

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

# THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

ISSUE NO. 11 | FALL 2021

Welcome to the Heller Social Policy Impact Report. This report showcases a selection of high-impact research and public engagement from the faculty, researchers and students of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management from July 2020 through June 2021.

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THE HELLER SOCIAL POLICY IMPACT REPORT

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# RESEARCH IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



# 10%

INCREASE IN  
MINIMUM WAGE

WHEN AMAZON INSTITUTED A \$15 MINIMUM WAGE IN OCTOBER 2018, A 10% INCREASE IN AMAZON'S ADVERTISED HOURLY WAGES LED TO AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 2.6% AMONG OTHER EMPLOYERS IN THE SAME COMMUTING ZONE.

## How Amazon's wages influence other local businesses

Higher minimum wages set by major employers like Amazon, Walmart and Target have led to higher pay for low-wage workers at nearby businesses — without leading to significant job losses, according to a paper by Dean David Weil; Clemens Noelke, research scientist at the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (see Q&A on page 46); and Ellora Derenoncourt of the University of California, Berkeley.

The paper, "Spillover Effects From Voluntary Employer Minimum Wages," was published in *SSRN* in March 2021. The researchers used the federal government's Current Population Survey and data from Glassdoor and Burning Glass Technologies to examine how local labor markets responded to voluntary wage hikes at big companies.

"Our paper shows that the decisions of major employers regarding their wages have real impacts on the choices made by other employers in their local labor markets," says Weil. "Understanding the ripple effects of voluntary minimum wages provides a window into how labor markets are wired and how private or public policy interventions can affect entire labor markets."

The study was highlighted by major media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Business Insider*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The (Colorado Springs) Gazette*.

"The findings have broad implications for the battle over the federal minimum wage, which has stayed at \$7.25 an hour for more than a decade, and which Democrats are trying to raise to \$15 by 2025," wrote *The New York Times*.





***“Policy officials and key stakeholders of this initiative are now able to identify and advocate for at-risk children.”***

JOSEPH K. ASSAN

### **Full bellies, full minds: evaluating school lunch programs in India**

Children from Dalit, lower-caste, and ethnic and religious minority households in India have long been held back from attending school by institutional barriers, widespread discrimination and financial limitations.

An October 2020 article in *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion* titled “Assessing the Impact of Public-Private Funded Midday Meal Programs on the Educational Attainment and Well-being of School Children in Uttar Pradesh, India,” with Joseph K. Assan as the lead author, examined the impact of the Midday Meal (MDM) program in the Lucknow area. This program is run by a private foundation with the support of the local state government.

The study sampled about 1,500 students and teachers in India’s most populous state, where 60 million of its 200 million residents are

considered poor. Researchers found that more than 50% of students and 65% of teachers said MDM played a large or very large role in improving students’ school attendance, participation, ability to concentrate in class and overall performance.

The study revealed that the MDM could serve as a model for an inclusive and nondiscriminatory school-feeding system, enhancing structural equity, child development and the attainment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals targets in India, says Assan, director of the MA Program in Sustainable International Development.

Assan further explains that “a significant impact of this study is that policy officials and key stakeholders of this initiative are now able to identify and advocate for at-risk children and their households in the sampled schools and beyond.”

## Anita Hill takes on harassment in Hollywood

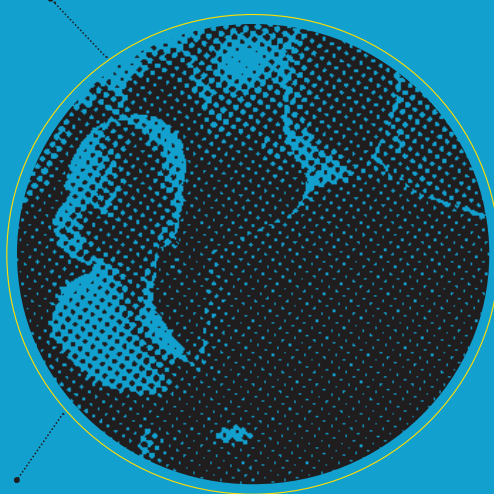
The Hollywood Commission, chaired by University Professor Anita Hill, launched a first-of-its-kind culture and climate survey in 2019-20, asking nearly 10,000 entertainment industry workers about discrimination, harassment and bullying across the industry. Starting in fall 2020, the commission released five reports on its findings, focused on accountability, bias and diversity, bullying, #MeToo and its effect on sexual harassment and sexual assault, as well as an overarching culture and climate report. The goal of the commission, which also includes Freeda Kapor Klein, PhD '84, a longtime researcher and activist against sexual harassment in the workplace, is to create a safe and equitable future in the entertainment industry.

The report's findings were covered by more than 100 media outlets such as *USA Today*, *Forbes* and *Variety*, as well as TV programs like *CBS This Morning* and *The Daily Show*.

Joining NPR's *All Things Considered* on Sept. 29, 2020, Hill said that while some powerful men like Harvey Weinstein have been held accountable, "We want to make sure that it doesn't stop with just a few high-profile cases. We know that there are problems throughout workplaces, and we want to make sure that everybody, whatever their position is, can count on being heard."

# 1 IN 5

women and 1 in 10 men  
reported sexual assault  
in the workplace.



