSpring Inc.

This new project will research the characteristics of homeless shelter users over time and their service needs, to enable Father Bill’s & MainSpring to improve their service delivery model.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mary F. Brolin (PI) “Evaluation of Worcester-HEARS (Healthy Environments and Resilience in Schools) Initiative” Funder: Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts; subcontract to Brandeis University from Worcester (MA) Public Schools



WorcesterHEARS is an initiative to reduce the rate of school suspensions and to mitigate the effects of adverse childhood experiences by building resilience in children and families. Heller researchers are working with the Worcester Public Schools to evaluate this initiative.

Mary F. Brolin (PI), Margot Davis, Timothy Creedon “Evaluation of Department of Youth Services’ MassSTART Program” Funder: Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS)

DYS’ MassSTART Program aims to reduce substance use and delinquency and promote academic achievement through an incentive-based, positive youth development model. Brandeis’ evaluation consists of focus groups, interviews and quantitative analyses of program data to assess implementation and outcomes and assist DHS in setting performance measures and outcomes for future assessment of the MassSTART program.

Meelee Kim (PI) “Youth Media Action Project” Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; subcontract to Brandeis University from Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

The Youth Media Action Project (Y-MAP) uses new media to promote targeted substance abuse and HIV prevention messages to ethnic minority youth (12-18 years old) living in and around public housing in Somerville, Waltham and Watertown, Mass. The primary goals of Y-MAP are to: 1) increase prevention messages through social media; 2) decrease stigma and prejudice around sexual orientation; and 3) increase access to social media as a platform for individual youth expression.

Peter Kreiner (PI) “White Paper on Approaches to Increasing Prescriber Utilization of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)” Funder: Pew Charitable Trusts

Pew previously commissioned the researchers to write a white paper on Prescription Drug Monitoring Program best and promising practices, which was completed three years ago. This new white paper updates a key area of PDMP practices, to increase prescriber use of the PDMP in clinical decision-making.

Peter Kreiner (PI), Erin Doyle, Lee Panas “Evaluation of Veterans Choice Act” Funder: Veterans Administration

The Veterans Choice Act allows veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or who have waited more than 30 days for an appointment to obtain a VCA card, allowing them to access medical

care from non-VA providers, paid for by the VA. The project will use data from prescription drug-monitoring programs to assess whether veterans obtaining such care, as part of the Veterans Choice Act, obtain higher dosages of opioids than veterans with comparable clinical profiles who obtain care from VA facilities only.

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Deborah Garnick, Rachel Sayko Adams, Maria Torres “Identifying Installation Environmental Factors to Reduce Sexual Assaults in the Military” Funder: Department of Defense Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)

This project will analyze the Workplace and Gender Relations Survey (WGRS) of Active Duty Members to provide innovative data analysis to support the prevention initiatives of the military’s sexual assault (SA) prevention program. The researchers will gain insights on where prevention initiatives have been successful and where different initiatives may be required through review of local prevention strategies and site visits to eight installations.



PETER KREINER (See related story on page 28.)

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Lisa Dodson (PI) “Integrating Resources to Strengthen Low-Income Families” Funder: Ford Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis University from 9t05

This project is a policy-research initiative that includes Heller’s Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy, the University of Massachusetts, Boston and 9t05, the National Association of Working Women. Through mixed-methods research that includes low-income mothers and community

Establishing the Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment

The Institute for Behavioral Health (IBH) at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy, in collaboration with Harvard University's Department of Health Care Policy, was awarded a \$3.6 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to establish the Center to Improve System Performance of Substance Use Disorder Treatment. The center will enhance the effectiveness and impact of existing research on the payment and delivery of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services and will serve as a national resource for those designing SUD treatment policy amid continual changes in the U.S. health care delivery system. IBH Director Constance Horgan

will serve as the center's principal investigator, with IBH colleagues Sharon Reif, Dominic Hodgkin and Deborah Garnick also serving on the leadership team. "The health care delivery system is changing extremely rapidly, and we want to make sure that treatment for people with substance use disorders has a place at the table and is part of the innovation that's happening, and that we build the research portfolio that supports these new delivery system approaches to improve quality of care," Horgan says. "We want to help get clinical findings into the real world where they're paid for and implemented so that they're making a difference."

organizers in Massachusetts, Colorado and Georgia, as well as reviews of state policies, the project will examine work-supports and safety-net policies towards strengthening social mobility among low-income families.

Susan Lanspery, Alan Melchior (Co-PIs), Matt Hoover, Jill Marcus “Assessing the Impact of Alternative Service Experiences in the YouthBuild AmeriCorps Program” Funder: Corporation for National and Community Service; subcontract to Brandeis University from YouthBuild USA

This project examines the differences in outcomes between YouthBuild participants who participate in YouthBuild’s traditional construction-related service programs and those in newer service programs focused on health care, information technology and recycling. The three-year project includes pre- and post-program surveys with YouthBuild participants, analysis of YouthBuild reporting system data and focus groups with participants in selected sites.

Alan Melchior (PI), Matt Hoover, Jill Marcus “Evaluation of the Earth Force Environmental Service-Learning Project” Funder: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); subcontract to Brandeis University from Earth Force Inc.

This project is an evaluation of a NOAA-funded project that engages K-12 students in service-learning projects that address environmental issues in the

community. The project provides training and support for teachers, who then integrate projects into their curriculum. The evaluation includes surveys of participating students and teachers, as well as interviews with a subset of teachers and school administrators.

DISABILITIES

Susan Parish (PI), Ilhom Akobirshoev “Improving Pregnancy Outcomes for Women with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” Funder: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development; subcontract to Brandeis University 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.

Marji Erickson Warfield, Susan Parish (Co-PIs) “Family Member Roles and Well-Being in Self-Directed Waiver Program” Funder: U.S. Department of Education; subcontract to Brandeis University from University of Illinois at Chicago

The study will investigate the well-being of family members who are engaged in self-directed waiver programs as either the paid caregiver or the authorized



CONSTANCE HORGAN



DIANA BOWSER

representative. The study will examine waiver programs in Virginia and West Virginia that serve adults who are seniors or have physical disabilities, and those that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The specific aims are to examine which aspects of the family environment and waiver program features are significant predictors of family member well-being.

HEALTH

Diana Bowser (PI) “Developing a Detailed Reform Design and Implementation Plan for Malaysia’s Health System Reform Effort” Funder: Government of Malaysia; subcontract to Brandeis University from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

This is a collaboration between Brandeis University and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It aims to assist the Malaysian government in understanding the current stock and distribution of health care workers in Malaysia and to begin to understand the future needs for stock and distribution of health care workers, taking into consideration Malaysia’s changing burden of disease and its population’s health needs.

Diana Bowser (PI), Noella Bigirimana “Health System Feasibility of the Cardiac Care Center in Rwanda” Funder: Team Heart

Diana Bowser is working with Team Heart and other key partners within the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Rwanda to develop a work plan and proposal for the provision of expanded cardiac care to all populations in Rwanda. Team Heart is a group of cardiac surgeons and health professionals from Brigham and Women’s Hospital who have brought cardiac surgeons and surgical teams to Rwanda to provide cardiac surgery to over 100 individuals suffering from Rheumatic Heart Disease over the past 10 years. With the burden of cardiovascular disease on the rise, a broader systematic analysis needs to be conducted to understand the feasibility of offering quality cardiovascular care to the entire Rwandan population.

Robert Mechanic (PI) “The Impact of Medicare Payment Reform on Post-Acute Care Spending and Quality” Funder: The Commonwealth Fund

This study examines the impact of Medicare payment reforms, including Accountable Care Organizations and bundled payment, on the utilization of post-acute care services in markets that have had rapid take-up of these new payment models. It will assess the strategies

developed by at-risk providers to manage post-acute care, the responses of home health agencies, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities, and actual changes in service use that have occurred through 2014.

Jennifer Perloff (PI) “Determining the Quality of Primary Care Provided to Medicare Beneficiaries by Nurse Practitioners” Funder: American Association of Nurse Practitioners; subcontract to Brandeis University from Montana State University

This project will use Medicare administrative data to examine the quality of primary care for beneficiaries managed by Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and physicians. In addition to overall quality, the project will consider the experience of vulnerable sub-groups, such as beneficiaries living in service shortage areas or those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Donald S. Shepard (PI), Cynthia Tschampl, Yara Halasa “Economic Impact of Adult Oral Diseases” Funder: DentaQuest Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis University from Medicaid State Dental Association

This study aims to quantify the socioeconomic impact of adult oral disease based on its relationship to general health, work productivity and social problems, and to assess the impact of this disease on quality of life.

Cindy Thomas (PI), Christopher Tompkins “Vermont State Innovation Models Initiative Technical Assistance” Funder: State of Vermont Department of Health Access; subcontract to Brandeis University from Truven Health Analytics

Cindy Thomas is leading a team at Brandeis to provide technical assistance to health programs’ implementation innovation in Vermont.

