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### THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

Published by
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Brandeis University

Photography by

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Welcome to the Heller Social Policy Impact Report

As the Heller School celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, we’re more focused than ever on addressing the disparities in health, race, education, earnings and wealth that permeate our society. Driven by our motto “knowledge advancing social justice,” our researchers work to measure, understand the origins of, and resolve inequalities and related social policy challenges.

The five feature stories in this issue address disparities in various ways. In Kenya, Wu Zeng has pinpointed factors in health service delivery disparities among different counties. In Massachusetts, Joanne Nicholson is leading a peer specialist initiative to increase mental health support for a previously underserved population: parents with mental illness. In a new report, researchers at the Institute on Assets and Social Policy have found critical links between occupational segregation, workplace benefits and the racial wealth gap. Recent PhD graduate Diana Serrano partnered with Waltham Public Schools to study a new approach to bilingual education that addresses educational disparities. And the Center for Youth and Communities has helped the city of Nashville transform its youth employment landscape by creating more than 11,000 job opportunities in just 18 months, which helps close the job skills gap.

For 60 years, our commitment to rigorous research and engagement with policymakers, practitioners and recipients of social policies — as well as academics — has never wavered. And that dedication is what will fuel Heller for our next chapter, as we strive to make a lasting and positive impact on communities close by and around the world.

Sincerely,

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Assessing Health Care Efficiencies in Kenya

Wu Zeng leads World Bank-funded performance study in five counties
Kenya is one of many countries working toward universal health coverage — as urged by the World Health Assembly in a 2005 resolution — to provide its people with access to health services without financial hardship. Under Kenya’s new decentralized system of government, the responsibility of delivering health services falls largely at the county level, rather than the national level. While some counties are effectively serving their residents, others are lagging behind.

Associate Research Professor Wu Zeng, MS’05, PhD’09, led a World Bank-funded study to ascertain the reasons behind these differences. “Why are there variations among counties? What are the counties doing so differently?” he asked. Zeng and his team assessed five counties across Kenya (two lower-performing, two higher-performing and one in the middle). They analyzed budget information from 2017 and 2018, conducted a stakeholder survey and interviewed health providers, procurement officers, human resources officers and chief health officers.

They found several factors that contributed to better performance: strong political commitment, well-trained staff and active community mobilization. Their county governments tended to allot a larger portion of their budgets to health. County health employees were also sufficiently trained to implement new policies from the national government. Additionally, robust engagement of community health workers meant better outreach and referrals to clinics, especially for vulnerable populations like pregnant women and children.

Counties with poor performance lacked community engagement, faced a shortage of staff, encountered challenging road conditions and had weak referral systems, often because of a shortage and mismanagement of financial resources for health. All five counties, however, faced common problems of resources and autonomy. “They actually had more common problems than differences,” Zeng says.

Stakeholders interviewed said they didn’t have enough money or authority to hire the necessary personnel or procure the right equipment or medicine. Since the system requires the county government to manage these steps, there was often a delay. In addition, county government officials sometimes lacked the training to procure equipment or didn’t understand the urgency of their needs, which resulted in further delays.

“Economic development is the foundation for a decent health system,” Zeng says. Zeng hopes that this research can offer lessons to the Kenyan government as it seeks to improve health services across the nation. “If one county is doing well because of community mobilization work at the central level, maybe they should advocate for the community health workers,” Zeng says. As this is the first study of its kind in the region, Zeng also hopes the research can be applicable to neighboring countries as they work toward improving health care for their citizens.

He and his team offered several recommendations for the Kenyan government, such as developing a better payment system to avoid delayed payments to health providers and exploring innovative approaches to finance health care. Ultimately, however, Zeng emphasizes that health care can’t exist in a vacuum.

“Economic development is the foundation for a decent health system,” he says. “If a country is poor, its infrastructure and financial resources may not be sufficient to finance health services, so it’s important to continue focusing on economic development.”

By Karen Shih
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


CHILDMENDS, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Hughes, D.M., and Eichner, M. (2019). Conducted research for an online program directory and census, developed by Center for Youth and Communities partners Imaj Associates, that provides information for comprehensive referral resources as well as a way to identify where there are gaps in youth services in Boston. Prepared for the Boston Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development.

Hughes, D.M., Hoover, M., and Melchior, A. (2019). Initial evaluation of three programs of Children’s Friend Rhode Island’s Family Preservation Project, Project Connect, Foster Care and Fostering Families. Evaluators at the Center for Youth and Communities were contracted as evaluation and learning partners to assess outcomes attained by participants in the DCYF-funded programs.


CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE


DISABILITIES


GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT


HEALTH


IMMIGRATION

LABOR AND WORKPLACE


MANAGEMENT


PHILOSOPHY


POLITICS AND POLICY

Peer Support for Parents with Mental Illness

Joanne Nicholson leads ParentingWell initiative to improve mental health support for parents
It’s not easy being a parent — and parenting with a mental illness is even harder. How do you explain your condition to your child? What if a medication makes you too sleepy to watch your kids? What if you need inpatient psychiatric care, but the facility’s policies don’t allow young children to visit?

“The majority of people who have a mental illness are parents, and my work is to help them get the support they need to succeed in the role they’ve chosen,” says Professor of the Practice Joanne Nicholson of the Institute for Behavioral Health. She led the first national epidemiological study on this population in 2004, which showed that 57% of men and 68% of women who experience mental illness during their lifetime are parents.

That’s why she launched ParentingWell in 2017, a peer specialist initiative for parents with mental illness at Heller’s National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Peer specialists are people on the path to recovery who can provide support to someone with a similar illness. They’re commonly used in other health contexts, such as substance use recovery or cancer treatment.

But to launch a parent peer specialist program in Massachusetts, Nicholson needed to first get buy-in across the Commonwealth’s mental health system. For the first 18 months, she and her team worked with DMH and various mental health agencies to change how staff members approach the people they serve.

“Our goal is to have everyone in the system thinking: This person needs housing, a job, medication — and they may also be a parent,” she says. Nicholson and her team used what they learned to guide the development of the training program, including providing targeted, ongoing support for peer specialists; getting all practitioners to routinely ask patients about parenting and family life; and integrating peer specialists into program staff and agency initiatives. They’ve published two papers and are working on a third, focused on how to train organizations to implement and sustain supports for parents.

In May 2019, they started the statewide ParentingWell Learning Collaborative with 28 participants, to train not only peer specialists, but also social workers, case managers, clinical team members and others from DMH, as well as four mental health organizations.

This group training is important because “working with families is really complicated,” Nicholson says. “Peer specialists are often the ones with the most knowledge of the family — seeing that their refrigerator is empty, for example — but may be the least professionally skilled or supported.”

Peer specialists, along with their colleagues, have begun working with parents. Nicholson and her team will follow the progress of this pilot group for three to six months, then assess impact and make necessary adjustments for the next iteration of the training.

“Our goal is to have everyone in the system thinking: This person needs housing, a job, medication — and they may also be a parent,” says.

