

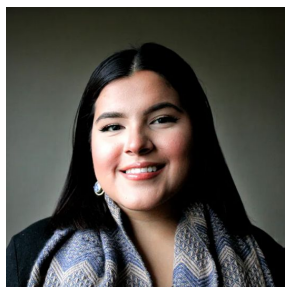
Meet Our 2021 Brandeis/Heller Segal Fellows

The Center for Youth and Communities would like to extend our congratulations to the Eli J. and Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program's seven new 2021 Brandeis/Heller Segal Fellows. These inspiring and dedicated individuals join a Network of 138 lifelong Fellows across a wide range of issue areas and sectors. Through their participation in the Program, each Fellow will be supported with resources and training to continue their development as leaders and agents for social change. Each winter, The Segal Program selects Fellows from Brandeis University, as undergraduate students or as candidates in The Heller School's Masters in Public Policy (MPP) Program; we also welcome additional Fellows each fall through our national service partners.

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Maria Aranibar Landeo, 2021 Brandeis Segal Fellow



Maria Aranibar is a first generation college student and a proud Peruvian immigrant. They are a junior with a double major in International Global Studies and Sociology, with a double minor in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Social Justice Social Policy. At Brandeis, Maria is the General Meetings Coordinator for the Women Of Color Alliance and a second year Community Advisor for the Department of Community Living. They are also involved with Brandeis Mutual Aid, which is dedicated to serving BIPOC on campus by redistributing aid. They have worked as a Teaching Fellow for Breakthrough Cincinnati in the summer of 2019 and taught Social Studies and Advanced Spanish. Maria also interned

with REACH Beyond Domestic Violence this past summer, where they translated documents, worked with survivors, and ran a Backpack Drive for the families REACH serves. That same summer, Maria worked for the Race Equity and Education Lab as a Research Analyst, coding surveys done by parents on how COVID-19 Boston Public School closures affected their schooling experience. Being a bilingual person of color, Maria has been able to do important and personal work for their communities in redistributing resources and providing aid. Maria was raised in Ohio and has been a Boston local for 7 years now. Maria has moved around a lot, which has reminded them to remember their roots and to thank those who have come before that have contributed to social justice. **Maria is excited to focus on issues related to immigration, domestic violence, education, language equity, or the LGBTQ+ community.**

Pierre Holmes, 2021 Heller MPP Segal Fellow



Pierre Holmes is an MPP candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University concentrating in Poverty Alleviation. He was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, which has shaped his perspective greatly due to its character and diverse population. He is focused on pathways to racial equity and justice above all else, aiming to help black people thrive in all aspects of life through policy and community strength. A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Stonehill College (2019), he was a Communications and Philosophy double major. He was a SURE scholar, which helped

provide him with the chance to spend a summer working with a professor researching the rhetoric of Civil Rights Era monuments and locations. He started his graduate school career at the University of Pennsylvania Law School before realizing that was not the path for him. He then spent his time before Heller as a special education teacher at Chestnut middle school in Springfield. He serves as the co-chair of the MPP Student Association, working closely with MPP faculty to relay and address the needs of students. He currently works part time as a graduate assistant to the Equity, Inclusion and Diversity office at Heller, tasked with helping to attune Heller to the needs of students of

marginalized identities, while also working to diversify syllabi and interact with the administration. In his free time, Pierre enjoys basketball, reading, music, and writing (raps especially). **This summer, Pierre hopes to gain experience working with an organization focused on advancing racial-justice-focused policy in a broad sense, as he narrows his focus.**

Adam Jones, 2021 Heller MPP Segal Fellow



Adam Jones is an MPP candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University concentrating in Poverty Alleviation. Before coming to Heller, Adam worked at Vinfen Corporation as the director of a group home for adults with severe mental illnesses. In this role, Adam worked with social workers, psychiatrists, and families to devise and implement evidence-based treatment plans and interventions. Through this work, he came to recognize that responsive community support is critical for people seeking to accomplish their goals and live meaningful lives. At Heller and as a Fellow, Adam seeks to apply lessons learned in mental healthcare to work that supports children and families. As the parent of a toddler himself, Adam has witnessed firsthand the challenges that parents face in accessing affordable childcare and adequate support networks. He is passionate about informing and creating policy that increases opportunity for children and empowers parents. Adam graduated from Brandeis University in 2015 with a degree in neuroscience. He is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and lives in Waltham with his wife and son. Adam is also a musician and comedian who loves to perform throughout the Greater Boston area. **Adam is excited to learn about and implement strategies that have meaningful impacts on the lives of children and families as a Segal Fellow this summer.**