# 65%

of respondents  
said they didn't believe  
someone in power,  
such as a producer  
or director, would be  
held accountable for  
harassing someone  
with less authority.

# 69%

of workers perceive progress  
in preventing harassment  
since October 2017, when the  
#MeToo movement went viral.

THESE STATS REFLECT  
RESPONSES FROM A  
SURVEY OF NEARLY  
10,000 ENTERTAINMENT  
INDUSTRY WORKERS.

## Transforming police response to opioid overdoses

Drug overdose deaths increased by 30% from 2019 to 2020, largely due to the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl, reflecting the largest increase in more than two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A groundbreaking new project called One2One is providing fentanyl test-strip kits and training resources to police departments in 21 communities across Massachusetts and Maine from March to November 2021. The program is led by Institute for Behavioral Health (IBH) Senior Scientist Mary Jo Larson, PhD '92, and Opioid Policy Research Collaborative Director Traci Green, with assistance from IBH Research Associate Becca Olson, in collaboration with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI).

The goal is to equip police departments with new skills and tools that support positive interactions with people who use drugs and promote engagement in recovery services. The participating departments receive training, technical assistance and resources through a PAARI-led collaborative learning group.

"Each death from an opioid overdose is a tragedy and is preventable. To intervene effectively requires treating people who use drugs as people, not criminals," says Larson.

### TESTIMONIALS

"Two clients who had been given test kits called to report gratitude after being able to test their product and determine they did not want to buy it from their dealer, and they have begun engaging in conversations about treatment options."

— Augusta (Maine) Police Department

"Substance use disorder is a public health crisis. We should not be steering people toward prison. We should be steering people toward treatment."

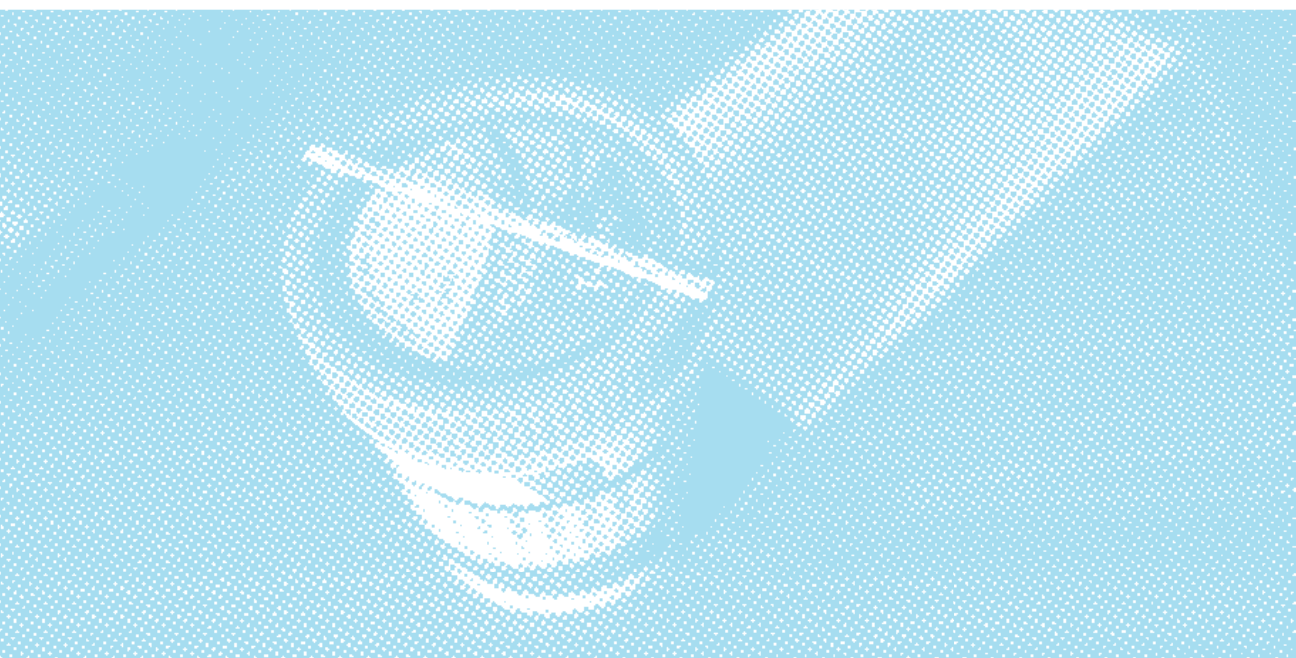
— Westbrook (Maine) Police Chief Sean Lally

### STATISTICS

In the first four months of the program (March-June 2021):