By Karen Shih
ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

**Tatjana Meschede (PI)** “Leveraging Mobility in Germany and the U.S.: A Qualitative Comparative Pilot Study of Wealth Inequality in Germany”; Funder: Brandeis Provost Grant for Research

This project’s qualitative study will extend the Institute on Assets and Social Policy’s Leveraging Mobility study by conducting parent pilot interviews in Germany, connecting with German scholars and investigating funders, in partnership with Brandeis’ Center for German and European Studies.

**Jessica Santos (PI)** “AFN Seattle Project”; Funder: Asset Funders Network (AFN)

Funding will be used to plan and design the funder/stakeholder session for the Puget Sound AFN related to empowerment economics and the pathways for immigrant and indigenous communities into economic opportunity and wealth building.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Mary Brolin, Sharon Reif (Co-PIs)** “Hybrid Implementation-Effectiveness Study of YouthBuild USA’s SBIRT Program”; Funder: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from YouthBuild USA

The researchers are conducting a hybrid implementation-effectiveness study of YouthBuild USA’s SBIRT Program, with a mixed-methods design that includes systematic tracking of activities around SBIRT, site visits and interviews, and additional data collection around youth outcomes. The study will employ a control group of 20 YouthBuild sites who have not introduced SBIRT and compare them to 20 of the SBIRT programs to determine if SBIRT works in community-based youth programs serving youth and young adults and, if so, what about SBIRT works in these programs.

**Dominic Hodgkin (PI)** “Coaching Performance-Driven Practice Change in the Context of Value-Based Purchasing in N.Y. Medicaid”; Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse; subcontract to Brandeis from National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

This study will conduct a stepped-wedge randomized controlled trial with 30 outpatient substance use treatment clinics, to test the effects of a clinic-level measurement-driven, quality improvement intervention on treatment process and recovery outcomes.
**Dominic Hodgkin, Constance Horgan (Co-PIs)**

“MassHEAL — Reducing Overdose Death by 40% (2019-2023)”; Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse; subcontract to Brandeis from Boston Medical Center

The study will rapidly implement and assess evidence-based interventions to reduce opioid overdose death in 16 diverse communities within Massachusetts. Brandeis University personnel will be responsible for the analysis of substance use disorder payment system issues within the larger study.

**Meelee Kim (PI)**

“Opioid Overdose Epidemic Crisis Response — Biosurveillance Projects”; Funder: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH); subcontract to Brandeis from Abt Associates

Researchers at Brandeis University are collaborating with the MDPH’s Injury Surveillance Program and Abt Associates to enhance the current opioid-related overdose data surveillance work. Brandeis is leading the efforts to assess the data needs of internal and external stakeholders as well as contribute expertise on potential data analyses and products for public dissemination as part of an overall effort to address the opioid overdose epidemic in Massachusetts.

**Meelee Kim (PI)**

“TA Support and Coordination for Prevention for States and Data Driven Prevention Initiative Awardees”; Funder: Centers for Disease Control (CDC); subcontract to Brandeis from Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

The overall purpose of this project is to provide training and technical assistance to the CDC Prevention for States and Data Driven Prevention Initiative grantees in their efforts to enhance and maximize their prescription drug abuse prevention efforts using their states’ prescription drug monitoring program data.

**Peter Kreiner (PI)**

“Using a Novel Comprehensive Linked Dataset to Determine Early Predictions of Opioid Overdose”; Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse; subcontract to Brandeis from Brigham and Women’s Hospital

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**Susan P. Curnan (PI)**

“Youth Livelihoods and Economic Opportunity”; Funder: USAID; subcontract to Brandeis from Save the Children

Working with several regional universities in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and facilitators from local partners and Save the Children, the Center for Youth and Communities (CYC) team is growing capacity of Ethiopian higher education institutions to develop and deliver transferable life skills education for their graduates, as well as to develop working, results-oriented partnerships with regional employers. CYC and the Center for Global Development and Sustainability are providing implementation guidance and evaluation studies of regional labor markets, private sector partnerships and results of the overall effort.

**Susan P. Curnan, Alan Melchior (Co-PIs)**

“Days in the Arts (DARTS) Program”; Funder: Boston Symphony Orchestra/Leaves of Grass Foundation

This funding supports evaluation assistance to the Boston Symphony, including evaluation of the “Days in the Arts (DARTS)” program, a summer arts program for middle school-aged youth in Massachusetts.

**Alan Melchior (PI)**

“EcoRise Evaluation Design Assistance”; Funder: EcoRise

This funding provides evaluation design assistance to a national environmental education organization.

**DISABILITIES**

**Joseph Caldwell (PI)**

“RRTC on Family Support”; Funder: Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Community Living; subcontract to Brandeis from University of Illinois at Chicago

The Family Support Research and Training Center, housed at the University of Illinois at Chicago, aims to enhance supports for family caregivers in order to enhance community living of individuals with...
disabilities across the lifespan. The Center is developing a strategic research plan, evaluating promising practices, and generating new knowledge in key areas such as self-direction, managed care and peer-to-peer family interventions.

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Maria Madison (PI), Nicole Dunn “Training and Technical Assistance — Root Cause Analysis”; Funder: Waltham Public Schools/Nellie Mae

This project aims to expand and increase access to mental health services by advancing racial equity and building organizational capacity and leadership.

Maria Madison, David Weil (Co-PIs), Ona Wang “Multicultural Responsible and Relevant Teaching (MRRT) at Heller”; Funder: Brandeis Center for Teaching and Learning

The MRRT program is designed to improve the overall satisfaction and belonging of individuals within the Heller community. This is done through using evidence-based best practices in teaching, promoting pluralistic pedagogy and measuring effectiveness in classroom changes over time within and across disciplines.

HEALTH

Christine Bishop (PI), Yaminette Diaz-Linhart “Work Design and Well-Being in Medicaid ACO’s: Understanding Organizational Factors That Impact Healthcare Workers”; Funder: Centers for Disease Control; subcontract to Brandeis from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Consistent with the research Healthcare and Social Assistance goals outlined in the strategic plan of the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety for Healthy Work Design and Well-Being, the overarching purpose of this pilot project is to investigate safety and health effects of evolving organizational practices, specifically concerning community health workers. The study is collecting data on organizational factors of work design for healthcare workers within the complex-care management program of one newly-created MassHealth (Massachusetts Medicaid) accountable care organization (ACO). The project will result in a report identifying potential improvements for healthy work design for Medicaid ACOs that mount complex care management programs and outlining areas for future research.

Christopher Tompkins (PI) “Testing a Surgical Scoring Algorithm”; Funder: MPIRICA Health Analytics, Inc.
IMMIGRATION

Jessica Santos (PI), Kaitie Chakoian-Lifvergren “Human Trafficking TTA Action Research Study”; Funder: U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime; subcontract to Brandeis from Office of Victim Services (United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy will work closely with the national USCRI office to identify key research questions pertinent to human trafficking, collect and analyze data, and report findings in real time to partners in order to facilitate an active learning collaboration.

MANAGEMENT

Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld (PI) “Collaborative Strategies for Successful Large-Scale, Distributed Science and Engineering Projects”; Funder: National Science Foundation (NSF)

This grant supports a workshop for current and prospective NSF principal investigators on the underlying principles and skills needed to lead large-scale research projects.