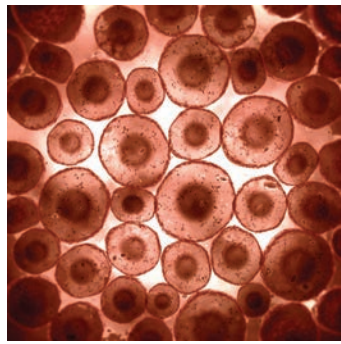
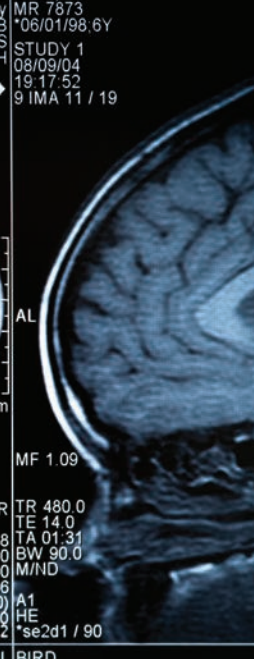
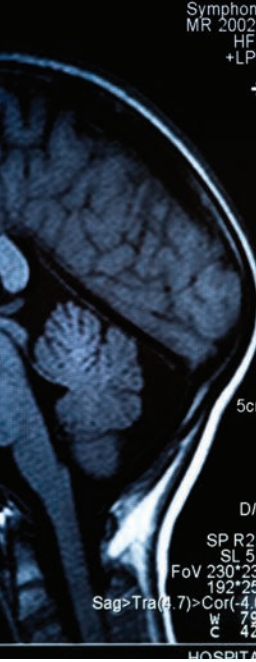
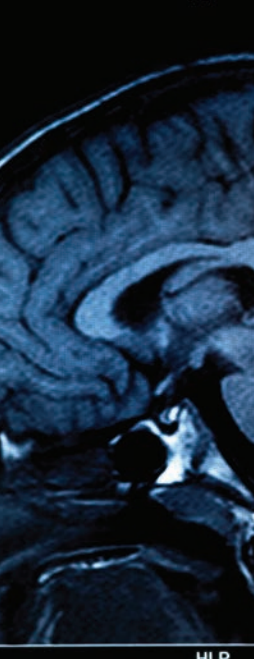
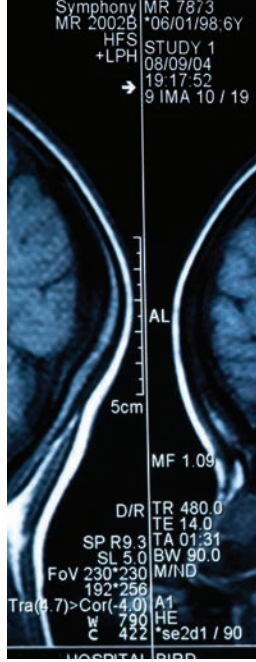
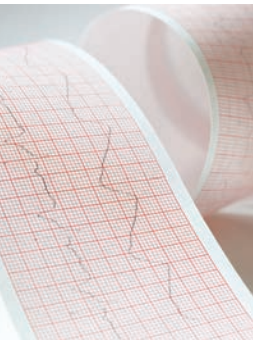
MANAGEMENT

Jody Hoffer Gittell (PI) “Hospital and Health Service Staff — Relational Coordination” Funder: Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services, Brisbane, Australia

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services is working toward developing a professional and management culture that is consistent with the goals of becoming a “best-in-class employer” and developing models of patient-centered care focused on multidisciplinary teams within a culture of continuous quality improvement. Jody Hoffer Gittell provided two workshops to build capacity within the Gold Coast change team. She held a relational coordination intervention training workshop and a leadership training workshop from May 18-20, 2015. The RC Survey will be used to gather baseline data and the Gold Coast change team will help develop interventions based on RC data and feedback. Improvements will be assessed through a follow-up RC Survey.



A.K. NANDAKUMAR



A Pivotal Episode

Christopher Tompkins, MMHS'82, PhD'91, and a team of Heller colleagues hope to create a better health care payment system

On April 16, when President Obama signed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, or what is more commonly known as MACRA, it signified a sea change for how America pays for health care. The legislation put an end to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) policy that was enacted in the 1990s to control the ballooning increase in annual Medicare costs. Under the SGR policy, if yearly Medicare expenditures exceeded the budget that was based on economic growth, which they often did, the difference was addressed by reducing physician fees for the next year. However, every year Congress stepped in at the last moment with a “doc fix,” overwriting the legislatively required reductions and pushing them into the future.

In place of the SGR approach, which paid physicians based on the quantity of services they provided, MACRA is more focused on the quality of care. But how do we measure the merit of a doctor’s services? That’s where Christopher Tompkins, MMHS’82, PhD’91, of the Institute on Healthcare Systems at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy comes in. For the past four years, he and a team of Heller colleagues, including Jennifer Perloff, PhD’06, John Chapman and Grant Ritter, have collaborated with external partners, including physicians, the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, the American Medical Association and the American Board of Medical Specialties, to develop an “episode grouper” software tool that tries to make sense of the endless stream of reimbursable claims. “The idea of an episode grouper is to take all of these claims and say, ‘What is really going with these patients? What were the hospitals and physicians really working on?’” Tompkins says. By taking a systematic look at the pool of billable services, the hope is to focus less on individual procedures and focus more on the patient through coordinated care.

The episode grouper does this by organizing claims into “episodes of care,” which include the services that are typically involved from start to finish when addressing a specific medical condition. “It’s an attempt to get it all out there,” Tompkins says. “How much, for example, is being spent on osteoarthritis? How much is being spent early on, and how much is going to surgery? Are patients receiving physical therapy and steroid injections before surgery? The episode grouper tries to anticipate the trajectory of patients through the course of an illness so that we can look at a doctor’s accountability throughout the process. It allows us to pinpoint places where some upstream investment could prevent downstream consequences.”

By collecting services together, the episode grouper provides the public with a common language for analyzing costs. Just as importantly, Tompkins says, it also helps us ask the right questions. “Episodes can help us analyze variation around the average to say who’s higher and who’s lower. But we can also start to ask whether the average spending on various conditions and treatments is the right thing in the first place. It’s a question of national importance. Hopefully, this is a tool that can start the conversation and inform policymakers about where we’re going and what we can do to change the course of the stream when necessary.”

Tompkins and his colleagues will finish development of a first complete version of the episode grouper in early 2016, after which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has asked them to receive and post-public comments about it beginning in October. Let the conversation begin.

AGING

Bishop, C. “Long-Term Services and Supports: Challenges for Policy.” Presented at “The Health Care System: Interdisciplinary Perspective,” course at Simmons College School for Nursing and Health Sciences, Boston, MA, February 2015.

Lachman, M. “Pathways to Health in Adulthood: Protective Resources and Resilience.” Presented at Salem State University, Salem, MA, March 2015.

Naumana, E., Weiss, J., Schilfa, A., **Lachman, M.**, and Puterman, M. “Factors That Influence Physical Activity Over a 10-Year Period.” Presented at Association for Psychological Science, New York, NY, May 2015.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Boguslaw, J. “Building Community Economic Resiliency Through Multiservice Cross-Sector Collaborations.” Presented at the Network for Social Work Management 26th Annual Conference, “Social Work Management: Impacting Communities and Changing Lives,” Howard University, Washington, D.C., June 2015.

Boguslaw, J. Featured speaker at Hampden County Financial Stability Network Meeting, Springfield, MA, May 2015.

Boguslaw, J. “Integrated Strategic Philanthropy.” Presented at “Strategic Philanthropy,” webinar sponsored by the Asset Funders Network, May 2015.

As part of the release of the brief “Strategic Philanthropy: Integrating Investments in Asset Building,” developed by IASP and the Asset Funders Network, this webinar addressed how integrating investments in asset building can impact sector-based strategies and revealed examples of how funders and community-based organizations are applying this strategic approach to effect greater social and economic change.

Boguslaw, J. “International Perspective on the Social Impact of Precarity.” Panelist at “The Precarity Penalty Symposium,” hosted by Poverty and Employment Precarity, Toronto, Ontario, May 2015.

Boguslaw, J., and **Chaganti, S.** “A Job Is More Than Income: The Role of Employment Capital in Producing Long-Term Financial Stability.” Presented at “The Social and Behavioral Importance of Increased Longevity,” sponsored by the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA, January 2015.

Boguslaw, J., Thomas, H., and Chaganti, S.

“Beyond Wages: Structuring Inclusion in Wealth Building Employment Opportunities.” Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Meschede, T. “Wealth Mobility of Families Raising Children in the 21st Century.” Presented at Ninth Biennial Federal Reserve System Community Development Research Conference, Washington, D.C., April 2015.

