



## Department of Sociology ~ Tidbits

### Reflections from Professor Peter Conrad:

#### Joint Sociology-Heller Ph.D. ~ Two Decades of Success

In the early 1990s Peter Conrad and Janet Giele (sociologist at Heller School) began discussing the possibilities of a Joint Sociology-Heller Ph.D. program. In the previous decade a couple of students had cobbled together enough courses and an overlapping dissertation committee to informally designate their degrees as joint Sociology and Policy. Peter and Janet proposed the outlines of a more formal joint degree and after over a year of negotiations instituted an official joint degree. It attracted Sociology students interested in policy and Heller students attracted to an academic discipline. After a few administrative improvements, Ph.D. students in both Heller and Sociology could apply for the joint program after completing their first year in either Ph.D. program. In general, getting a joint degree required one additional year of coursework, modified comprehensive exams or portfolio, and a joint faculty dissertation committee.

Since the development of the program we have graduated 15 joint Ph.D., nearly all of whom are doing well. By Peter's count, 4 are tenured professors, 4 are tenure track professors, 2 are long-term contract faculty, 3 are employed by social research organizations (with an eye on academic jobs in the future), 1 founded and directs a community treatment center, and 1 is currently unknown. There are also 5 students currently active in the program, mostly at the dissertation stage. This program has been a real win-win for Heller and Sociology.



### Grants:

**Wendy Cadge** continues work on the Transforming Chaplaincy Project funded by The John Templeton Foundation (<http://www.researchliteratechaplaincy.org/>). She and colleagues George Fitchett, Rush University Medical Center and Trace Haythorn received a new grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, "Assessing and Reimagining Chaplaincy Education: the Case of Healthcare Chaplaincy" that will run from 2017 to 2020.

Wendy also received grant support with colleagues for new projects about chaplains in maritime and port contexts. With Helen Sampson (Cardiff University), Sophie Gillat-Ray (Cardiff University) and Graeme Smith (University of Chichester) she received a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council in the UK for a three and a half year project titled, "Religion in Multi-Ethnic Contexts: A Multidisciplinary Case Study of Global Seafaring." With Jason Zuidema of the North American Maritime Ministry Association she received a project grant for researchers from the Louisville Institute titled, "Congregation-Port Connections: Case Studies of Port Chaplaincy in the U.S. and Canada."

Wendy's work with photographer Randy Armor and architectural historian Alice Friedman (Wellesley College) was recognized by a grant from Mass Humanities (<http://www.hiddensacredspaces.org/>).

**Chandler Rosenberger** won a Whiting Fellowship to travel to China during his sabbatical this spring. Chandler is interested in better understanding the relationships among nationalism and globalization in contemporary Chinese society. He has been studying Mandarin Chinese at Brandeis for the past 18 months and looks forward to using what he has learned.

## Recent Graduates:

### Recent Sociology PhDs

#### **Brian Fair**

Dissertation Title: *“Youth Hockey in South Boston: Sport and Community in an Urban Neighborhood”*

#### **Jennifer Girouard**

Dissertation Title: *“When Law Comes to Town: Participation and Discourse in Fair Share Housing Hearings”*

### Recent Masters in Sociology

**Malaika El Hemel**

### Recent Masters in Sociology/ WGS

**Jaqueline Gonzalez**

## 2016-2017 Undergraduate Department Representatives (UDRs):

**Sharon Cai** ('18) is a junior from Brooklyn, NY majoring in Sociology and Health: Science, Society & Policy. On campus, she is a Community Advisor and currently involved with Brandeis Pluralism Alliance Steering Committee and United Against Inequities in Disease. Her studies focus on social determinants of health and illness and inequalities in healthcare. She spent summer 2016 in the “Health, Law & Justice” Justice Brandeis Summer program and studied Public Health abroad fall 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



**Kimberly Montano** ('17) is a senior from Los Angeles, California and on a pre-med track. Majoring in Biology and Sociology with a minor in Chemistry, she hopes to become a surgical Physician Assistant focusing on pediatric oncology/hematology. She currently volunteers at Prospect Hill, Spectrum and is an undergrad research assistant for the Wangh Lab. Her lab project focuses on HPV linked to cervical cancer, and she is currently working on her senior thesis. Sociology of Health and Illness sparked her interest in sociology, and she's thrilled to represent two different departments at Brandeis. She hopes to be a liaison to any undergrads and especially those that are interested in Sociology while having interests in other fields.