Jody Hoffer Gittell (PI), Cady Landa “Bronx Plan”; Funder: NYC Department of Education (DOE); subcontract to Brandeis from Generation Ready

The Bronx (NY) Collaborative Schools Model (Bronx Plan) is a joint effort of the NYC DOE and the United Federation of Teachers to collectively assist students to achieve their highest potential — academically, socially, emotionally, physically, mentally and civically. This innovative program will be based on transforming the culture of a school through the collaboration among the members of an entire school community.
Confronting Racial Inequities in Workplace Benefits

New IASP research connects U.S. occupational segregation with the racial wealth gap
Occupational segregation has major wealth repercussions for black and Latino workers across a variety of sectors, from construction to finance, according to a new report. This study comes from the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), a team that has done years of foundational research on the racial wealth gap in the United States. IASP researchers, led by Director Thomas Shapiro, are now digging in to specific structural causes of the gap, such as work.

In a recent report, the team focused on the relationship between occupational segregation, workplace benefits and the racial wealth gap, finding that black and Latino employees are less likely to have wealth-building and wealth-protecting workplace benefits than their white colleagues. The team partnered with The Workers Lab, an Oakland, California-based incubator that invests in solutions to improve conditions for low-wage workers, to bring its research before labor unions and workers’ advocates, where it could have maximum impact.

“Work is an important contributor to wealth building. You can think of it as a work-to-wealth pipeline,” says report co-author and Senior Research Associate Laura Sullivan, PhD’13. “But there are holes in that pipeline, and those holes are bigger for households of color.”

The report reveals a series of compounding disparities: First, black and Latino workers are disproportionately segregated into lower-paying sectors, where they have less access to wealth-building benefits. For example, Latinos are more likely than others to work in construction — which tends to have lower health care and retirement benefits — and within that sector, Latinos are half as likely as their white peers to have health insurance. Second, even in higher-paying fields (like finance and STEM), black and Latino workers frequently are paid less and receive fewer benefits than their white peers.

“There are disparities within and between sectors,” says Shapiro. “Which actually broadens the racial wealth gap.”

This suggests that the advantages of working in higher-paying fields are not shared equally. Across several key sectors, the typical black or Latino employee has tens of thousands of dollars less in wealth than white peers in the same field with similar educational backgrounds.

“People tend to think that getting an education and the right job in the right sector will solve disparities in financial security and wealth,” says Sullivan. “But these gaps are significant, and they’re even larger in some typically high-paying sectors.”

Good benefits are important to building economic security. Sullivan adds, “As you go from a typically lower-paying sector to a typically higher-paying sector, every group is more likely to have either health or retirement benefits, but those disparities persist.”

When the IASP team first took on this research, they started thinking early about how to ensure that their work would have the greatest positive impact. “We knew we wanted to connect with ground-level advocacy and organizing,” says Shapiro. “So I was thrilled when Carmen Rojas, CEO of The Workers Lab, was interested in partnering with us on disseminating this research.”

“The Workers Lab is doing cutting-edge work on new styles of organizing and redressing the imbalance of worker power,” Shapiro adds. “Partnering with organizations like this is important to IASP, and we look forward to growing this partnership more in the future.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA’17
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


**Loya, R.** “Leveraging the Promise of a Brighter Future With CSA Investments.” Presented as a webinar with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Prudential Foundation, February 2019.


**Santos, J.** “Inside Inequality: Power, Privilege, and Equity.” Presented at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy Speaker Series, Tufts University, Boston, April 2019.


**Santos, J.** “Empowerment Economics: Community Engaged Research and Practice for Building Community Wealth and Power.” Presented at:
- The Midas Collaborative, Boston, June 2019.

**Santos, J., and Chakoian-Lifvergren, K.** “Building Credit, Building Networks: Lessons Learned From the Boston Builds Credit Roxbury Place-Based Pilot.” Presented at the Boston Builds Credit Year One Convening, Boston, May 2019.
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**


**Horgan, C.M.** “Is It Feasible to Pay Substance Use Disorder Providers Based on Patient Outcomes?” Presented at the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry, Venice, Italy, March 2019.


**Kolodny, A.** “Autopsy of a Man-Made Epidemic.” Presented at the National Rx and Heroin Abuse Summit, sponsored by Operation Unite, Atlanta, April 2019.


**Kreiner, P.** “Trajectories of PDMP-Based Patient Risk Indicators and Likelihood of Overdose Death.” Presented at the National Rx and Heroin Abuse Summit, sponsored by Operation Unite, Atlanta, April 2019.


**Nicholson, J.** “Mental Health Bridges: Promoting Health Literacy for Individuals With Serious Mental Illness.” Keynote presentation at the Association of Mental Health Librarians Annual Meeting, Boston, April 2019.

**Nicholson, J.** “Cultural Diversity in Family-Focused Practice.” Presented at the International “It Takes a Village” Conference, organized by Voksne for Barn and Oslo Met University, Oslo, Norway, May 2019.

**Nicholson, J.** “Meeting the Needs of Adults With Mental Illness Who Are Parents.” Presented at the Mental Health Association, Helsinki, Finland, May 2019.


Joshi, P. “Public Health Research to Support Family and Medical Leave Policy and Program Implementation.” Presented to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health PRAMS Maternity Leave Subcommittee, Boston, February 2019.


### DISABILITIES


**Cain, I.** “Impact of Cultural and Economic Differences on Disability Labeling.” Presented at the AERA Annual Conference, Toronto, April 2019.


**Ho, S., and Frederick, A.** “New Discourse in Disability Studies.” Presented at the Northeastern University Humanities Center, Boston, April 2019.


**Mitra, M.** “Removing Barriers: What You Need to Know About Perinatal Care for Patients With Disabilities.” Presented at the National Perinatal Association Annual Conference, Providence, R.I., April 2019.


**Mitra, M., and Heumann, J.** “Disability Advocacy and Research.” Keynote presented at the 2019...


**EDUCATION**


**EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY**


**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**


**HEALTH**


Mechanic, R. “ACO Initiatives to Improve Care for High-Need Patients.” Presented at:

Rosenfeld, L., Clough, S., and Teich, S. “American Dental Association Health Literacy Essay Contest for Dental Students.” Presented at the American Dental Education Association Annual Session and Exhibition, Chicago, March 2019.


Shepard, D.S. “Benefit-Cost Analysis of Innovative Approaches to Controlling Dengue and the Queensland Fruit Fly.” Presented at Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia, April 2019.

Shepard, D.S. “Economic Evaluation of Innovative Technologies: South Australia’s Use of Sterile Insect Technique for Control of the Queensland Fruit Fly.” Fulbright Distinguished Chair Lecture, presented at Flinders University City Campus, Adelaide, Australia, May 2019.


LABOR AND WORKPLACE


**MANAGEMENT**


**Gittell, J.H.** “Transforming Relationships for High Performance.” Presented at:
- The Associated, the Jewish Federation of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md., January 2019.


**Gittell, J.H.** “Relational Coordination in the Danish National Leadership Program in Healthcare.” Presented to the Implement Consulting Group, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 2019.