Meschede, T., and Chaganti, S. “Secure Jobs Massachusetts: How to Connect Homeless Families with Workforce Development.” Presented at Homeward’s 9th Annual Regional Conference on Best Practices to Prevent and End Homelessness, Richmond, VA, June 2015.

Nsiah-Jefferson, L., and Gaiser, M.D. “Elements of a Culturally Effective Health Care Organization.” Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Shapiro, T. “Black Wealth/White Wealth: Hidden Costs of Being Black.” Presented at “Race Today: A Symposium on Race in America,” sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Brown University, Providence, RI, February 2015.

This daylong symposium brought together a group of the nation’s most respected intellectuals on race, racial theory and racial inequality to consider the troubling state of black life in America today.

Shapiro, T. Panelist, Color of Wealth Summit, “A Discussion About the Urgency of Addressing Wealth Inequality and Providing Opportunity for All.” Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s Community Outreach Team, Boston, MA, March 2015.

Shapiro, T. “Toxic Inequality.” Presented at Boston Community Capital, Boston, MA, May 2015.

Shapiro, T. “The Widening Racial Wealth Gap.” Presented at “Rising Wealth Inequality: Causes, Consequences and Potential Responses,” conference hosted by the School of Social Work, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2015.

This conference was sponsored by the National Poverty Center, the Ford School of Public Policy, the School of Social Work, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Adams, R.S., Nikitin, R.V., Wooten, N.R., Williams, T., and **Larson, M.J.** “The Association of Combat Exposure with Post-Deployment at-Risk Drinking and Mental Health Problems among Army Female Enlisted Members.” Presented at 2015 Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting, San Antonio, TX, June 2015.

Garnick, D.W., Horgan, C.M., Acevedo, A., Lee, M.T., Panas, L., Ritter, G.A., Dunigan, R., Bidorini, A., Campbell, K., Haberlin, K., Huber, A., Lambert-Wacey, D., Leeper, T., Reynolds, M., and Wright, D. “Criminal Justice Outcomes After Engagement in Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment.” Presented at “Drugs and Society Seminar,” sponsored by Columbia University, New York, NY, January 2015.

Harris, A., Vanneman, M., Chen, C., **Adams, R.S.,** Williams, T., and **Larson, M.J.** “Army Reservists’ Post-Deployment Behavioral Health Screening Associated with Reassessment and Treatment After Linkage to Veterans Health Administration.” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Hodgkin, D. “Clinical Inertia in Medication Treatment of Bipolar Disorder.” Presented at 12th Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry, Venice, Italy, March 2015.



TOM SHAPIRO (See related story on page 2.)

Horgan, C.M., Stewart, M., Reif, S., Garnick, D.W., Hodgkin, D., Merrick, E.L., and Quinn, A. “How Are Private Health Plans Providing Drug and Alcohol Services in an Age of Parity and Health Reform?” Presented at CPDD 77th Annual Scientific Meeting Program, sponsored by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Phoenix, AZ, June 2015.

Horgan, C.M., Stewart, M., Reif, S., Garnick, D.W., Hodgkin, D., Merrick, E.L., and Quinn, A. “How Are Private Health Plans Providing Drug and Alcohol Services in an Age of Parity and Health Reform?” Presented at 2015 Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting, San Antonio, TX, June 2015.

Kreiner, P. “Ensuring Appropriate Prescribing Using PDMPs to Identify and Address Problematic Prescribing: Epidemiological Findings from the Prescription Behavior Surveillance System.” Presented at “Rx Abuse Summit,” sponsored by Operation Unite, Atlanta, GA, April 2015.

Kreiner, P. “Evaluation of SAMHSA’s PDMP Electronic Health Record Integration and Interoperability Expansion Projects.” Presented at “Rx Abuse Summit,” sponsored by Operation Unite, Atlanta, GA, April 2015.

Kreiner, P. “PDMP Data as a Surveillance and Evaluation Tool: Preliminary Findings, Emerging Trends and Pitfalls.” Presented at “Prescription Drug Monitoring Program — Electronic Health Record,” at the Interoperability Grantee Meeting, sponsored by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Silver Springs, MD, January 2015.

Kreiner, P. “Using Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data for Early Warning, Evaluation, and Prevention: Prevention Strategies to Address Opioid Drug Abuse.” Presented at SAMHSA’s “Prevention Day, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Leadership Forum,” Arlington, VA, February 2015.

Kreiner, P. “Using Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data for Epidemiology and Public Health Surveillance.” Presented at “PDMP Research Forum,” sponsored by Collaboration of Pew Charitable Trusts, Brandeis University, Johns Hopkins University, Accumentra Health Corp. and Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, D.C., May 2015.

Larson, M.J., Adams, R.S., Mohr, B.A., Harris, A.H.S., Funk, W., Wooten, N.R., and Williams, T.V. “Is Intervention for Substance Use Problems Associated with Time to Early Military Discharge After Combat Deployment?” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Merrick, E.L., Adams, R.S., Garnick, D.W., Hofmann, K., Williams, T.V., and **Larson, M.J.** “Post-Deployment Treatment Initiation and

Engagement for Substance Use Disorders Among Army Enlisted Service Members.” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Quinn, A., Horgan, C.M., Brolin, M., Stewart, M.T., Hodgkin, D., and Lane, N. “Bundled Payment for Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment.” Poster presented at Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting, San Antonio, TX, June 2015.

Quinn, A., Horgan, C.M., Brolin, M., Stewart, M.T., Hodgkin, D., and Lane, N. “Bundled Payment for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.” Poster presented at AcademyHealth’s Behavioral Health Interest Group Meeting, 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Reif, S., Horgan, C.M., Stewart, M.T., Hodgkin, D., and **Creedon, T.B.** “Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Private Health Plans in the Era of Health Care Reform — Preliminary Results from a National Survey.” Presented at American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence National Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2015.

Reif, S., Stewart, M., Horgan, C.M., Mohr, B., Torres, M., Davis, M.T., Hodgkin, D., Ritter, G., and Nguyen, A. “Incentives in Public Addiction Treatment Systems: Context and Effects on Access, Retention, Selection and Outcomes.” Presented at CPDD 77th Annual Scientific Meeting Program, sponsored by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Phoenix, AZ, June 2015.

Reif, S., Stewart, M., Horgan, C.M., Mohr, B., Torres, M., Davis, M.T., Hodgkin, D., Ritter, G., and Nguyen, A.M. “Incentives in Public Addiction Treatment Systems: Context and Effects on Access, Retention, Selection and Outcomes.” Presented at 2015 Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting, San Antonio, TX, June 2015.

Stewart, M. “Incentives in Public Addiction Treatment Systems: Effects on Access, Retention, Selection and Outcomes.” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Vanneman, M., Harris, A., Chen, C., **Adams, R.S.,** Williams, T., and **Larson, M.J.** “Army Reservists’ Post-Deployment Behavioral Health Needs Associated with Linkage to Veterans Health Administration.” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Vanneman, M., Harris, A., Chen, C., **Mohr, B.A., Adams, R.S.**, Williams, T., and **Larson, M.J.** “Army Active Duty Members’ Linkage to Veterans Health Administration Services After Deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan and Following Separation.” Poster presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Burack, C., and **Melchior, A.** “From Headcounts to Impacts: Are We Making a Difference?” Presented at 2015 Massachusetts Conference on Service and Volunteering, Framingham, MA, June 2015.

Curnan, S.P. Facilitated a breakout discussion, “Opportunity Nation Summit Mobilizing Communities,” Washington, D.C., February 2015.

Curnan, S.P. and the Center for Youth and Communities. Hosted and facilitated the National Re-Visioning retreat, Waltham, MA, March 2015.

Curnan, S.P. and the Center for Youth and Communities. Hosted and facilitated the National Youth Employment Coalition Strategic Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2015.

Emerson, T. Panelist, “City Year Boston Alumni Panel,” City Year, Boston, MA, April 2015.

Hughes, D.M., and **Kingsley, C.** Facilitators, “Hartford College and Career Readiness Competencies Partnership,” Hartford, CT, June 2015.

Lanspery, S., and **Melchior, A.** “Where We Have Been and Where We Are Heading: Mid-Term Findings from the PSE Pathways Evaluation.” Presented at YouthBuild’s Spring 2015 Postsecondary Education Initiative Convening, Somerville, MA, May 2015.

Lanspery, S., and **Warfield, M.E.** Presented in a national webinar, “Employing Youth with Disabilities and Youth with Trauma Histories,” moderated by **Della Hughes** and hosted by the Center for Youth and Communities, Waltham, MA, June 2015.

Melchior, A., and **Burack, C.** “Early Findings from the FIRST Longitudinal Study.” Presented at 2015 FIRST Championship Conference, St. Louis, MO, April 2015.

Rosenfeld, L. “The Intersection of Social Policy and Service: Reflection on Practice.” Presented to Brandeis Waltham Group, Waltham, MA, April 2015.