**1,153** fentanyl test-strip kits were distributed.

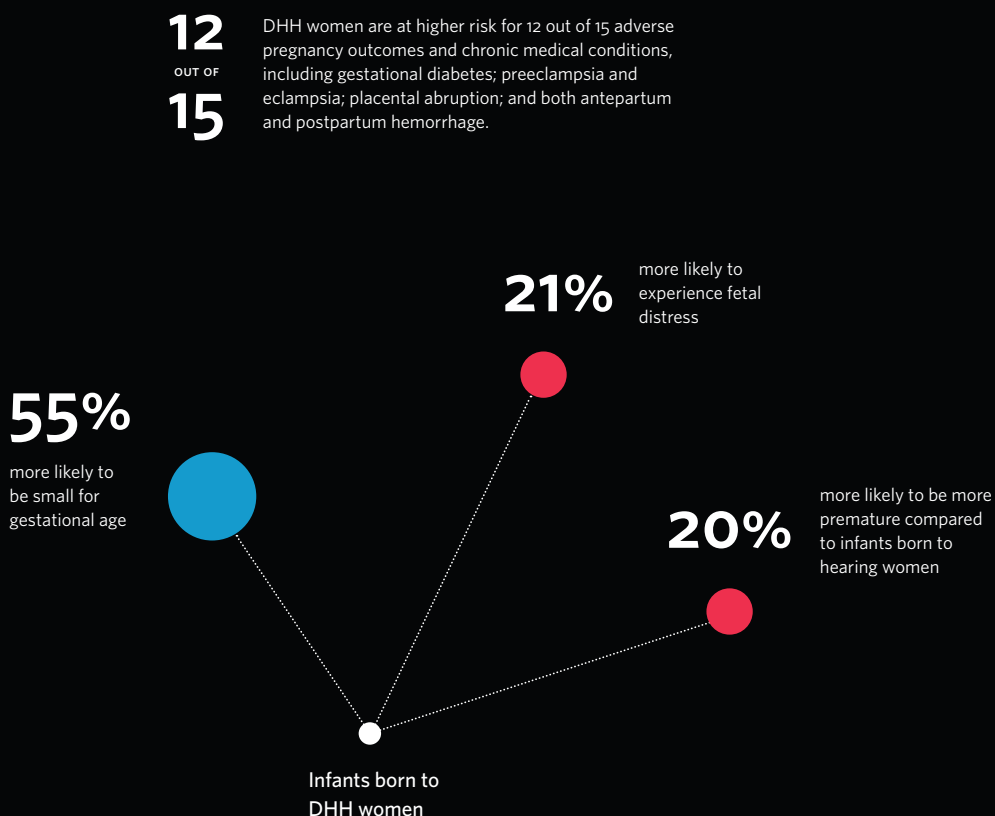
**1,246** referrals were made for substance use and mental health services, housing and employment assistance, etc.





## Deaf, hard of hearing women at higher risk of pregnancy and childbirth complications

In the first study of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) women using nationally representative data to examine pregnancy outcomes, Lurie Institute for Disability Policy researchers found that:



The research is part of a five-year National Institutes of Health-funded study of DHH women's pregnancy outcomes and experiences across the perinatal period: pregnancy, childbirth and beyond. DHH women are more likely to encounter communication barriers and have lower health literacy, potentially leading to poorer health outcomes.

Mitra, M., McKee, M., Akobirshoev, I., Ritter, G.A., and Valentine, A. (2021). "Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes Among Deaf or Hard of Hearing Women: Results From Nationally Representative Data." *Women's Health Issues*. Published online April 19, 2021.

## Bridging the digital divide for minority-serving colleges and universities

The lack of cyberinfrastructure, such as broadband wireless internet, data storage and high-performance computing, disproportionately impacts students and faculty at colleges and universities serving Black, Hispanic and Native American populations.

To address these critical needs, the Minority Serving CyberInfrastructure Consortium (MS-CC), with facilitation support by Professor Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld and others, was created in 2018. The MS-CC conducted two stakeholder surveys, one in 2018 (funded by the National Science Foundation) and one in 2020 (in collaboration with the nonprofit organization Internet2) to better understand their needs and identify opportunities for collaboration among institutions.

Nearly 300 educators, researchers, cyberinfrastructure professionals and senior administrative leaders from historically Black colleges and universities (44 of 101 HBCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (63 of 539 HSIs), and tribal colleges and universities (32 of 38 TCUs) responded to the 2020 survey.

Cutcher-Gershenfeld says, “The consortium approach enables independent yet interdependent stakeholders to accomplish together what they can’t do separately. The MS-CC is enabling an expanded number of colleges and universities to conduct data-intensive research and build next-generation workforce skills.”

**62%** of respondents said they had inadequate data center capabilities or data centers only adequate for teaching but not for research.

**73%** had little or no cloud computing utilization for research or instruction.

### MAJOR BARRIERS INCLUDE

- Time, money and personnel
- Staff support and institutional support
- Data access and infrastructure
- Limited internet access

*These programs are often created through short-term funding, so they may struggle and fizzle out.*

### **Sustainable funding for innovative programs to treat substance use disorder**

More than 40 states have reported an increase in drug overdose deaths since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic — which means new interventions to address substance use disorder are more critical than ever. But these programs are often created through short-term funding, so they may struggle and fizzle out once the initial grant is finished.

In a February 2021 *Health Affairs* blog, “New Interventions To Address Substance Use Disorder Must Take Financial Sustainability Into Account,” Institute for Behavioral Health (IBH) Professor Dominic Hodgkin, Scientist Maureen Stewart, PhD’09, Director Constance Horgan, and independent consultant Stephanie Jordan Brown delineate key challenges and offer recommendations.

Without sustainable financial models, they argue, these models “may not be maintained in the organizations testing them and may not be taken up by the wider health care system — meaning they won’t have any lasting impact on the opioid epidemic or substance use more generally.”