**Gittell, J.H.** “Relational Coordination for Multi-Level Systems Change.” Presented as a webinar for the NHS Cumbria Learning and Improvement Collaborative, May 2019.


**PHILANTHROPY**

**Eaton, S.** “Philanthropy and Hope in Uncertain Times.” Presented at the Lenten Lecture Series, sponsored by the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, Conn., March 2019.


**PHILOSOPHY**

NOTABLE SPEAKERS
Over the past 60 years, Heller has hosted social justice leaders in government, advocacy, academia and more.

Building a Job Market for Nashville Youth

Della M. Hughes brings Center for Youth and Communities’ expertise in youth employability efforts to Music City
A paid job, like selling tickets at the local ballpark or interning at a medical center, can create a world of difference for a high school student. In a city focused on reducing violence, jobs provide youth with opportunities and hope. They can start practicing the soft skills — like effective communication and critical thinking — necessary to succeed in the working world, while creating relationships with businesses and organizations looking for long-term hires.

That’s why Nashville, Tennessee’s Mayor Megan Barry launched Opportunity NOW (ON), an initiative to transform the city’s youth employment in 2016 — and brought in Heller’s Center for Youth and Communities (CYC) for its expertise. In just 18 months, ON generated 11,587 job postings for youth ages 14-24 and employed approximately 8,000 youth with the support of more than 350 employers.

“CYC has been engaged in youth employability efforts for 35 years. We’ve helped build capacity of workforce development boards across the country, but I’ve never seen a solid scale-up as rapid as this,” says Senior Fellow Della M. Hughes. Hughes led CYC’s work on Opportunity NOW, which included developing a training curriculum for facilitators and employment coaches; researching and sharing best practices on youth employability; and conducting surveys of youth who participated in ON. She’s also working on a paper that identifies the reasons for Nashville’s success.

“Characteristics unique to Nashville converged to make ON’s rapid scaling possible, but if you apply their savvy and intentionality in another setting, it is very possible to replicate,” Hughes says.

The key factors in ON’s success were the following: having the mayor as champion; assembling a strong leadership team, which included the mayor’s Youth Policy Adviser Ronnie Steine and ON Director Ellen Zinkiewicz; researching best practices and adapting them to a local context; establishing a network of strong, committed partners; developing an implementation plan based on assets, needs and input of youth and employers; building on existing infrastructure and innovation; and focusing on quality, evaluation and continuous improvement.

Mayor Barry was key to the launch: She championed ON and galvanized the community with her aspirational goal of creating 10,000 jobs. She partnered with Nashville’s City Council to allocate $6.5 million for the first two years. Then, ON cast a wide net for job opportunities, going beyond traditional city-managed openings to partner with a wide range of employers, and created a central year-round youth employment portal for employers to post jobs and hire directly.

“Employers said, ‘If we want to create a pipeline in our city, we need to rethink how we prepare our youth and onboard entry-level employees,’” Hughes says. As part of that process, ON provides support to its summer workers through weekly coaching and debriefing sessions coupled with financial literacy education.

Now, ON is turning its attention to strengthening its systems and making the program sustainable, implementing improvements based on youth survey input and employer feedback, and beginning to look at youth outcomes. They’ll rely in part on CYC, which will continue with youth surveys and building capacity for evaluation through 2022.

“Justice Brandeis called states ‘laboratories of democracy,’” says Hughes. “The same can be said of cities. If you think about what the ON experience means for youth, for their participation in the community and overall well-being, and what that means for the health of the city, Nashville is definitely a ‘laboratory of democracy.’”

By Karen Shih
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Research by the Institute on Assets and Social Policy was cited in the following:

→ A Feb. 20, 2019, article on CNBC.com, “More Black Investors Should Look to Stock Market to Grow Their Wealth.”
→ A Feb. 26, 2019, article in Forbes, “Congress Takes a New Look at the Safety Net for Older Adults.”
→ A March 11, 2019, article in ARLnow, “Progressive Voice: We Know How You Can Cure White Guilt.”
→ An April 10, 2019, article in Refinery29, “Unequal Paychecks Aren’t the Only Issue Facing Women of Color.”
→ An April 15, 2019, article on Inequality.org, “Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide.”
→ An April 17, 2019, article in MarketWatch, “10 Practical Steps to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide.”
→ An April 26, 2019, article in Curbed Detroit, “A Personal Story of Economic Segregation.”
→ A June 24, 2019, article in The Los Angeles Times, “Democrats’ Presidential Hopefuls Jockey to Outdo One Another With Pre-Debate Promises.”

Jessica Santos, PhD’15, Cristina Aguilera, and Naomi You, MPP’19, presented “Not My Wealth: Empowerment Economics at the HANA Center” in partnership with the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development in Chicago in February 2019.

Thomas Shapiro contributed to the following:

→ He was quoted in a Feb. 1, 2019, article in The Big Easy Magazine, “An Especially Poisoned American Dream.”
He was cited in an April 22, 2019, article in *Bloomberg*, “Elizabeth Warren Proposes Scraping Student-Loan Debt for Millions.”

He was cited in an April 22, 2019, article in *The Los Angeles Times*, “Elizabeth Warren’s College Debt Plan Helps the Middle Class — And Does Much More.”

He was cited in an April 22, 2019, article in *Rolling Stone*, “Elizabeth Warren Wants to Wipe Out Student Debt for 42 Million Americans.”

He was cited in an April 22, 2019, article in *The Wall Street Journal*, “Sen. Elizabeth Warren Proposes Student-Debt Cancellation.”

He was interviewed in a June 7, 2019, article in *The Globe Post*, “Racial Wealth Gap in U.S.: What Can Fix It?”

He was quoted in the June 18, 2019, Brookings Now blog, “A Conversation About the Racial Wealth Gap — And How to Address It.”

He was cited in a Jan. 16, 2019, article in *STAT*, “Purdue Cemented Ties With Universities and Hospitals to Expand Opioid Sales, Documents Contend.”

He was cited in a Jan. 27, 2019, article in *The Boston Globe*, “Opioid Company Executives Set to Go to Trial in Boston Monday.”

He was quoted in a Feb. 14, 2019, article from *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, “Pay Attention to This Little-Noticed Opioid Lawsuit in Oklahoma.”

He was quoted in a Feb. 25, 2019, article in *The Washington Post*, “FDA Takes Fresh Look at Whether Opioids Are Effective for Chronic Pain.”

He was quoted in a March 15, 2019, segment on *PBS NewsHour*, “Will Fewer Opioid Prescriptions Help Kick the Crisis?”

He was quoted in a March 22, 2019, segment on the BBC, “Is This America’s Most Hated Family?”

He was quoted in a March 26, 2019, segment on *PBS NewsHour*, “What Purdue Pharma’s Settlement With Oklahoma Means for the Opioid Crisis.”

He was quoted in an April 24, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “Trump Declares Commitment to Ending Opioid Crisis ‘Once and for All.’”

He was quoted in a May 2, 2019, article in *The Boston Globe*, “Insures Defendants Bribed Doctors to Prescribe Painkillers to Those That Didn’t Need It.”

He was cited in a May 19, 2019, broadcast on *BBC Radio*, “Opioids: A Painful Prescription?”