Mariela Martinez, 2021 Heller MPP Segal Fellow



Mariela Martínez (she/her) is pursuing a MPP from the Heller School for Social Policy at Brandeis University concentrating on immigration and conflict resolution. Mariela immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico at seven and grew up in Southern California. She currently works as the graduate assistant for Brandeis' Department of Community Service and Waltham Group, helping train student leaders on equitable, community centered practices. Mariela serves as the Director of Advocacy and Collaborations for the Graduate Student Association. Mariela graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Interfaith Studies from the University of La Verne in 2017. She served in Uganda from 2017 to 2019 as a Peace Corps education volunteer, focusing on literacy education, girl's empowerment, and volunteer training. Mariela is passionate about addressing the global surge in ethno-nationalism and nativism through sound research and educational programs that expand public views on identity and build compassion. Her experience learning about religious discrimination in Greece through interning with the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy, the nonviolence movement globally through the Fellowship of Reconciliation and community organizing through the California Campus Compact, have taught Mariela the power of pluralism, transparency, and activism. Her current research is on the militarization of the U.S. Mexico border and how wealth inequality and abusive immigration policies impact undocumented communities. In her free time Mariela enjoys translating her favorite Spanish rap songs and swimming. **Mariela is excited to serve as a Segal Fellow this summer and advocate for immigrant rights by learning more about how policy can be advanced by social justice, programming, and community engagement.**

Catherine Romero, 2021 Brandeis Segal Fellow



Catherine Romero is a Myra Kraft Transitional Year (MKTY) Scholar at Brandeis, born and raised in Houston, Texas. She is a current third year aiming to complete majors in Sociology, African and African American Studies, and Latin American and Latino Studies. At Brandeis, she is a student worker for the ICC, a writing tutor for the MKTY Program, and a peer educator with Bridge to Wellness. Catherine has found much of her home on campus through her MKTY cohort and members of the Intercultural Center. Her investment to equitable education begins with the resiliency and empathy that embodies the values of her Central American background. Much of her upbringing was spent

watching others and herself face challenges with the public education offered to low-income students of color. The community she found at Brandeis has empowered her to gain the tools to re-visit these experiences with a critical understanding of larger structures of inequality. Last summer, she was able to learn more of the potential and value of education, through her five-week long fellowship in New York City. This experience exposed her to greater insight on the complex issues of poverty. She was also introduced to the grant making process of nonprofits that aim to fight against the different layers of poverty. During the summer of 2020, she interned for her high school supporting students with literacy exams for the upcoming school year. She was also given the opportunity to be a part of the Race Equity and Education Lab under the support and mentorship of Professor Derron Wallace. Through this, she assisted a team of individuals committed to voicing the concerns of low-income families of color in response to a transition to virtual learning. She aims to attend law school to gain technical skills and work alongside grassroots organizations. In the meantime, she is eager and motivated to continue learning from her mentors, advisors, community, and loved ones, on the steps towards imagining a world that offers complete liberation. Aside from this, she holds an extensive appreciation for mixing music, writing, and collecting stories. She understands these forms of art to defy concepts of time and colonialism by grounding us to moments, people, and history that reveal a greater purpose and responsibility attached to our existence. **This summer, Catherine is excited to deepen her engagement and commitment to youth experiencing the unequal realities offered within immigration, public education, or housing insecurity.**

Marissa Torelli, 2021 Brandeis Segal Fellow



Marissa Torelli is a junior at Brandeis University from Windsor, CT, who is double-majoring in Politics and International & Global Studies and double-minoring in African/African-American Studies and Legal Studies. Marissa is currently a coordinator for a Waltham Group volunteer program titled "Afternoon Enrichment." This after-school mentorship/tutoring program works with local middle school students and current Brandeis undergraduates to enhance not only the middle schoolers' academic learning but their social-emotional skills, too. She is also a member and former Vice President of Recruitment of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. Outside of her classwork and extracurriculars,

Marissa works at the front desk of the Hiatt Career Center and in the Western Jihadism Project lab as a research assistant with Professor Jytte Klausen. Last summer, Marissa interned for the City of Boston as a part of the 2020 cohort of Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice Fellowship recipients, where she was able to work with system-involved youth in an academic/mentorship summer program. Marissa was also an intern for a public defender's office in Connecticut, where she developed her interest in law. She hopes to attend law school after her 2022 graduation. Marissa is passionate about criminal justice reform and how it affects youth of color, especially. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies with her family and going on walks with her dog. **As a Segal Fellow this summer, Marissa is excited to engage in work that involves the intersection of law, government, and public policy, within the U.S. and how it can support historically marginalized communities.**

Andrea Tyree, 2021 Heller MPP Segal Fellow



Andrea Tyree is an MPP candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University concentrating in Poverty Alleviation. She is a proud Affrilachian (African-American Appalachian), who consistently finds herself returning home to West Virginia in order to assist her community in battling various forms of socioeconomic oppression. As a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Howard University's Political Science program, Andrea has used lessons learned at Howard to help organize rallies and political movements for Black lives in her hometown of Charleston, West Virginia. From 2017 to 2019, Andrea served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Timor-Leste. There, she supported

agricultural groups, established youth leadership programs, and partnered with local police departments to organize gender-based violence trainings. She also worked with the statewide grassroots organization Our Future West Virginia, where, in addition to her responsibilities as the Communications Director, Andrea and her coworkers partnered with local leaders to demand institutional change and accountability from the city of Charleston's police department. Now, as an MPP candidate and Segal Fellow, Andrea is committed to examining American policing—particularly its effect on Black rural communities—and how policy and research can change this system to eliminate its harm on communities of color. **As a Segal Fellow this summer, Andrea is excited to learn from policy and research experts working in the field of police reform and transformation. She is also eager to learn more from her Segal peers about the intersection of various fields in battling the inequities faced by communities of color.**

For more information about the Segal Program, visit segal.brandeis.edu.