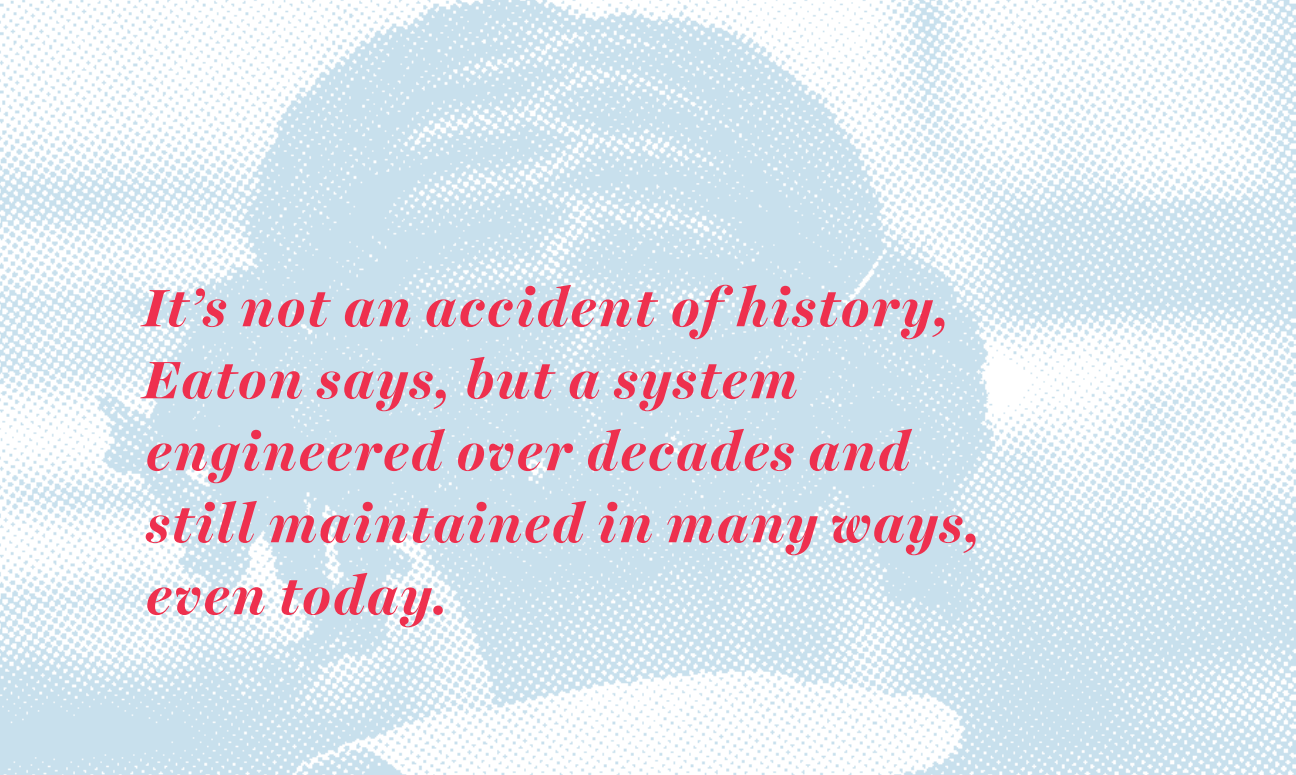
#### **CHALLENGES**

- The dominance of fee-for-service models, which do not allow providers to bill for services such as care coordination or technical assistance to clinicians.
- The fragmented nature of U.S. health care and its dependence on time-limited grant funding.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Conduct economic evaluations to determine cost-effectiveness for providers and payers, since services that are cost-effective from a societal perspective may not work for individual clinics.
- Collect input from local payers about evidence needed to obtain long-term funding and performance measures that could be used to reward providers who adopt interventions faithfully.
- Use the grant-funding period to work out stable funding streams to cover nonbillable services.





*It's not an accident of history, Eaton says, but a system engineered over decades and still maintained in many ways, even today.*

**Heller research contributions to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)**

**APPOINTMENTS TO NASEM COMMITTEES**

Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (ICYFP) Director Dolores Acevedo-Garcia was named to the Response and Resilient Recovery Strategic Science Initiative, which is focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee, composed of academic, business and national security leaders, aims to inform U.S. policy for crisis response and recovery.

ICYFP Associate Director Pamela Joshi, PhD '01, was named to Exploring the Opportunity Gap for Young Children From Birth to Age Eight to study the causes and consequences of opportunity gaps for young children, and make recommendations to improve conditions for children at home, in communities and in schools.