He was cited in a May 22, 2019, article in *The Washington Post*, “Fighting Fentanyl.”

He was cited in a June 6, 2019, article on CNN.com, “Manufacturer of Synthetic Opioid Agrees to Pay $225 Million to Settle Investigations.”

He was cited in a June 11, 2019, article in *Bloomberg*, “J&J ‘Did Everything’ to Push Opioids, Oklahoma Witness Says.”

He was quoted in a June 19, 2019, article in *Vanity Fair*, “‘We Didn’t Cause the Crisis’: David Sackler Pleads His Case on the Opioid Epidemic.”

He was quoted in a June 28, 2019, article in *The Atlantic*, “A Radical Way to Stop Heroin Overdoses.”

Sharon Reif, PhD’02, contributed to the following:

She discussed opioid use disorders as a panelist for the Framingham League of Women Voters community forum in Framingham, Mass., in March 2019.

She presented a lightning talk on addiction for the Tufts CTSI and Museum of Science Forum Collaboration: Topic Selection Workshop in Boston in March 2019.

Dolores Acevedo–Garcia contributed to the following:

She presented on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2019 report “A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty” to committee staff for the House Agriculture Committee, the House Education and Labor Committee, the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Finance Committee in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 27, 2019.

She was cited in a Feb. 28, 2019, article from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, “Child Poverty Rate Could Be Cut in Half Over 10 Years, at a Hefty Price.”

Della M. Hughes, former executive director of Oasis Center, presented the Lifetime Achievement “Kick Ass Catalyst for Change” Award to Oasis Center founder Harlan Dodson for the agency’s 50th anniversary gala in Nashville in May 2019.
CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COEXISTENCE

Mari Fitzduff was interviewed on an April 25, 2019, episode of the Social Change Career Podcast, “From Tree Huggers to Professional Hopers. How to Start and Flourish in a Career in Conflict Resolution with Dr. Mari Fitzduff.”

DISABILITIES


Sandy Ho participated in a panel presentation of “Disability Justice Through the Lens of Intersectionality” for ‘Deis Impact Week at Brandeis University in February 2019.

ECONOMICS

David Weil and Robert Kuttner were quoted in a Feb. 7, 2019, article in The Boston Globe, “The Truth About Trump’s ‘Economic Miracle.’”

EDUCATION

Susan Eaton was quoted in an April 11, 2019, article in The Atlantic, “The Utter Inadequacy of America’s Efforts to Desegregate Schools.”

Delia Kimbrel, PhD’18, was interviewed in a May 2019 blog post on MDRC.org, “A Q&A With Delia Kimbrel, 2012 MDRC Doctoral Fellow.”

David Weil and Marc Kiredjian ’05 were profiled in a Feb. 20, 2019, article in Inside Higher Ed, “Trial and Error: Online Prep for Face-to-Face Programs.”

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Maria Madison contributed to the following:

- She co-presented “The Garrison Men in Images and Objects” at the Concord Perspectives, hosted by the Concord Museum in Concord, Mass., in February 2019.
- She co-presented “Frederick Douglass in Concord, Mass.” for Community Conversations with the Concord Museum in Concord, Mass., in April 2019.
- She was profiled in an April 2, 2019, article in The Lowell Sun, “Madison to Receive Gross Award at Concord Museum’s Patriots’ Ball.”
- She was a featured speaker at the “Let’s Make a Better World” concert and launch of Jane Sapp’s book “Protest Through Song: Music That Shaped America,” organized by Cynthia Cohen and Brandeis University in April 2019.

Howard Manly authored a March 21, 2019, article for Medium, “Rebuilding Local Media Must Include the Black Press.”

Rajesh Sampath was featured on the following:

- He was interviewed on the Rob Kall Bottom Radio Show on Feb. 27, 2019, in “A Future With a Non-White Majority.”
- He was interviewed on a March 11, 2019, episode of the Bridge the Divide podcast, “Rajesh Sampath on Race Relations and Demographic Shifts.”
- He was interviewed in an April 24, 2019, video from Trust Africa, “Global Partnership and Joint Actions in Addressing Discrimination.”
Laurence Simon participated in a March 21, 2019, panel discussion on Facebook Live for WGBH News, “Caste in America.”

Laurence Simon and Jaspreet Mahal, MA SID’17, were quoted on WGBH on Feb. 27, 2019, in “Caste Bias Isn’t Illegal in the United States. But This University Is Trying to Fight It.”

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Joseph Assan authored a piece for the April 23, 2019, Consortium of Social Science Associations’ blog Why Social Science?, “Because It Helps to Address Graduate Unemployment in Sub-Saharan Africa.”

Ricardo Godoy’s paper on music and a remote Amazonian society was cited as one of the factors that put Brandeis University at No. 5 in the June 19, 2019, Nature article, “Top 10 Academic Institutions in 2018: Normalized.”

HEALTH


Stuart Altman contributed to the following:
- He was quoted in a Feb. 13, 2019, article in MassLive, “Health Policy Commission Recommends Addressing Drug Pricing, Hospital Price Variation.”
- He was quoted during a Feb. 28, 2019, segment on WBUR, “Beth Israel Lahey Health Is Set to Become Official.”
- He was interviewed during a March 1, 2019, segment on WBUR, “Beth Israel and Lahey Merger Now Officially Complete.”
- He was quoted in a March 14, 2019, article in The Lowell Sun, “State Officials Concerned About Health Care Billing Surprises.”
- He was quoted in an April 3, 2019, article in The Telegram, “State Agency Reviewing Costs at 35 Health Care Providers.”
- He was quoted in an April 8, 2019, article in Politico, “Telehealth Roundup.”

Robert Mechanic was a co-author on an April 11, 2019, piece for the Health Affairs blog, “An Initial Assessment of Initiatives to Improve Care for High-Need, High-Cost Individuals in Accountable Care Organizations.”


Donald Shepard was quoted in an April 8, 2019, article in Bloomberg Opinion, “Venezuela’s Health Crisis Is the Hemisphere’s Problem.”

Cynthia Tschanp, PhD’15, presented “Tuberculosis Here and Abroad and What You Can Do About It” at Partners In Health Engage Brandeis’ World TB Day film screening event at Brandeis University on March 24, 2019.

IMMIGRATION

Jessica Santos, PhD’15, and Cristina Aguilera presented “Immigrant Integration in the United States: Policy, Practice and People” during a site visit at REACH Beyond Domestic Violence in Waltham, Mass., on March 15, 2019.

LABOR AND WORKPLACE

Janet Boguslaw contributed to the following:
- She was quoted in a May 10, 2019, article on Fast Company, “One Way to Close the Wealth Gap: Make Employees Part Owners.”
- She was cited in a May 22, 2019, article on Nonprofit Quarterly, “Can ESOPs Make a Difference for Equity? New Research Findings Say Yes.”