**Allison Plotnik** ('18) is a junior from Rochester, NY majoring in Sociology and Education Studies. On campus, she is the senior copy editor and treasurer for The Brandeis Hoot, chats at admissions, and is involved with Waltham Group. Within the field of sociology, she is focused on education and inequalities in the education system. This past summer, she worked in the programming office at a Jewish summer camp in Upstate New York. She plans to study Sociology and Child Development & Diversity in Copenhagen, Denmark for the spring 2017 semester.



**Jessica Star** ('17) is a senior majoring in Sociology and Theater Arts. She is currently working on her senior thesis in the Sociology Department with hopes of pursuing a PhD in Medical Sociology next year. She is also a member of Proscenium Acapella, an Orientation Leader, and a Stage Manager/Lighting Designer for Hold thy Peace and the Undergraduate Theater Collective. This summer she will be going to Peru to teach English, and is excited to be an Undergraduate Department Representative for her second year.

## 2016-2017 Colloquia Series:

### Fall 2016

#### **Arlie Hochschild**

Emerita Professor of Sociology at UC Berkeley

*Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*



#### **Carla Shedd**

Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Columbia University

*When Protection becomes Punishment: Policing the Public (Schools) in an Unequal City*

#### **Allison Pugh**

Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Virginia

*The Tumbleweed Society*





**Ya-Wen Lei**

Assistant Professor of Sociology at Harvard University

*The Contentious Public Sphere in China: Law, Media and the Dilemma of Authoritarian Rule*

**Please refer to our website for details on our Spring Colloquia Series:**

<http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology>

**In Memoriam:**



*It is with sympathy that we share the sad news of former members of our community who passed away...*

**Ruth Ice**, 87, social worker, writer, and activist passed away this past fall. She was married to Vic Walter, a Brandeis sociologist in the 60s and 70s. Ms. Ice, a longtime political activist who became a social worker in her mid-60s and ran a private practice into her early 80s, died of complications of Alzheimer's disease July 22 in Colorado, at Eagle's Nest Assisted Living. While Ice was studying at Ohio State University, she met her future husband, Vic Walter. By chance they encountered each other again a few months later while each was visiting New York City and both happened to be in the Public Library's main branch. In 1958, Ms. Ice moved to Waltham with Dr. Walter and his three children from an earlier marriage. The couple married in 1960, and the family settled in Brookline four years later. Dr. Walter, a writer who taught political science at Brandeis University and sociology at Boston University, passed away in 2003. Ms. Ice's later-in-life social work career "was a way for her to feel that she was helping people and working for social justice," her daughter Alexandra said. "She was a very strong advocate for the poor. Being Spanish-speaking, she helped a lot of the Latin American people she met in Boston." Ruth Ice is survived by her daughter Alexandra Walter of Madison, Wisconsin, and her three stepchildren Lacey McLean of Sheridan, Texas, Claudia Rush of Austin, Texas, and Ian Walter of Paige, Texas; two other daughters, Natasha Walter-Fisk and Jenia Walter, both of Fort Collins, Colo.; and three grandchildren.



**Kristine Keese**, 82, passed away peacefully on Oct. 8, 2016 at her home in Plymouth, MA. She was born in Warsaw, Poland on November 26, 1933. As a little girl, she survived incarceration in the Warsaw

Ghetto and then immigrated to the United States and settled in New York after the war with her family. For a number of years, Keese also taught in the Sociology Department at Brandeis University. While she was there, she wrote the book “Fathers Without Partners” with co-author Harry F. Keshet, published in 1981, a study of fathers and the family after marital separation. She left academic life to live and work on a fishing boat with her husband, along the coast of Florida and in Alaska, where she was an evaluator for the newly-instituted Native education program under a grant from the Office of Education. She and her husband also spent a year on the North coast of Haiti attempting to organize a fishing cooperative. At the time of her death, she was a resident of Wellfleet and Plymouth, MA and operated an organic cranberry bog together with her husband. Prior to her death, Keese published an autobiography entitled “Shadows of Survival: A Child’s Memoir of the Warsaw Ghetto”, an account of her experiences in Poland during World War II. Kristine is survived by her husband of 36 years, Robert Keese, her aunt Marysia Lubowski Winkleman, her children, Richard, Lisa and Jeffrey Rosenthal, her step-children, Eileen, Bobby and Andy Keese, and their families, including six grandchildren and step-grandchildren. She was greatly loved by her friends and family and will be missed.