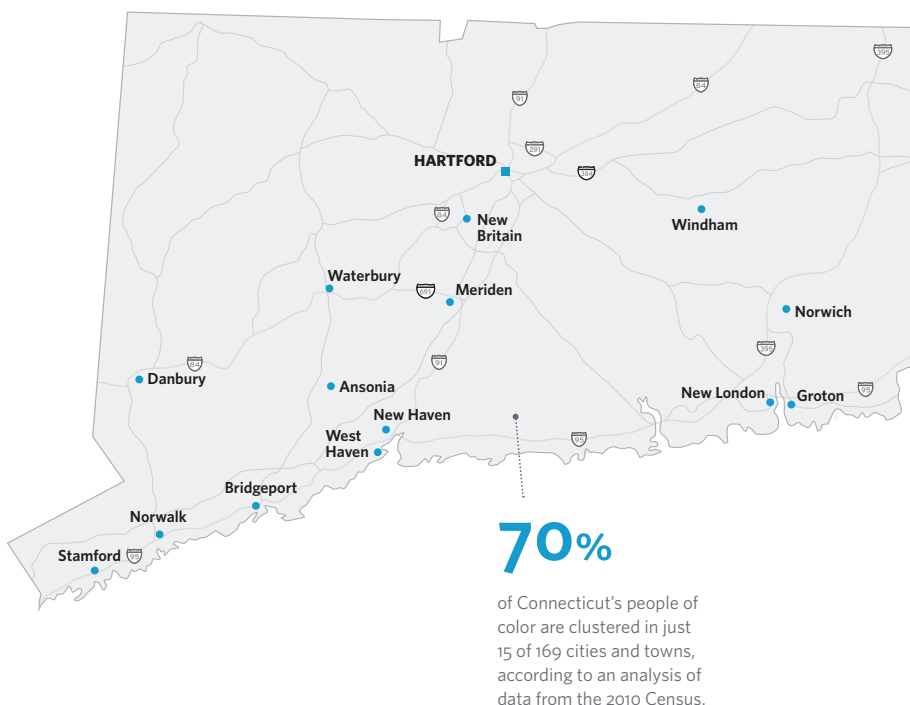
**ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WORK**

Dean David Weil contributed to a report by the committee Contingent Work and Alternate Work Arrangements, which recommended that the Bureau of Labor Statistics add questions to the Contingent Worker Supplement survey to allow the Department of Labor to better measure the changing nature of employment.

**PATHBREAKING PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

Professor Sharon Reif, PhD '02, presented on delivery system considerations for integrating addiction and mental health treatment into primary care settings at the Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders webinar in August 2020.

In April 2021, ICYFP co-hosted a workshop with Forum for Child Well-Being titled "Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families in the Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Efforts."



## Breaking Connecticut's "steady habit" of segregation


Connecticut's nickname as "The Land of Steady Habits" was likely coined in the early 19th century to describe a sensible place where public officials and policies didn't change with the wind. The sobriquet still fits, but in a darker sense, writes Susan Eaton, director of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, in her new report, "A Steady Habit of Segregation: The Origins and Continuing Harm of Separate and Unequal Housing and Public Schools in Metropolitan Hartford, Connecticut."

The report, which reaches back to the 1830s, shows how racial and ethnic segregation "misshapes a region and creates deeply unequal opportunities and life chances for human beings based upon race," she says, including education, health and wealth. It's not an accident of history, Eaton says, but a system engineered over decades and still maintained in many ways, even today.

Designed to help guide local and state policy-makers, politicians, educators, nonprofit organizations and philanthropic bodies seeking change, Eaton's report informed a new state bill that would require communities to comply with affordable housing laws, as well as a lawsuit accusing the Department of Housing and Urban Development of perpetuating segregation.

John Brittain, a prominent civil rights attorney in the landmark 1996 *Sheff v. O'Neill* lawsuit challenging Connecticut school segregation, says the value of Eaton's work lies in assembling a number of threads leading to an inescapable conclusion that should drive civil rights advocates to take action: "You can see the racial isolation that exists if you just look."

Read the full story at:  
[HELLER.BRANDEIS.EDU/STEADY-HABIT](https://heller.brandeis.edu/steady-habit)



# Reframing student debt cancellation as a racial justice issue

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RESEARCHERS FROM THE INSTITUTE  
FOR ECONOMIC AND RACIAL EQUITY  
CONDUCTED THE ANALYSIS BACKING  
PROGRESSIVES' EFFORTS TO CANCEL  
\$50,000 IN STUDENT LOAN DEBT

BY BETHANY ROMANO, MBA'17



#### **TWENTY YEARS AFTER STARTING COLLEGE,**

white borrowers' median student debt fell to 6%, whereas the median Black borrower still owed 95% of their loan. With student loans in the U.S. totaling \$1.5 trillion, this mounting crisis became a key issue in the 2020 presidential election and remains a heated debate in Washington.

Legislators in both houses of Congress have introduced resolutions calling for federal student loan cancellation, as have city governments in Boston, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. Within two years, the U.S. went from considering student debt cancellation a pipe dream to arguing over how much to cancel.

Among the leading voices on this issue is Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who famously presented a student loan cancellation plan during her presidential bid. That plan — to cancel \$50,000 in student debt for 42 million Americans while simultaneously shrinking the racial wealth gap — was built on decades of research spearheaded by Thomas Shapiro and colleagues at the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity (IERE).

#### **BUILDING THE LITERATURE ON RACIAL WEALTH INEQUALITY**

Shapiro, the Heller School's Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy, has researched racial wealth inequality with colleagues at the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity (formerly the Institute on Assets and Social Policy) for over 15 years.

"Wealth allows families to weather emergencies, and invest in a home, a college degree or a business. Without wealth, families and communities cannot be financially secure," says Shapiro. The wealth gap between Black, Latinx and white families is not only massive — it's growing at a breakneck speed. Tracking the same families over time, between 1984 and 2007, the wealth gap between white and Black families more than quadrupled from \$20,000 to \$95,000.

But the racial wealth gap is not just a manifestation of past injustice: Present-day policies are

making it worse. Over the years, Shapiro and IERE colleagues have examined how homeownership, occupational segregation, tax policy, family inheritance and student debt contribute to the gap.