Anita Hill was featured in the following:
- Her delivery of the MLK Address at Lehigh University was covered in a Feb. 8, 2019, article on WFMZ-TV, “Anita Hill Outlines Vision for Ending Sexual Violence.”
- She was the keynote speaker during an event to introduce the Dr. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Center for Social Justice and Racial Healing at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. The Oklahoman covered the speech in a Feb. 24, 2019, article, “Anita Hill Says Nation’s Divisions Today Require ‘Radical Commitment to Equal Protection Under the Law.’”
- Her appearance at the Vanity Fair Oscars Party was covered in a Feb. 25, 2019, article in Vogue, “Anita Hill Gave the Oscars After-Party Scene Its Most Meaningful Moment.”
- She was interviewed for an April 25, 2019, article in The New York Times, “Joe Biden Expresses Regret to Anita Hill, But She Says ‘I’m Sorry’ Is Not Enough.”
→ She gave an interview to *The New York Times* for an April 26, 2019, article, “Excerpts From Anita Hill’s Interview With The Times.”

→ She authored a May 9, 2019, op-ed in *The New York Times*, “Anita Hill: Let’s Talk About How to End Sexual Violence.”

→ She was interviewed for a May 22, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “Anita Hill Worries Female 2020 Candidates Are ‘Not Being Taken Seriously’.”

→ Her delivery of the commencement address at Wellesley College was covered in a May 31, 2019, segment on ABC News, “Anita Hill Tells Graduates ‘We Cannot Squander’ the #MeToo Moment.”

→ Her speech at the 2019 Campus Prevention Network Summit in Nashville was covered in a June 12, 2019, article in *The Tennessean*, “Anita Hill Says Allowing Abuse Victims to Tell Their Stories Combats Sexual Harassment.”

→ She was interviewed for a June 13, 2019, segment on NBC News, “Anita Hill Speaks Out in First TV Interview Since Biden Launched Presidential Bid.”


→ David Weil contributed to the following:
  → He was interviewed on a Sept. 28, 2018, episode of the OECD Podcast, “The Mystery of Stagnating Wages.”
  → He was quoted in a March 27, 2019, article from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), “Why Are Australian Workers Getting the Smallest Pay Rises Since WWII?”
  → He authored an April 1, 2019, article in *The Regulatory Review*, “Ratcheting up Workplace Protections.”
  → He was quoted in an April 2, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “U.S. Moves to Limit Wage Claims Against Chains Like McDonald’s.”
  → He was cited in an April 8, 2019, article in *The Regulatory Review*, “Regulating Work in an Age of Fissuring and Automation.”
  → He was quoted in an April 29, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “Labor Dept. Says Workers at a Gig Company Are Contractors.”
  → He was quoted in a May 9, 2019, article in *The Seattle Times*, “Human Error? Stop Blaming Workers for Their Own Deaths.”
  → He authored a May 14, 2019, article in *The American Prospect*, “Why the Fissured Workplace Is Bigger Than the Contingent Worker Survey Suggests,” as part of the edition’s “The Future of Real Jobs: A Prospect Roundtable.” Robert Kuttner wrote the introduction to the roundtable.
  → He was cited in a May 22, 2019, article in *The Regulatory Review*, “How to Fight Wage Theft on a Budget.”
  → He authored a May 29, 2019, article in *The American Prospect*, “Recognizing the ‘Present of Work’ in Setting Future Workplace Policies,” as part of the edition’s “The Future of Real Jobs: Round Two.”
  → He was quoted in a May 29, 2019, article in *Politico*, “Who’s in Charge at DOL?”
  → He was cited in a June 19, 2019, article in *Equitable Growth*, “Building High-Road Supply Networks in the United States.”
MANAGEMENT

Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld contributed to the following:
→ He was quoted in a Jan. 16, 2019, article in HuffPost, “Exactly How Bad Is Trump at Making Deals? Even Worse Than You Think.”
→ He co-authored a Jan. 24, 2019, article in The Conversation, “What Trump and Pelosi Can Learn From a Different Kind of Shutdown That Crippled the Nation.”

Jody Hoffer Gittell contributed to the following:
→ She was interviewed on a May 29, 2019, broadcast of New Hampshire Public Radio’s “The Exchange.”
→ She was interviewed on a June 13, 2019, episode of the Illuminators Podcast, “What Can JCPenney, Southwest Airlines and Green Mountain Power Teach Us About the Customer?”

POLITICS AND POLICY

Robert Kuttner contributed to the following:
→ He authored a Jan. 20, 2019, article in HuffPost, “Why Trump Will Lose the Government Shutdown Fight.”
→ He was quoted in a Jan. 21, 2019, article in The New York Times, “Calling the Resistance.”
→ He was interviewed on a Feb. 20, 2019, broadcast of WGBH’s “Boston Public Radio.”
→ He was quoted in a May 12, 2019, article on CNBC.com, “Trump’s Hard-Line Views on Trade Were Formed Long Before He Targeted China With Tariffs.”
→ He authored a June 25, 2019, piece in The American Prospect, “Neoliberalism: Political Success, Economic Failure.”

SOCIAL POLICY

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia was appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Consensus Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years.

Janet Boguslaw contributed to the following:
- She was on the Workforce Development Steering Committee on Racial Equity at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Oakland, Calif.
- She was the Humanities Advisor on the film “The Kitchenistas,” funded by the Beyster Foundation of La Jolla, Calif.
- She served as a Board Member and Clerk for Family Nurturing Center of Boston.

Irina Cain contributed to the following:
- She was a Conference Proposal Reviewer for the American Public Health Association’s Disability Program.
- She was a Grant Panel Reviewer for the Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute Pilot Studies Program.

Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld was selected as a Fellow for the Labor and Employment Relations Association.

Joan Dassin ’69 served as an external reviewer for a special issue of The Round Table: Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs on education in the Commonwealth.

Margot Davis, PhD’08, received the Bob Ray Partnerships Award for lifetime achievement, which was presented May 9, 2019, by the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance.

Susan Eaton was elected to the Steering Committee of the National Coalition on School Diversity for a three-year term.

Finn Gardiner, MPP’18, completed the Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Mass.

Anita Hill received the following honors:
- She was the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, presented at the Pinnacle Awards Luncheon in Boston on Feb. 1, 2019.
- She was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the YaleWomen Excellence Awards in Washington, D.C., on March 7, 2019.
Maria Madison received the following honors:

→ She was selected in March 2019 as one of six Associate Deans from across the country to contribute to a blog series co-hosted by the American Council on Education and the National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan.

→ She was the recipient of the Concord (Mass.) Museum’s inaugural Robert Gross Award for Advancing Concord’s History for her work as a community organizer promoting African American history in Concord, and its regional and national significance, presented at the Patriots’ Ball on April 13, 2019.

→ She was appointed as an Associate Editor of the *Journal for Health Equity* in April 2019.

Joanne Nicholson contributed to the following:

→ She was selected to be the Guest Associate Editor for the *Frontiers in Psychiatry* special issue on Parents with Mental and/or Substance Use Disorders and Their Children.

→ She served as a co-editor and founding Editorial Board Member for the *Journal of Parent and Family Mental Health*.

→ She was appointed as a Disability Scholar and served as a consultant for the film “Orchestrating Change: The Me2/Orchestra” for the Massachusetts Humanities Council.

Rajesh Sampath received the 2019 Brandeis University Gender and Sexuality Center Annual Thomas King Faculty Award.