DISABILITIES

Lorenz, L.S., Sanders, R.R., and O’Neil-Pirozzi, T. “Talking with Pictures: Using PhotoVoice to Make a Difference for Yourself and Others.” Presented at 34th Annual Brain Injury Conference, Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, Marlborough, MA, March 2015.

This presentation illustrated the perspectives of older adults with acquired brain injuries on personal and environmental supports and barriers to their community integration in Lexington, MA. Their photographs, captions and insights supported and contested the concept of community integration reported in the literature, and have raised awareness in the community of the strengths and challenges of the participating survivors. The project encouraged local policy change: commitment of funding by the town’s administration to improve downtown sidewalks.

Parish, S.L. “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Health Care of People with Disabilities.” Presented at Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA, April 2015.

Parish, S.L. “Reproductive Health Care of Women with Intellectual Disabilities.” Presented at “Health and Wellness Action Group,” Annual Meeting of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Louisville, KY, June 2015.

Parish, S.L. “U.S. Families Caring for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: Demographic and Policy Challenges.” Presented at School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, February 2015.

Parish, S.L., Magaña, S., and **Son, E.** “The Persistence of Health Care Access Disparities Among Latino and White Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities.” Presented at Annual Meeting of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Louisville, KY, June 2015.

This presentation reported on a national study that found that between 2005 and 2010, Latino children with autism and other developmental disabilities continued to have worse health care access compared with white children with similar disabilities. Despite many national policy initiatives to address racial and ethnic health care disparities, there is no evidence that things are improving for this vulnerable population.

Parish, S.L., Magaña, S., and **Son, E.** “Trends in Racial Disparities in Quality of Care for Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities.” Presented at Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA, January 2015.

Parish, S.L., Mitra, M., **Son, E.,** Bonardi, A., Swoboda, P.T., and **Igdalsky, L.** “A National Profile of Deliveries by Women with Intellectual Disabilities in the U.S.: Maternal Characteristics and Pregnancy Outcomes.” Presented at Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA, January 2015.

This paper presented an investigation of pregnancy outcomes using national data. Adverse outcomes (e.g., Caesarean deliveries, early labor, preterm birth, hypertensive complications) were much more common for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities compared with other women.

Parish, S.L., Son, E., and **Igdalsky, L.** “Reproductive Cancer Treatment Hospitalizations of U.S. Women with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.” Presented at Annual Meeting of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Louisville, KY, June 2015.

This presentation described cancer hospitalizations using a national dataset. Women with intellectual and developmental disabilities were less likely to be hospitalized than nondisabled women for cervical cancer, but more likely to be hospitalized for uterine cancer.

Parish, S.L., Sonik, R., Akobirshoev, I., and **Son, E.** “Understanding Children with Speech and Language Disorders in the National Survey of Children’s Health, the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation.” Presented at the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on the Evaluation of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Program for Children with Speech Disorders and Language Disorders, Washington, D.C., May 2015.

HEALTH

Gallagher, D., Hirschhorn, L., **Lorenz, L.,** and Priyatam, P. “Crossing the Know-Do Gap: Continuing Education for Health Professionals Providing HIV/AIDS Care.” Presented in webinar for the AIDS Education and Training Centers, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Boston, MA, May 2015.

Challenges in HIV care in the New England region include ensuring that new knowledge is translated into effective care and supporting providers so they stay in the HIV workforce and remain motivated and up-to-date. The findings of this qualitative evaluation study complemented statistical data collected by the AETCs and provided insights into moving communities of practice from knowledge transfer to knowledge translation for HIV/AIDS care.

Mechanic, R. “The Future of Post-Acute Care Under Value-Based Payment.” Presented at Northeast Home Health Summit, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Mechanic, R. “Post-Acute Care: The Next Frontier for Medicare Cost Containment.” Presented at the National Association of Accountable Care Organizations (NAACOS) Spring Conference, Baltimore, MD, April 2015.

Mechanic, R. “Why Bundled Payments for Care Improvement?” Presented at Inaugural Post-Acute Care Evolution Summit, Nashville, TN, June 2015.

Nsiah-Jefferson, L. “The National Significance of Becoming a Center of Excellence in Culturally Effective Care.” Presented at the Manchester Community Health Center, a partner in the Health Care Employer Research Initiative, Manchester, NH, June 2015.



Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson '80, PhD '06

Rosenfeld, L. “Designing a Study to Answer a Research Question.” Presented at “Creating Patient-Based Evidence from the Roots,” conference sponsored by Albert Jovell Institute for Public Health and Patients, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Cambridge, MA, April 2015.

Rosenfeld, L. “An Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice for Patients.” Presented at “Creating Patient-Based Evidence from the Roots,” conference sponsored by Albert Jovell Institute for Public Health and Patients, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Cambridge, MA, April 2015.

Rosenfeld, L. “Reelisting — Collecting Data: Developing Questionnaires and Surveys.” Presented at “Creating Patient-Based Evidence from the Roots,”

conference sponsored by Albert Jovell Institute for Public Health and Patients, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Cambridge, MA, April 2015.

Rosenfeld, L. “Reflecting on a Year of Service in Health.” Presented to Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Boston Chapter, Boston, MA, April 2015.

Shepard, D.S. “Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit of CHWs: Examples from Environmental Control and Maternal Health.” Presented at “Financing Community Health Worker Systems at Scale in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Accra, Ghana, June 2015.

Shepard, D.S. “Economic Burden of Dengue.” Presented at the Americas Dengue Prevention Board, Bogota, Colombia, March 2015.

Shepard, D.S., Halasa, Y., Mangesho, P, Kihombo, A., Kihomo, R., Seif, M., Mnzava, R., Tenu, F., Makerere, C., Mugasa, J., and Kisinza, W. “Cost-Effectiveness of Insecticide-Treated Durable Wall Liners and Indoor Residual Spraying for Malaria Control in Rural Tanzania.” Presented at TRAction Scientific Review Panel, Tanga, Tanzania, January 2015.

Shepard, D.S., Halasa, Y., Mangesho, P, Kihombo, A., Kihomo, R., Seif, M., Mnzava, R., Tenu, F., Makerere, C., Mugasa, J., Mtove, G., Rowland, M., Malima, R., Rowland, M., and Kisinza, W. “Tanzanian Household and Government Expenditures for Malaria Treatment from a Population-Based Survey.” Presented at Fifth Annual East African Health and Scientific Research Conference, Kampala, Uganda, March 2015.

Shepard, D.S., and Sewankambo, N. “Pilot SMS Mother Reminder System Evaluation in Gulu: Design and Current Status.” Presented at Technical Review Meeting, Mother Reminder Project, sponsored by Uganda Ministry of Health, Gulu, Uganda, April 2015.

Shepard, D.S., and Zeng, W. “Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Results-Based Financing Programs.” Presented at the World Bank Training Seminar, Washington, D.C., June 2015.

Undurraga, E.A. “Economic Analysis of Vector Control Interventions.” Presented at “RAPIDD Targeted Control of Vector Borne Diseases Modeling Working Group,” sponsored by Fogarty International Center (FIC) and University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, March 2015.

One of the main characteristics of vector-borne pathogens is the extreme heterogeneity in the factors that contribute to their transmission, spread and persistence. Targeting control measures based on locations, groups or individuals is essential for



DONALD SHEPARD

cost-effective interventions. Using dengue as a study case, the presentation focused on the main sources of uncertainty around dengue prevention and control strategies.

Zinner, D. “Risk Contracting in Organized Delivery Systems.” Presented at 2015 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

The Affordable Care Act initiated several new programs that changed the way that doctors are ultimately reimbursed, moving away from fee-for-service to methods that hold doctors more accountable for the overall cost and quality of patient care. This talk presented findings of a national survey of 33 very large physician groups about their readiness for payment reform and capabilities needed to accept these risk-based contracts.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dassin, J. Moderator, “Assessing the Social Impacts of International Scholarship Programs.” Panel co-sponsored with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK. Presented at NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference, Boston, MA, May 2015.

Dassin, J. “Consolidating an Emerging Field of Scholarship Evaluation and Practice.” Co-convended with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK. Presented at NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference, Boston, MA, May 2015.

These two activities brought together researchers, donors and education agencies involved in scholarship administration and evaluation. Participants included the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Open Society and MasterCard Foundations, and Canadian, U.S., Dutch and Norwegian scholarship agencies. The purpose of the panels

was to highlight the emerging body of practice and research on assessing the social impact of international scholarships.

Dassin, J. “Education, Communication and International Development.” Presented at University of São Paulo at Bauru, Brazil, June 2015.

Dassin, J. “Inclusive Education and Conflict Transformation: The Role of Education.” Keynote Speaker at “Pathways to Peace Luncheon,” NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference, Boston, MA, May 2015.



JOAN DASSIN '69

Dassin, J. “Inclusive Education and International Development.” Presented at Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, June 2015.

Dassin, J. “Social Policy in Brazil.” Commentary on talk by Professor David Fleischer, University of Brasília. Organized by the Brandeis International Business School, Waltham, MA, March 2015.