"Well-meaning foundations, politicians and educational experts started pushing students to take loans, since they are low interest and mostly held by the Department of Education," says Shapiro. "Now the total value of student loan debt in the U.S. exceeds all credit card debt. That was a wake-up call."

He and others started to ask: Who was holding all that student debt? In 2019, Shapiro and his IERE colleagues Laura Sullivan, PhD'13, Tatjana Meschede and Fernanda Escobar, MPP'15, released a landmark report titled "Stalling Dreams: How Student Debt Is Disrupting Life Chances and Widening the Racial Wealth Gap." In it, the authors outlined a system in which Black and Latinx students are more likely to take out loans for college, borrow more money than white students and default on their loans.

"As somebody who has looked at racial wealth inequality for a long time, I didn't have to think long and hard about why that would be the case," Shapiro says. "African American and Latinx student borrowers finish higher education at a lower rate and come out with higher debt. So they pay more for college and get less out of it."

Perhaps most alarming, the report showed that 20 years after starting college, white borrowers' median student debt fell to 6%, whereas the median Black borrower still owed 95% of their student loan.

"One's ability to pay back a loan is complicated. It has to do with the amount of loan in the first instance, the quality of your degree, the job you get, as well as who else in your family or kinship network you're supporting, and any inheritance you can use to pay it back," Shapiro says.



#### ELIZABETH WARREN WANTS A PLAN FOR THAT

In the spring of 2019, with over a dozen Democratic candidates in the primary, Warren decided her platform needed a policy solution to the student debt crisis. Her staff reached out to Shapiro to ask if he would help with the analysis.

"The senator wanted a plan that would cancel the most debt for the most people, regardless of degree or whether they graduated. And it needed to be relatively simple: She had to be able to explain it in a short paragraph while standing onstage before an audience," he says.

Shapiro was interested, and he wanted to include a racial wealth inequality filter in the analysis. Warren's group agreed. He pulled together a team of volunteers, including Sullivan (now director of the Economic Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice), Louise Seamster from the University of Iowa and Raphaël Charron-Chénier from Arizona State University.

"It's an interesting policy puzzle," says Seamster. "The student debt crisis is both created by and magnifying the racial wealth gap, and it can have

complex effects. Some amount of cancellation can increase Black wealth significantly, but at some level it starts to benefit wealthy white people most of all, which exacerbates the racial wealth gap."

Together, the team landed on a proposal to cancel \$50,000 in student debt, with eligibility phased out for people who earn over \$100,000. In their model, over 95% of borrowers would receive some cancellation, more than 76% would have their entire loan wiped out, and the racial wealth gap would shrink slightly for both Black and Latinx households.

Warren announced her student debt cancellation plan based on the research team's work, and it quickly entered the political zeitgeist. "It broke through the national discourse on student debt, while making sure that race was absolutely a part of that conversation," says Shapiro.

Unlike competing plans, Warren's proposal contextualized student debt cancellation in terms of racial justice, noting that "the burdens of student debt are not distributed equally across all Americans: Our country's student debt crisis

is hitting Black and Latinx communities especially hard.”

IERE Associate Director Tatjana Meschede says, “This careful analysis found that \$50,000 of student debt cancellation has the highest impact of reducing racial wealth disparities, an important marker of success; \$50,000 has been circulated in many policy conversations since.”

#### IT’S NOT WHETHER — IT’S HOW MUCH

In December 2020, Warren co-wrote an op-ed with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer calling again for \$50,000 in debt cancellation rather than the \$10,000 President Biden pledged during his campaign. In early 2021, Warren, Schumer and others introduced House and Senate resolutions to the same effect. These items directly reference the background analysis by Shapiro, Seamster, Sullivan and Charron-Chénier.

The issue seems unlikely to fade. Seamster notes that Warren’s proposal reshaped the public conversation drastically, “to the point that we’re now debating how much debt should be cancelled.”

Observes IERE Director Maria Madison, “IERE’s research team helps explain racism’s impact on generations of Black and white college graduates, much like Heather McGhee’s metaphor of ‘the drained pool’ described in her book ‘The Sum of Us,’” referencing towns that chose to close community pools rather than integrate them in the 1960s. Student debt cancellation offers an opportunity to reframe the conversation around the racial wealth gap from a zero-sum game in which one group’s gain is another’s loss, to one where a rising tide lifts all boats — building equity in the process.

“You can’t talk about student debt without understanding why it’s there, why it impacts some groups more than others,” says Shapiro. “I was really pleased with our work on Warren’s plan.

“Now it all depends on where the politics land.”