Sheryl Seller ’11, MA’13, was selected to serve on the board of Building Audacity.

Donald Shepard contributed to the following:

→ He served as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair of Applied Public Policy with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)-Australia and Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, from Jan. 4, 2019, through May 24, 2019. Under his Fulbright award, he collaborated with the government of South Australia on an economic evaluation of its innovative use of the Sterile Insect Technique designed to keep the state free of an agricultural menace, the Queensland fruit fly.


David Weil was named to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Contingent Work and Alternate Work Arrangements.
Evaluating Waltham’s Two-Way Immersion School

Diana Serrano examines local bilingual education model for her doctoral research
Bilingual education is rising in prominence nationally, including in Waltham, where roughly 23% of students are English learners. In response, in 2015, Waltham launched a two-way immersion program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade in which each class is comprised of half native English and half native Spanish speakers.

For her dissertation, Diana Serrano, PhD'19, partnered with the district to study the initiative. Her findings demonstrate that this model of bilingual education is effective at teaching English literacy to both English- and Spanish-speaking students.

“Unlike in other bilingual programs, students in two-way immersion programs are taught primarily in the ‘partner language’ — Spanish, in this case — and the goal is for all children to become fully bilingual,” explains Serrano. This upends common theories that English learners should be fully immersed in English to acquire the language faster. In this program, kindergarten starts with 80% Spanish instruction. By third grade, instruction reaches a 50-50 split, and students are fully integrated for the entire school day.

But is English acquisition delayed when instruction is primarily in Spanish? To answer that, Serrano analyzed students’ literacy assessments in kindergarten and first grade. Because students were admitted via lottery, she was able to compare those who were admitted to the program with those who weren’t: a true experimental design.

First, she measured Spanish speakers’ English proficiency in four domains: reading, writing, speaking and listening. She also used district-wide English reading assessments to compare native English- and Spanish-speaking students in the bilingual program to their counterparts who were not in the program. Lastly, she looked at a Spanish reading assessment administered to all students in the bilingual program.

Serrano’s findings suggest that English learners in the bilingual program did just as well as their peers who didn’t get into the program on measures of English listening, speaking and reading, though they lagged in English writing.

“This provides some evidence to support the notion that receiving instruction in your native language doesn’t hinder English acquisition, at least in the speaking, listening and reading domains,” she says. “Perhaps they aren’t doing as well in writing, but they may be able to catch up to their peers over time, and even surpass them, which other research suggests may happen.”

And the native English speakers? Despite receiving 80% of instruction in Spanish, their English skills are on par with their peers. “These kids are acquiring Spanish and doing just as well in English literacy as kids taught in English all day,” she says.

When Serrano first applied to the PhD program, she was interested in policies that better integrate English learners in schools and communities. “At the time, I was thinking about what schools can do to integrate children, to make them feel valued and welcome,” she says. “It wasn’t until I learned about Waltham’s two-way immersion program that I became interested in bilingual education.”

Serrano’s research contributes to growing literature on the effectiveness of these educational models, but she notes that two-way immersion is important for reasons beyond its effectiveness in teaching bilingual literacy.

“I believe two-way immersion programs help students feel that their language is just as important and valuable as English, that they have as much to contribute to the classroom as their peers. It’s a great example of integration policy on a small scale.”

By Bethany Romano, MBA’17
Professor Joseph Assan and students from the Brandeis University Africa Forum organized Heller African Night, held on May 4, 2019. Dean David Weil gave the opening remarks at the event, which was attended by over 100 guests, including students, faculty and staff.

The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center hosted a methods workshop on March 1, 2019, in Brandeis’ Usdan International Lounge. Peter Kreiner, Senior Scientist and co-director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative, presented “Network Analysis: Application to Diffusion, Project Team Performance, and Civic Health.”


The Heller School hosted two Conversations with the Dean during the spring semester. The first, on Jan. 23, 2019, featured former U.S. Attorney and senior FBI official Chuck Rosenberg, who discussed Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation with Dean David Weil. On April 1, 2019, the Heller School welcomed Democratic National Committee Chair and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez for a public conversation with Dean Weil.

The Council on Health Care Economics and Policy, under the leadership of chairman Stuart Altman and director Michael Doonan, PhD’02, presented its 26th Princeton Conference from May 21-23, 2019, in Princeton, N.J. The conference, entitled “Will Federalism Improve the U.S. Health Care System?,” assembled over 130 attendees, including health care industry leaders, academic experts and policymakers. Session topics included conversations on Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drugs, and alternative payment and delivery system innovation. The conference also discussed state activities and innovations, health care quality and state responses to the opioid epidemic. Following the implementation of the conference, the Council leaders are working to create a thorough policy brief which summarizes conference content and outlines attendee policy recommendations.

During the spring of 2019, the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity hosted more than seven events addressing issues of equity, inclusion and diversity, ranging from sign language lessons to de-biasing, racism, philanthropy, disability and intercultural social events from around the world. These events included Sankofa Community Conversations and were facilitated through student, faculty and staff co-leadership.
On April 10, 2019, the Health Industry Forum, under the leadership of chairman Stuart Altman and executive director Robert Mechanic, hosted a forum in Washington, D.C., titled “The Trump Administration’s Efforts to Reduce Drug Spending: How Will They Change the Landscape?”

On March 12, 2019, the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) and the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy hosted a webinar in partnership with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, the Asset Funders Network and the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. Jessica Santos, PhD’15, of IASP and Cristina Aguilera from the Sillerman Center presented “Empowerment Economics’ – Innovations in Native and Immigrant Approaches to Assets.”


The Lurie Institute’s National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities hosted the following webinars during the spring:


On January 30, 2019, the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative (RCRC), jointly with the Graduate Student Association and Brandeis European Graduate Students Association, presented “The Democratic Promise: People, Power, Change,” with Professor Marshall Ganz, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Ganz, a prominent educator, organizer and movement builder with decades of experience in organizing communities to mobilize and build power to create positive social change, discussed leadership, people, power and change. According to Ganz, fulfilling the democratic promise of equity, accountability and inclusion requires the participation of an “organized” citizenry that can articulate and assert its shared interests effectively.

The RCRC hosted the following RC Partner Cafés:

- “Relational Coordination and Readiness for Change,” February 2019.
- “Relational Coordination in Organizational Networks: Managing for Coordination and Equity,” March 2019. Presenters included Professor Christine Bishop and Gabriela Corbera, MA SID/MBA’18.
- “Leading Relational Coordination Improvement Efforts With Multi-Stakeholder Change Teams,” April 2019.
- “Assessing the Organizational Structures That Shape Relational Coordination,” May 2019. Presenters included RCRC executive director Jody Hoffer Gittell.

In April 2019, the RCRC hosted “Improving Work Processes With Relational Coordination,” a workshop taught by RCRC executive director Jody Hoffer Gittell and Margie Godfrey from the Dartmouth Institute Microsystem Academy. This workshop helped attendees learn how to use the Relational Coordination Survey in interventions to improve work processes and collaboration across the continuum, from small co-located work groups to virtual teams, to whole organizations and inter-organizational consortia.