Espinosa, C. “Conflicting Visions: Modern Economic Development Models and Indigenous Minorities.” Presented at Second Annual Latin American Conference, “Identity and the Case for Regional Policies,” organized by Latin American Caucus, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, April 2015.

This panel aimed to discuss the relationship between Latin American states and the indigenous communities living within their boundaries. The panel included Luis Toro, JD, senior attorney from the Organization of American States; Franco Vitery, a Kichwa leader and president of the Government of the First Nations of the Ecuadorian Amazon; Luis Valenzuela, director of the Center for Territorial Intelligence, Chile; and Adam Zuckerman from Amazon Watch. The panel was moderated by Maritza Paredes, Assistant Professor at the Universidad Católica, Lima, Peru.

Espinosa, C. “Opposed Visions: Economic Development and Indigenous Peoples.” Panelist at “The Latin American Way: Identity and the Case for Regional Policies,” conference organized by Latin American Caucus, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, April 2015.

Latin American sustained economic growth is dependent on the expansion of oil, mining and industrial agriculture, all of which are encroaching on indigenous and peasant lands, creating serious conflicts and dilemmas. This calls attention to the need for rethinking the model of nation-state and the type of development to better accommodate the goals of economic growth, social inclusion and equity, and environmental conservation, with special attention to indigenous peoples’ rights and claims and their contribution to alternative views on development. This discussion, however, is not at the center of the development agenda, therefore events like this among current and future international policy makers contribute to mainstream this issue.

Nsiah-Jefferson, L. Keynote speaker, “Intersectionality, Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid International Conference,” sponsored by Oxfam-America and Simmons Center for Gender and Organizations, Boston, MA, March 2015.

This talk, delivered to Oxfam program directors and executives from Africa, Europe and America, discussed how they can include an intersectionality lens in their gender and development work.

Simon, L. Commentator at “Dialogue on the African American and Dalit Indian Experience,” sponsored by the Afro-American Studies Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA, May 2015.

LABOR MARKETS

Bishop, C. Commented on “Empirical Evidence on Diversity and Performance in Teams: The Roles of Task Focus, Status and Tenure and Relational Coordination: Reviewing the Theory and Evidence.” Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Nsiah-Jefferson, L. “Elements of a Culturally Effective Health Care Organization.” Presented at “Equity, Access, and Outcomes: New Strategies for Employee/Employer Relations (Symposium),” sponsored by the Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

The presentation provided a framework developed by the Institute on Assets and Social Policy for a

culturally effective organization based on policies, practices and guides of a number of federal and accrediting bodies.

MANAGEMENT

Gittell, J.H. “Improving Work Processes Using Relational Coordination.” Presented at RC Intervention Training Workshop, Chicago, IL, March 2015.

Gittell, J.H. Keynote speaker, “International Conference on Relational Welfare in Copenhagen,” sponsored by Join Action Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2015.

Gittell, J.H. Panelist, “Intra-Organizational Bargaining Revisited in Post-Industrial Organizations.” Presented at “A 50th Anniversary Celebration of *A Behavioral Theory of Labor Negotiations* with Robert B. McKersie and Richard E. Walton,” sponsored by the Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, March 2015.

Gittell, J.H. “Relational Coordination as Method to Transform Relationships for High Performance.” Keynote speaker at “Relational Coordination and Interprofessional Learning,” Annual Conference at Metropol College, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 2015.

Gittell, J.H. “Relational Coordination Among Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Nurses — A Leadership Perspective.” Sponsored by the Association of Danish Physiotherapists, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 2015.

Gittell, J.H. “Transforming Relationships for High Performance.” Keynote speaker, “Relational Coordination to Improve the Service Performance of Dental Practices,” American Dental Partners Inc. Annual Meeting, Wakefield, MA, March 2015.

Gittell, J.H. “Transforming Relationships for High Performance — St. Joseph’s Health System.” Presented at St. Joseph’s Health System, Irvine, CA, April 2015.

Gittell, J.H. “Transforming Relationships for High Performance.” Presented at “VHA Voices — Community of Practice Call — Better Care Through Better Relationships,” Waltham, MA, January 2015.

Gittell, J.H., and Douglass, A. “Partnerships in Employment Network Meeting.” Facilitated by **Cady Landa**, PhD student; hosted by the Institute of Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Boston, MA, February 2015.

Gittell, J.H., and Douglass, A. “Relational Bureaucracy.” Presented at Simmons College, Center for Gender and Organizations, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Gittell, J.H., and **Logan, C.** “Relational Coordination: Reviewing the Theory and Evidence” session at “Employment Relations and Organizational Performance.” Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

McLaughlin, T. Guest lecturer on Financial Management at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, June 2015.

PHILANTHROPY

McKenna, M. “Essential Communication Strategies that Contribute to the Success of Women Educational Leaders.” Keynote speaker at Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) Women’s Leadership Conference, Holy Cross University, Worcester, MA, March 2015.

McKenna, M. Keynote speaker at the Brandeis University Education Commencement Ceremony, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, May 2015.


PHILOSOPHY

Sampath, R. “A Phenomenological Assessment of Hegel’s Dialectical Critique of the Indian Caste System in *The Philosophy of History* (1830).” Presented at “Human/Non-Human/and Post-Human: Phenomenology of the Object and the Human Positioning in the Cosmos,” sponsored by the World Phenomenology Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, June 2015.



Tackling the Opioid Crisis

Heller Center leads the nascent field of prescription drug monitoring research



The increased prevalence of powerful prescription painkillers over the last two decades has led to improved pain management for many patients, but it has also contributed to a dramatic spike in prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths, which have quadrupled since 1999. In response to what the CDC calls the “opioid epidemic,” health care professionals, government officials and researchers are working to control the illicit circulation of prescription drugs without adversely affecting patient care.

In February, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared opioid addiction a priority for his administration, citing a 46 percent increase in opioid-related deaths from 2012 to 2013. Baker called on medical professionals who prescribe opioids to consult the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database, a tool that logs patient access to controlled substances, such as prescription painkillers. Now adopted in 49 states (all except Missouri), PDMPs have become increasingly widespread as a means to track patient and prescriber behaviors.

Heller’s PDMP Center of Excellence, housed at the Institute for Behavioral Health (IBH), has been instrumental in the drive for research and evidence-based policy recommendations in this burgeoning field. In June 2014, five New England governors held a meeting at Brandeis, hosted by the Center, where then-Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick announced a regional agreement to coordinate efforts addressing shared concerns of opioid misuse and abuse. Agency representatives from each state held a second meeting at Brandeis later in the summer to develop detailed plans for implementing this cross-state work.

Outside of New England, researchers across the country are starting to use this data to evaluate PDMP effectiveness, as well as the overall public health implications of controlled substance abuse. In many states, law enforcement and state licensing boards utilize PDMP data when examining prescriber and pharmacy

behaviors for dangerous or illegal activity. However, it can be challenging for researchers to access this data, which is highly protected.

Center of Excellence Principal Investigator Peter Kreiner has worked with the Massachusetts PDMP for over a decade. For the past three years, the center has developed a longitudinal database of anonymous PDMP data called the Prescription Behavior Surveillance System (PBSS), which serves as an epidemiological, public health surveillance and evaluation tool. The PBSS now includes data from 11 states. “We’ve noticed an increased interest at conferences by others who are studying PDMPs or using or wanting to use PDMP data, but those researchers seemed disconnected from one another,” Kreiner says. “There might only be a handful of other researchers at these conferences to talk to. We thought it would be a useful thing to hold a meeting focused solely on PDMP research and evaluation.”

In May, Kreiner spearheaded an effort co-sponsored by the PDMP Center of Excellence, Johns Hopkins University and Aclura Health to organize the first-ever PDMP research forum, held at the offices of Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C. “The goal of the forum was to promote this field, which is still in its infancy,” says IBH research associate and Heller PhD candidate Meelee Kim. This forum helped a community of researchers forge relationships with PDMP agencies, which can facilitate their access to data either independently or through the center’s PBSS database.

Pending continued positive feedback, Kreiner and his team will seek funding to expand this year’s PDMP research forum into a larger, annual meeting. Through its work, the center is garnering increased recognition among policymakers and helping to foster a growing community of researchers, clinicians and government officials who are dedicated to battling prescription drug abuse in the U.S.

By Bethany Romano



AGING

Christine Bishop served on a Technical Expert Panel for a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services project on Medicare home health payment in Baltimore, MD, on January 8, 2015.

Christine Bishop served on a special review panel for the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) in Gaithersburg, MD, on January 15, 2015.

Margie Lachman delivered a lecture, “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Cognitive Aging (But Forgot to Ask),” to the Carlisle, MA, Council on Aging on April 22, 2015.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Janet Boguslaw participated in a Working Group of higher education experts to develop an affordability benchmark for higher education at the Lumina Foundation meeting on May 4, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Loya appeared on the June 11, 2015, Freakonomics radio podcast “Making Sex Offenders Pay and Pay and Pay and Pay.”