*“It’s an interesting policy puzzle,” says Seamster. “The student debt crisis is both created by and magnifying the racial wealth gap, and it can have complex effects.”*

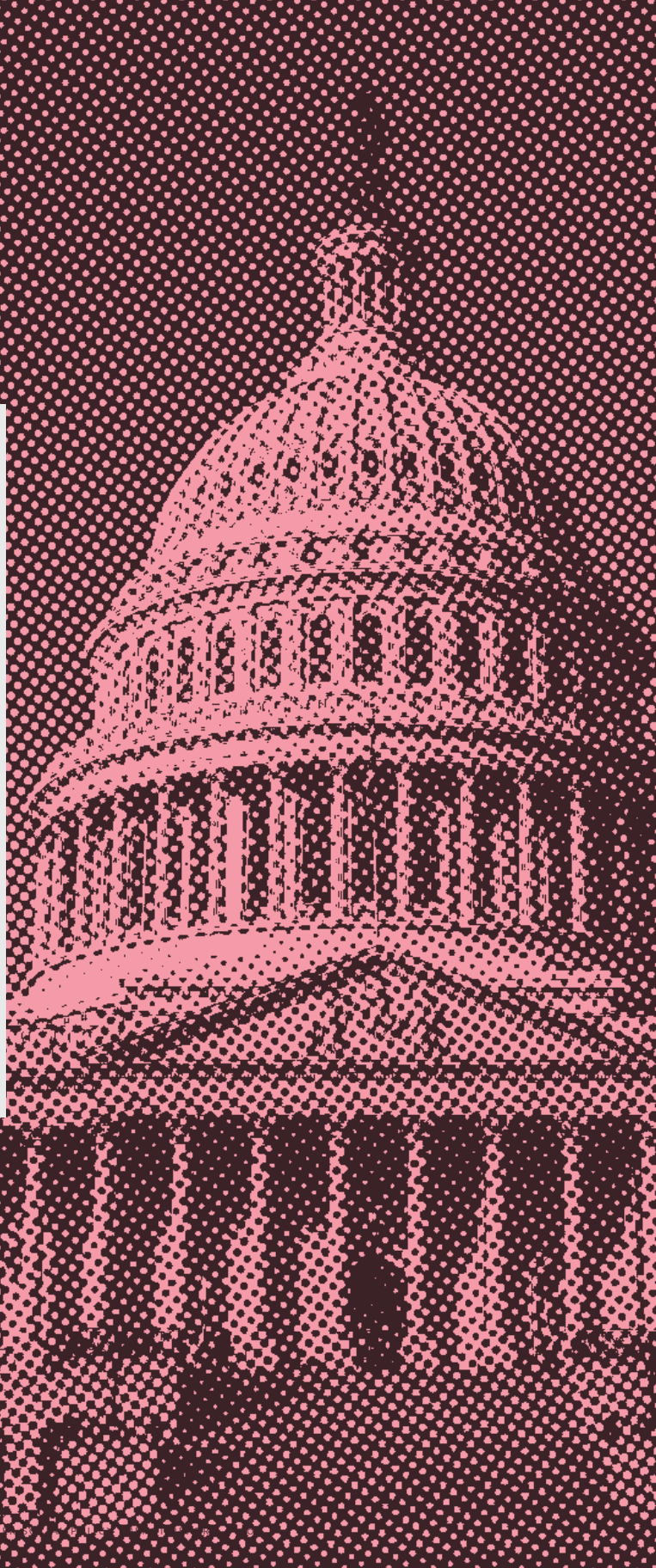


# The conference that continues to shape U.S. health policy

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FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES, STUART  
ALTMAN HAS CHAIRED THE PRINCETON  
CONFERENCE, AN ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST FIGURES IN  
HEALTH POLICY

BY BETHANY ROMANO, MBA'17



**MANY OF THE MOST TRANSFORMATIONAL HEALTH** policy ideas of the last quarter century originated from a small annual gathering with a big reputation and a simple name that belies its importance: “The Princeton Conference.”

Out of the Princeton Conference have emerged key provisions of President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan and major unveilings of new health care payment and delivery models — all with the goal of making U.S. health care more accessible and efficient.

That’s thanks to the leadership of Stuart Altman, Heller’s Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, who has advised five U.S. presidents and long been regarded as one of the country’s top health policy experts. He designed a conference that brings together the nation’s top academics and analysts to sit shoulder to shoulder with industry leaders and state and federal policy staffers from both sides of the aisle.

**“REAL SOLUTIONS TO THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN HEALTH POLICY TODAY”**

Twenty-eight years ago, Princeton Professor Uwe Reinhardt convened a group of leading health economists to provide expert analysis on President Bill Clinton’s health reform plan. Reinhardt’s funder, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), saw potential in regular gatherings of health policy experts and decided to fund the creation of an annual Princeton Conference.

RWJF turned the endeavor over to Altman, and offered its headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, as a meeting site. For the last 26 years, Altman says, “The Princeton Conference has invited the leading health policy analysts in the country, over a three-day period, to discuss the major issues of the day.”

The Princeton Conference differs from a traditional conference because it’s invitation-only and is limited to about 140 people. It’s also not a for-profit event; attendees cover their travel expenses

and lodgings, but there’s no registration fee or hall of sponsor-vendors to wade through on the way to the coffee station. Altman raises more than \$250,000 each year from over 30 organizations to keep it that way.

The invitees — a diverse group of the nation’s top health policy minds — are hand-selected by Altman and his advisory board. “It’s both a core component of senior people who have been coming for many years, and a growing group of younger people who are making a name for themselves,” says Altman.

“It’s a who’s who of health economists and health policymakers,” adds Associate Professor Michael Doonan, PhD’02, conference director. “Some conferences only focus on the research. This brings research and policy together, with people who really do the work.” The virtual 2020 conference included presentations from Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and Wendell Primus, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s top health policy adviser.

Beyond big names and top organizations, the Princeton Conference is “limited to those who are truly dedicated to making a positive impact in the American health care system,” says Sarah Emond, MPP’09, executive VP and COO of the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review.