The Sillerman Center, with PhD candidate Charlotte Powley, helped organize a screening and discussion of the film “Period. End of Sentence” at the Heller School in March 2019.

The Sillerman Center, in partnership with the Foundation for MetroWest, convened the “Youth Philanthropy Roundtable — Re-Envisioning and Reinvigorating the Field” at the Framingham, Mass., Public Library on March 28, 2019. This roundtable brought together 10 key youth philanthropy constituents to discuss the current state of the field and determine next steps for continuing work.

On April 9, 2019, the Sillerman Center hosted nonprofit leader, social justice trainer, social critic and writer Vu Le. In his talk at Heller, “Fun and Frustration of Nonprofit Work With Vu Le,” Vu explored tensions between the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors and offered insights about how funders and nonprofits can build respectful, powerful relationships in service of social justice. Vu’s talk was followed by a discussion facilitated by Alex McCray, Senior Director of Programs at Philanthropy Massachusetts.
PUBLICATIONS


GRANTS

Morgan Shields (PI), Constance Horgan (Faculty Mentor) “Disparity in the Use of Health Information Exchange (HIE) Following Discharge From Inpatient Psychiatric Units in Acute Care Hospitals”; Funded: Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center

While the rate of HIE use within acute care hospitals overall is high (88%), it is unknown what the rate of use of HIE is within the psychiatric units of these same hospitals. Linking two national datasets, the researchers are examining the rate of HIE use in inpatient psychiatric units of acute care hospitals and its organizational predictors.

PRESENTATIONS


DIANA SERRANO (SEE STORY ON PAGE 36)


**Henry, B.** “Typologies of Adverse Experiences as Predictors of Alcohol Use Disorder Among U.S. Prisoners.” Presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Minneapolis, June 2019.


**Kreider, B.** “Labor’s New Kids on the Block: Immigrant Worker Centers’ Potential to Collaborate With Labor Unions.” Presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio, June 2019.


**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

PhD student Yaminette Diaz-Linhart was interviewed on the June 6, 2019, episode of the No Jargon podcast, “Episode 178: Healthy Patients, Healthy Providers.”


Brandy Henry presented “Trauma Informed Care, Part 2” at a New Garden Society Staff Meeting, Boston, June 2019.

Pharady Kao, MA SID’20, was profiled in an Oct. 24, 2018, article in The Diplomat, “How Can Asia Unleash the Potential of Youth?”

Hend Nafea, MA COEX/SID’19, was profiled on March 8, 2019, in a four-part film series on PBS, “Women, War and Peace II.”

Hend Nafea was profiled in an April 26, 2019, article in VOA, “Egyptian Woman Brutalized in Arab Spring Protest Continues Rights Campaign.”

PhD candidate Ye Zhang Pogue was a co-author on the Asian Americans for Equal Rights and the Asian American Grassroots Coalition’s “Complaint Against
PhD candidate Robyn Powell contributed to the following:

- She authored a Jan. 10, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “The Rape of an Arizona Woman in a Coma Is Not an Isolated Incident.”
- She authored a Jan. 15, 2019, article in *DAME* magazine, “I Prefer That You Say I’m Disabled.”
- She authored a Jan. 15, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “What People With Disabilities Should Expect From the New Congress.”
- She was quoted in a Jan. 23, 2019, article in *Public Goods*, “Banning Plastic Straws: Sustainability and Compromise.”
- She authored a Feb. 20, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “Will Presidential Candidates Remember the Voting Power of People With Disabilities?”
- She authored a Feb. 25, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “Carrie Ann Lucas, Disability Rights Activist and Attorney, Dies Following Denial From Insurance Company.”
- She authored a Feb. 27, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “All Hail Barbie in a Wheelchair: Pop Culture Meets Disability Awareness.”
- She authored a March 3, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “An Activist’s Tragic Death.”
- She authored a March 13, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “‘Medicare for All’ Must Truly Be for All — Including People With Disabilities.”
- She authored a March 21, 2019, article in *The New York Times*, “Even in Grief, I Still Have Pride.”
- She was quoted in an April 25, 2019, article in *OZY*, “Forced to Divorce: Americans With Disabilities Must Pick Marriage or Health Care.”
- She authored a May 13, 2019, *DAME* magazine article, “Medicare for All Is Great. Unless the GOP Gets Control.”
- She authored a June 4, 2019, article in *Rewire News*, “What It’s Like to Be a Disabled Parent in an Inaccessible World.”
- She was quoted in a June 18, 2019, article in *HuffPost*, “This Is How Employers Weed Out Disabled People From Their Hiring Pools.”

PhD student Heidi Salman was quoted in a Feb. 28, 2019, article in *Patriot Ledger*, “Quincy Chamber Urges Employers to Fight Opioid Epidemic.”

PhD candidate Resham Sethi, MA SID’20, contributed to the following:

- She was profiled in a Jan. 30, 2019, article in *India Times*, “Innovation Holds Water in Dry Parts of State.”
- She presented “Ending Sex Slavery Through Education and Self-Love” at TEDx Hult Boston, sponsored by Hult International Business School, Boston, in May 2019.

PhD candidate Morgan Shields was profiled in a May 12, 2019, article in *New England Psychologist*, “Study Finds Lack of Data a Barrier to Systems-Level Research on Patient Safety.”

PhD student Deborah Strod and PhD candidate Charlotte Powley served, respectively, as facilitator and panelist/presenter for a screening of the film “Period. End of Sentence” in Lexington, Mass., in May 2019.

PhD student Brandy Henry received the following honors:

- She was appointed to the Harvard Kennedy School Rappaport Fellowship Selection Committee.
- She received the Research Society on Alcoholism Student Merit Award.

PhD candidate Misti Jeffers received the 2019 Alpha Lambda Delta Graduate Fellowship Scholarship from the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society.

PhD candidate Benjamin Kreider received the following honors:

- He was awarded the Brandeis Provost Dissertation Award.
- He was appointed as Co-Chair for the PhD Consortium, Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Conference.
PhD student Jennifer LaFleur received the award for Best Poster at the 2019 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting for her poster, “School Engagement Among Children With Special Health Care Needs: Exploring Links Between Access to Medical Care and School Attendance.”

PhD candidate Robyn Powell was selected to participate in the Summer Research Institute, National Data Archive of Child Abuse and Neglect at Cornell University in 2019.

PhD candidate Charlotte Powley served as a reviewer for Women’s Reproductive Health Journal.

Resham Sethi, MA SID’20, received the following honors:

- She was selected for the Brandeis IBS India Initiative Summer Fellowship by the Brandeis International Business School in May 2019.
- She received a scholarship from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation to participate in the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit in Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

Angesom G. Teklu, MA SID’19, received the following honors:

- He was recognized by the Hult Foundation for successful completion of the on-campus Hult prize competition as a campus director.
- He was recognized by the staff at the Brandeis Graduate Student Center and the Graduate Student Association executive board for his commitment and leadership.
WANT MORE HELLER NEWS?

From the opioid epidemic, to health care reform, to immigration policy, to poverty alleviation, Heller researchers build knowledge and provide fresh insight on today’s most relevant social policy issues. Stay up to date with Heller News.

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