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The **Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy** received extensive media coverage on its Child Opportunity Index, which measures relative opportunity across a metropolitan area based on indicators of educational opportunity, health and environmental opportunity, and social and economic opportunity. The story was covered by public radio in Denver, Pittsburgh and Boston, as well as by The Boston Globe, CityLab and Vox.com. Links to individual stories are available on the diversitydata.kids.org library. Among the organizations using the Child Opportunity Index for their initiatives are the Chicago Department of Health, Boston Medical Center and Pinellas County, Fla.

HEALTH

Christine Bishop was a reviewer for the AHRQ Evidence-Based Practice Center Program: Home-Based Primary Care Interventions on May 20, 2015.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Joan Dassin '69 participated in a meeting of the "Diversity and Diplomacy" program from June 1-3, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Dassin attended the meeting, which was organized by Humanity in Action, as part of an evaluation project for the Robina Foundation on activities to bring greater diversity into the field of international relations.

Laurence Simon was interviewed by WGBH News for an April 30, 2015, piece on Nepal earthquake relief, "Vetting Charities to Assure Nepal Donations Reach Victims."

PHILOSOPHY

Rajesh Sampath wrote a post titled "The Challenge of Articulating the Ethical Mandate to Reverse Climate Change" for Georgetown University's Global Futures Blog on March 2, 2015.

Rajesh Sampath published a letter to the editor to The New York Times on March 28, 2015, in reply to the article, "In College and Hiding from Scary Ideas." This letter to the editor explores debates about the limitations of ways of speaking in the university while protecting students in diverse environments from real and perceived forms of harm and offense.

Rajesh Sampath authored a blog post for The Huffington Post, "An Inconvenient Moral Argument for the Death Penalty in the Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Case," on April 27, 2015. The post explores different kinds of arguments for the death penalty in the Tsarnaev case in comparison with different state, national and geographic contexts where the death penalty does not exist or has been banned.

Rajesh Sampath published an op-ed piece in the January 29, 2015, Washington Post, "India Has Outlawed Homosexuality. But It's Better to Be Transgender There Than in the U.S." This op-ed deconstructs assumptions about the legalization of gay marriage in America while failing to address transgender rights, in contrast with a non-Western context, namely India, where transgender has been made legally acceptable while homosexuality, let alone marriage rights, are not guaranteed.

Rajesh Sampath was a panelist on The Huffington Post Live panel, "When Free Speech Comes at a Cost on Campuses," on June 4, 2015. His contribution in this panel discussion debates those advocating the position that the current generation of students in

American universities are forcing an unnecessary curb against free speech and thinking, which forbids a true exchange of ideas and self-discovery — the very things universities should be standing for. Instead, he makes the contrarian argument that diverse environments in new generations could alter the way we imagine "free speech" and appropriate constraints on it.

PSYCHOLOGY

Margie Lachman was the speaker for Episode 1 of the April 17, 2015, edition of NPR's TED Radio Hour, "Maslow's Human Needs." The title of her talk was "How Did Abraham Maslow Change Psychology?"

PUBLIC FINANCE


Robert Tannenwald gave testimony on March 31, 2015, to the Massachusetts Joint Legislative Revenue Committee critical of the Commonwealth's film tax credit. He was quoted by the media voicing similar criticism, appearing in The Huffington Post, The Boston Globe, The Providence Journal and International Business Times.

SOCIAL POLICY

Lawrence Neil Bailis co-led a discussion at a spotlight session called "Innovation in a Traditional Culture: A New Narrative for Nurturing and Challenging Jewish Leaders" at the First Joint Conference on Research in Jewish Education, sponsored by the Network for Research in Jewish Education and the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, in New York City on June 11, 2015.

On April 2, 2015, **Susan P. Curnan** gave the keynote address, "The Val-Kill Spirit of Freedom, Curiosity and Determination: A Conversation About What We Can Learn from Eleanor Roosevelt About Living Our Lives and Changing the World/The Brandeisian-Rooseveltian Way," for Lifelong Learning, an independent organization at Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA.

Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson '80, PhD'06, presented a tribute to Julian Bond at a dinner in Bond's honor at the Brandeis Faculty Club on March 31, 2015. Bond was the 2014-15 Richman Distinguished Fellow in Public Life at Brandeis, which included a visit to Brandeis from March 31 through April 2, 2015.



Andrea Acevedo, PhD'12, was selected to be part of the Early Career Reviewer program at the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health. She also won a Provost's Innovation in Research Grant from Brandeis University for the study titled "Inequalities in Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment." The goal of the study is to learn, from treatment providers' perspectives, facilitators and barriers experienced by adolescents and their families in general, and minority adolescents and their families in particular, when seeking and completing substance abuse treatment care.

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia was appointed to the board of directors of the Council on Contemporary Families (CCF). CCF is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to providing the press and public with the latest research and best-practice findings about American families. She also was appointed to the advisory board for the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP). NCCP is one of the nation's leading public policy centers dedicated to promoting the economic security, health and well-being of America's low-income families and children.

Brenda Anderson won the Heller Teaching Award in April 2015. Nominations for the award were made by students and recent graduates. Anderson previously received the Teaching Award in 2006.

Janet Boguslaw received a Provost's Innovation in Research Grant from Brandeis for her study "Out-sourced at Home: The Impacts for Job Quality, Public Resources and Family Well-Being."

Jon A. Chilingierian received a Provost's Innovation in Research Grant from Brandeis for his research project "Being Better Than Average Is Not Good Enough: Benchmarking Physician and Hospital Quality and Efficiency."

Susan P. Curman was nominated and selected to be chair of the Brandeis Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Joan Dassin '69 was appointed visiting professor within the Department of Media and Technology at the State University of São Paulo at Bauru (UNESP) from June 8-18, 2015. The objective of this appointment was to develop an institutional partnership between UNESP and the Heller School to promote student exchanges, collaborative teaching and joint research on the role of communications and digital media in community development.

Tam Emerson, Segal Program director and 2008 Eli J. Segal City Year Fellow, was selected as a 2015

Boston New Leaders Council (NLC) Fellow. NLC works to recruit, train and promote the progressive political entrepreneurs of tomorrow. From January to June, Emerson completed the NLC Institute, known as the nation's premier political entrepreneurship training program.

Leah Igdalsky joined the Committee on Diversity and Cultural Competency for Arc of the United States in January 2015. In addition, she received a grant through the Brandeis University SPARK grant competition to create an online intervention to educate family caregivers about the importance of breast and cervical cancer screenings for women with disabilities. The intervention is titled, "Improving Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening Access for Women with Development Disability." Igdalsky is the principal investigator.

Lanni Isenberg received the 2015 Heller Staff Service Award. Nominations for the award were made by members of the Heller School community.

Margaret McKenna, acting director of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, was appointed president of Suffolk University.

Tatjana Meschede received a Provost's Innovation in Research Grant from Brandeis for her study "Homeless Families: Can Targeted Workforce Development Improve Employment and Housing Outcomes?"

A.K. Nandakumar received two awards from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he is employed as chief economist for global health in the Office of Health Systems, Bureau for Global Health. The first award was for Exemplary Service and cited Nandakumar's "exemplary intellectual and programmatic leadership. Professor Nandakumar has played a pivotal strategic role in advancing USAID's visibility and credibility in health finance, and in mobilizing substantial new resources to support U.S. global health goals." Professor Nandakumar also received a Call to Service Award. USAID's India Mission nominated him for outstanding support in helping it redefine its health care financing strategy and support for Universal Health Coverage in the country.

Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson '80, PhD'06, won the Harry S. Levitan Prize for Excellence and Leadership in Education from Brandeis University on May 13, 2015. She also received the 2015 Heller Mentoring Award. Nominations for the award were made by students and recent graduates. Nsiah-Jefferson was also nominated for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Minority Health Advisory Committee.

Eric Olson was one of two winners honored with a Newton (MA) Environmental Leadership Award at a ceremony at Lasell College on June 11, 2015. This award recognizes his 15 years' of energy and climate activism and his park stewardship work in Newton's conservation lands.

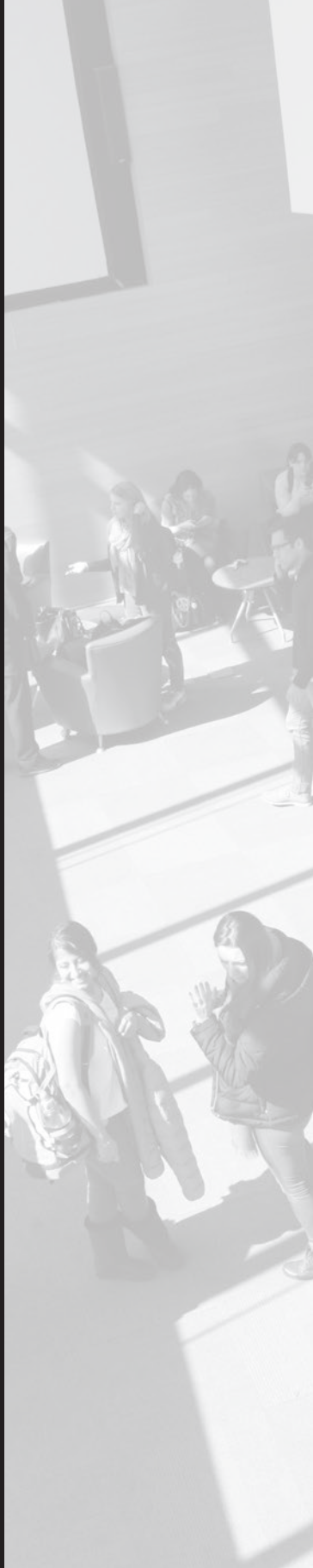
Susan Parish was appointed a fellow of the Society for Social Work Research and a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Evaluation of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Program for Children with Speech Disorders and Language Disorders. She also was reappointed to the editorial board of the journal *Social Work Research*. In addition, Parish was appointed chairperson of the Deborah Noonan Memorial Research Fund review committee. This local foundation supports research related to the health of children with disabilities.

Lindsay Rosenfeld won the American Occupational Therapy Grant Award as the Brandeis PI for the PREPARED (Parents Responding, Engaging & PARTICIPating for new Environments for Children with Disabilities) study titled, "An Environment Problem-Solving Strategy for Parents of Youth with Disabilities." Funding is from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Partners include Boston University, Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project and Massachusetts Federation for Children.

Laurence Simon received a grant through the Brandeis SPARK grant competition for the study titled, "Reduction of Mosquito-Borne Diseases Through Non-Pesticide Screening of Private and Public Spaces." This grant will establish field trials in Sri Lanka. Simon is the principal investigator.

Maureen Stewart, PhD'09, received a Provost's Innovation in Research Grant from Brandeis for a project called "Developing a Mobile App for Mental Health and Substance Use Issues." This award will fund the initial work to begin developing a mobile app capable of providing mental health/substance use prevention and early intervention services directly to smartphone users.

Eduardo Undurraga, PhD'14, received the Centers for Disease Control Steven M. Teutsch Prevention Effectiveness Fellowship. This highly selective applied research fellowship for recent PhD graduates focuses on economic evaluation, decision and operational analysis, and simulation and disease modeling techniques to promote health. In August, Undurraga began working at the Health Economics and Modeling Unit at the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC. The fellowship goes through August 2017.



Janet Boguslaw facilitated a roundtable introduction to asset development in philanthropy called “Assets 101” for the Asset Funders Network annual funders meeting in Dallas in April 2015.

The **Center for Global Development and Sustainability** (GDS) presented a two-day symposium, “Annihilation of Caste: The Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar,” in May 2015. Ambedkar, independent India’s first minister of law and justice and the principal architect of the constitution of India, campaigned against social discrimination against untouchables, women and labor. The symposium included discussion of Ambedkar’s 1936 work “The Annihilation of Caste” by GDS faculty members **Laurence Simon**, **Rajesh Sampath** and **Andreas Teuber**. The keynote lectures were delivered by **Sukhadeo Thorat**, professor emeritus of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and **William Darity**, professor of Afro-American studies at Duke University.

In spring 2015, the **Center for Youth and Communities** launched a successful pilot of the Brandeis Think Tanks, bringing together higher education administrators who hold the same job at different New England university and college campuses for sustained dialogue, collective reflection and collaborative problem solving. Think tanks convened on the Brandeis campus focused on the following topics: “The State of Race on Our Campuses” and “Campus Responses to Sexual Assault.” Each of the five think tanks — the Chief Student Affairs Officers Think Tank, the Academic Affairs Think Tank, the Academic Deans Think Tank, the Associate Academic Deans Think Tank and the Multicultural Affairs Officers Think Tank — will continue to convene at Brandeis throughout the 2015–16 academic year.

The **Coexistence and Conflict Program** sponsored a talk by **Christopher Cooper**, a civil rights attorney and former Washington, D.C., police officer. In a talk titled “How the Extent of Conflict Resolution Skills Held by Police Officers Reflects the Manner in Which Calls-for-Service Are Addressed,” Cooper discussed police conflict resolution skills in light of incidents of excessive use of force by police in Ferguson, Mo., and New York.

The website **diversitydatakids.org** hosted a webinar titled “Data Tools for Change: The Child Opportunity Index” in collaboration with PolicyLink, a leading national research and action institute dedicated to advancing economic and social equity, on March 18, 2015. The purpose of this webinar was to introduce the Child Opportunity Index and show how it can further cross-sector efforts toward child health equity.

Leaders and researchers at the intersection of public health and community development can benefit from rigorous, neighborhood-level data to understand needs and target collaborative action.

The **Executive Education Program** held its annual weeklong Leadership Program for Health Policy and Management in early June. The program, which is partially sponsored by the American College of Surgeons and the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education, equips health leaders with the knowledge and skills essential for creating innovative and sustainable solutions to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of health care service delivery, and for participating in health care policy and reform. Program instructors included Heller faculty members **Jon Chilingirian, Stuart Altman, Brenda Anderson, Robert Mechanic, Christopher Tompkins, Jody Hoffer Gittel** and **Jeffrey Prottas**.

The **Health Industry Forum** convened a forum titled “Comprehensive Health Care Payment Reform. What Will It Take to Get There?” in Washington, D.C., in April 2015. The forum addressed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ goal of shifting half of Medicare payments from traditional fee-for-service to an alternative method by 2018. Despite many new Affordable Care Act initiatives, progress on payment reform around the country has been spotty. The meeting examined what needs to be done to wean the U.S. health system off fee-for-service and whether this is an achievable goal over the next decade.

The **Health Industry Forum** held a meeting for its members, “The Future of Pharmaceutical Benefit Management,” in Washington, D.C., in June 2015. The meeting examined the changing pharmaceutical market, its increasing focus on specialty products and the evolving role of pharmaceutical benefit management. Speakers included **Stuart Altman**, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy at the Heller School.

The **Lurie Institute for Disability Policy** presented a screening of the film “Anita.” The film, by acclaimed Argentine filmmaker Marcos Carnevale, tells the remarkable story of a young woman with Down Syndrome whose routine life in Buenos Aires is tragically disrupted by the horrific 1994 bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association.

Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson ’80, PhD’06, presented two workshops in March 2015, one for the Heller MPP Program and one for the Heller MBA Program. The goal of these workshops was to

provide students with information on the status of inequities in the African-American community on a number of issues, including excessive policing, health, education and other areas. It also aimed to develop strategies and solutions through the lens of African-American leadership for the MBA Program (utilizing an adapted case study) and the use of the Kingdom Model for Agenda Setting (which includes identification of the problem, policy proposals, and politics) for the MPP Program, to create a policy window to address some of these intractable social problems. The workshop for the MPP students was titled “Black Lives Matter: Utilizing the Kingdom Model to Address Challenges of Excessive Police Force and Educational and Health Disparities.” The workshop for the MBA students covered “Black Lives Matter: African-American Leadership and Critical Theory to Address Improving Outcomes in Excessive Policing and Other Challenges in the Black Community.”

The **Institute on Assets and Social Policy’s Thomas Shapiro**, along with Catherine Ruetschlin (senior policy analyst, Demos) and Anne Price (managing program director, Insight Center for Community Economic Development), introduced the Racial Wealth Audit during a May 2015 webinar, “The Racial Wealth Gap: Why Policy Matters.” The Racial Wealth Audit is a new tool that prepares advocates, policy-makers and analysts to proactively reduce the racial wealth gap through policy analysis and design,


The **Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program**, as part of Deis Impact Week in February at Brandeis, co-hosted keynote speaker Alan Khazei, co-founder of City Year and founder of Be the Change Inc. More than 150 people attended the event.

The **Tuesday Talks** series continued during the spring 2015 semester, highlighting the work of Heller faculty and researchers. **Elizabeth L. Merrick, PhD’98**, senior scientist and lecturer; **Dominic Hodgkin**, professor; and **Constance M. Horgan**, professor and director of the **Institute for Behavioral Health**, presented “Incentives to Shape Health Behaviors: How Can We Make Them More Person-Centered?” **Lindsay Rosenfeld**, scientist and lecturer at the **Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy**, discussed “The NOURISH Study: A Policy Evaluation of New School Nutrition Standards in Massachusetts,” and **Diana Bowser**, scientist, lecturer and director of the **MS Program in International Health Policy and Management**, spoke on “MobileHealth: Improving Antenatal Care in Nigeria.”



Ricardo Godoy's 20-Year Study in the Bolivian Amazon

Measuring the effects of modernization in the Tsimane' indigenous society



Ricardo Godoy sits in a quiet office on Heller's ground floor in front of a computer screen flanked by two skulls. "That's *Australopithecus*," he says, gesturing first to the heavy-jawed one on the left, "and that's *homo sapiens*. I always thought that these two guys are a nice summary of life — where we come from, and where we're going. And in the middle is where we spend all this time sending emails, writing and so forth. But the big picture is on either side."

Every summer for 20 years, Godoy and a team of colleagues trek to a remote region of the Bolivian rainforest and work in 13 indigenous villages along a small tributary river to the Amazon. There, they study 2,000 Tsimane', a native Amazonian society: taking measurements of their health, emotional welfare, culture and economy. The goal? To see whether and how the ever-encroaching tide of modernization has changed this indigenous group. Of the very few longitudinal anthropological studies that exist, Godoy says only this one gathers socioeconomic and biological data systematically over time.

"A lot of people think that modernization is the road to perdition, and others think that it's the greatest thing on earth," says Godoy. "When you put all the data together, you start to see some patterns, but the effects of modernization are very ambiguous. What we find are very mixed results — some things improve, others, not so much. But on the whole, things get better." The data show that Tsimane' subjects are slightly stronger, healthier, even happier overall than when the study started.

In addition to the slew of longitudinal data Godoy collects every year, he's developed side projects that capitalize on his good relationship with the Tsimane' people to answer other basic questions about human culture and psychology.

A few years ago Godoy began to wonder whether the connections we make between music and emotion are a function of nature or of nurture. Do we automatically associate the soundtrack of an Alfred Hitchcock film with fear because we've learned to associate them together, or is this a universal phenomenon based in human biology?

To answer this question, Godoy teamed up with Josh McDermott at MIT. They played snippets of music for Tsimane' study participants, and asked them about emotional associations. "What we've found is that snippets of happy music are recognized as happy among this Amazon tribe, but what you and I might think of as sad music is not associated with sadness. Sadness seems to be much more cultural. You learn what's sad, but there's something universal about happiness."

For the first time in many years, Godoy spent most of this summer not in the jungle, but sitting in the company of *homo sapiens* and *Australopithecus*, working on a long-awaited book. It will summarize Godoy's decades of research with the Tsimane' and his conclusions about how modernization has affected these formerly isolated people.

PUBLICATIONS

Ahmadi, Q., Danesh, H., Makharasashvili, V., Mishkin, K., Mufukura, L., Teed, H., and Huff-Rouselle, M. (2015). SWOT Analysis of Program Design and Implementation: A Case Study on the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Afghanistan. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*. Published online May 7, 2015.

This paper was a culmination of the efforts from Professor Huff-Rouselle's course "Implementing Policy and Practice Change in Health and Social Systems."

Gaiser, M.D., Nsiah-Jefferson, L., Santos, J., Venner, S., Boguslaw, J., and Tellez, T. (2015). *Culturally Effective Organizations: A Framework for Success*. Waltham, MA: Institute on Assets and Social Policy, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Mericle, A.A., **Miles, J.**, and Cacciola, J. (2015). A Critical Component of the Continuum of Care for Substance Use Disorders: Recovery Homes in Philadelphia. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*. 47(1), pp. 80-90.

Patton-Bolman, C., **Bigirimana, N.**, and Carragher, J. (2015). Developing a Sustainable Model for Cardiovascular Care in Rwanda. In Breakey, S., Corless, I.B., Meedzan, N.L., and Nicholas, P.K. (Eds.), *Global Health Nursing in the 21st Century*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, pp. 485-508.

White, J.M., **Dunham, E.**, Blake, R., Reisner, S.L., and Mimiaga, M.J. (2015). Sexually Explicit Racialised Media Targeting Men Who Have Sex with Men Online: A Content Analysis of High-Risk Behaviour Depicted in Online Advertisements. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*. Published online April 18, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

Dietrich, L. "Diversity in Care Work: The Challenge and Opportunity for Career Mobility." Presented at "Crossing Borders: Understanding Carework in the 21st Century" Mini-Conference, sponsored by the Eastern Sociological Society, organized by the Carework Network, New York, NY, February and March 2015.

Dunham, E. "Caring for LGBT People: Improving Effective Communication and Creating Welcoming Environments." Presented at Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Somerville and Everett, MA, April 2015.

Dunham, E. “Community-Based Research ‘With’ Not ‘On’ Transgender Communities: Why and How Do We Do It.” Panelist at Trans Health Summit, Oakland, CA, April 2015.

Dunham, E. “Health Promotion Strategies for LGBT Persons.” Panelist for AAMC — Faculty Development Video Series, Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington, D.C., April 2015.

Dunham, E. “Promoting Greater Understanding and Inclusivity of LGBTQ Clients.” Presented at Dorchester House, Dorchester, MA, March 2015.

Pugatch, M. “Integrating SBIRT for Adolescents into a Foundations Course in Social Work Education: Evaluation of Acceptability.” Presented at “Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Alcohol and Other Drug Use: An Interprofessional Conference,” sponsored by the Institute for Research, Education and Training in the Addictions (IRETA), Pittsburgh, PA, June 2015.

Samina, P., and Sadik, K. “Community Health Workers, an Effective and Efficient Workforce: Bangladesh as a Case Study.” Presented at “2015 Extreme Affordability Global Health Conference,” University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, April 2015.

Santos, J. “The Elusive Ladder: Modern Day Health Care Career Paths.” Presented at Doctoral Conference on Leadership and Learning, Rivier University, Nashua, NH, March 2015.

Santos, J. “Employment Networks and Access to Good Jobs: Employment Policy for Social Relations.” Presented at Labor and Employment Relations Association’s ASSA/American Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2015.

Santos, J. “The Permeability of Durable Inequalities: Employment Networks in Health Care Work.” Presented at “Crossing Borders: Understanding Carework in the 21st Century” Mini-Conference, sponsored by the Eastern Sociological Society, organized by the Carework Network, New York, NY, February and March 2015.

HONORS/AWARDS

Joshua Cramer-Montes, SID student, was invited to the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative University Commitment Maker event from March 6-8, 2015, at the University of Miami in Florida. The meeting marked the launch of Cramer-Montes’ CGIU

Commitment project, titled “The Voice of Nicéia Garden.” The project is a commitment between students in journalism from Brazil and sustainable international development in the U.S., to develop a multidimensional and replicable ICT4D (Information and Communication Technologies for Development) toolkit and advocacy campaign rooted in participatory development. This pilot puts the power of storytelling into the hands of Nicéia Garden, a proud but low-income neighborhood in São Paulo state that lacks basic public services and is invisible to the surrounding wealthy gated communities. Through strategic communications and technology support, residents give a face and name to their stories and connect with others in their fight against social injustice and inequality.



MEGAN MADISON, PHD STUDENT
(See related story on page 10.)

Farzana Fayeq, COEX student, was awarded a Program on Negotiation Summer Fellowship by Harvard University. Fayeq interned with the Foreign and Defense Policy Department of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., for three months.

Analissa Iversen, MPP/MBA student, and **Leah Sakala**, MPP/MBA student, were selected as 2015 Segal Fellows by the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. There are now 78 Segal Fellows spanning 17 states and three continents. Iversen had a Segal summer internship with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Maryland, and Sakala interned with the Urban Institute–Justice Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Each had a Segal Coach for the summer. Iversen’s was Mike McCurry, partner, Public Strategies Inc., and Sakala’s was Nicky Goren, president and CEO of the Meyer Foundation.

Ruslan Nikitin, MS'10, PhD student, was selected as a U.S.-Russia Social Expertise Exchange (SEE) Public Health Fellow by the Eurasia Foundation in 2015.

Roger Perez, MBA/SID student, was selected as one of 20 Environmental Leadership Fellows from the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. The Switzer Fellowship Program offers one-year fellowships to highly talented graduate students in New England and California whose studies and career goals are directed toward environmental improvement and who clearly demonstrate leadership in their field. He worked with the City of Newton, MA, to draft a comprehensive sustainability action plan, detailing steps by which the city can minimize its environmental footprint. He also collaborated with a community organization in Tecpán, Guatemala, to improve local food security and foster entrepreneurial activities.

Amity Quinn, PhD'15 and research associate, Institute for Behavioral Health, Schneider Institutes for Health Policy, received a Student Merit Award from the 2015 Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific meeting, which is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Jessica Santos, PhD candidate, received a grant from the Lincoln Financial Foundation, with a subcontract to Brandeis from Families in Transition, for her dissertation, "New Hampshire Employment Learning Collaboration."

Rajan Sonik, PhD student, received a \$10,000 grant from the Disability Determination Process (DDP) Small Grant Program for the study titled "Review of Sickle Cell for the Compassionate Allowance Listing."

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Heller students, alumni and researchers are engaged in work that promotes health equity and closes health disparities for vulnerable populations. To learn more about their stories, visit the “Advancing Health Equity” collection at bit.ly/AdvancingHealthEquity.

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