Emond received an invitation shortly after graduating from the Heller School. “Stuart and Mike make sure the next generation of policy thinkers are there. At first I was just listening, and realizing I was listening to someone I’d read six papers by in graduate school.”

Altman and his advisory board also strive to ensure that the group is meaningfully diverse both demographically and politically, taking great care to ensure strong representation from both sides of the aisle and multiple sectors of the health world.

“I love the bipartisan nature of the conference,” says Emond. “There’s lots of respectful disagree-

***“It’s one of the last places we can have honest conversations about real solutions to the biggest problems in health policy today.”***

SARAH EMOND, MPP’09

ment in the room. I think it’s one of the last places we can have honest conversations about real solutions to the biggest problems in health policy today.”

#### THE “MEET THE PRESS” OF CONFERENCES

“The things that get discussed and the connections that get made at the Princeton Conference can change where the nation goes,” says Karen Feinstein, PhD’83, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. “I know that sounds like an exaggeration, but at some level, I believe in that.”

It was at a Princeton Conference that Dr. Mark McClellan, former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration under President George W. Bush, first introduced the concept of Accountable Care Organizations. The new health care payment and delivery model has since grown rapidly in popularity.

“It’s the ‘Meet the Press’ of conferences,” says Chris Jennings, a former senior adviser to presidents Clinton and Obama. He adds that the conference always features experts who are respected across the political spectrum to discuss issues that are timely and relevant to the moment.

Past debates have included the possibility of a physician shortage in the U.S., and efforts to contain rising health care costs in Massachusetts compared to other states. The group has analyzed Medicare payment models and completely reimaged the Medicaid program for a possible future where managed care is the norm.

One recent conference focused heavily on shortfalls of the Affordable Care Act, including the lack of affordability of private insurance in state marketplaces. That debate formed the basis for some of the provisions in President Biden’s American Rescue Plan, which reduces health care costs and expands access to insurance coverage for low-income people.



"In recent years we've focused more on the social determinants of health and the importance of non-clinical care to improve population health," says Altman. "We've also emphasized the problems of our mental health delivery system, including how we finance it and whether the U.S. has adequate mental health personnel. It's evolved over time."

The intimate format and insistence on audience involvement are hallmarks of the event, which eschews the traditional "sage on the stage" culture of other conferences. President and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Audrey Shelto, MMHS'82, says the incredibly robust discussions "make for tremendous learning in all directions ... Stuart and Mike often have trouble getting everyone back into the room!"

Some poke fun at the "mutually inconvenient" location in Princeton, but for Altman, it was a conscious decision to keep the conference out of Washington, D.C., or another large city. "I wanted to get them away from their desks, and to do this over several days," he says. "It allows for a lot of interchange among the participants. It's more designed to be like a retreat that way."

#### **INSPIRED AND EMPOWERED TO DO BETTER**


Attendees regularly note how much they look forward to the Princeton Conference, with Emond calling it "the highlight of my year." In addition to the unique format, high-value networking opportunities and unparalleled presentations and debates, it is clear that Altman's leadership is key to the continued enthusiasm of the attendees.

"He's the center of energy that ties it all together — his tremendous knowledge, credibility and the affection that the health policy community has for him," says Chip Kahn, president and CEO of the Federation of American Hospitals.

With 28 conferences in the books, Altman and the rest of the conference team and advisory board are planning a return to in-person events in 2022. After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and with midterm elections on the horizon, there will be no shortage of critical health policy topics to address.

For those dedicated to improving the U.S. health care system, the Princeton Conference remains an essential space for fostering positive change. As Jennings puts it, "People walk out the door informed and inspired and empowered to do better, wherever they are. That is the magic potion of the conference."



A grainy, sepia-toned photograph of a woman in profile, looking towards the left. She is carrying a large, patterned sack or bag on her head, which she is holding with her right hand. The background is blurred, suggesting a crowd or an outdoor setting. The overall mood is somber and documentary.

# Safeguarding refugee health in a global pandemic

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DIANA BOWSER AND DONALD SHEPARD  
EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19  
ON VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS LIVING IN  
COLOMBIA

BY KAREN SHIH



#### FOR VENEZUELAN REFUGEES SEEKING TO ESCAPE

the economic meltdown in their home country, the arrival of a global pandemic was yet another major hurdle in their quest for safety and stability. Most countries focus on their own citizens in times of crisis, leaving vulnerable migrant populations behind.

“This pandemic has exposed many of the inequities in our society in general, and especially for the health care system,” says Associate Professor Diana Bowser. “Low-income, immigrant and refugee populations that don’t have access to health care are most vulnerable in a pandemic.”

Luckily for the 1.8 million Venezuelans who have settled in neighboring Colombia, the Colombian government’s more inclusive approach has likely saved lives.

“Under the Colombian constitution, any resident is entitled to health care. There are levels, but at a minimum, every resident — including Venezuelans — can access basic care for emergencies,” says Professor Donald Shepard, though they have less access to health insurance and comprehensive care.

In a new study, Bowser and Shepard, of the Institute for Global Health and Development, collaborated with Arturo Harker Roa, of Colombia’s Universidad de los Andes, and others, to examine the impact of COVID-19 on Venezuelan migrants living in Colombia. From spring to fall of 2020, they focused on the use of health care services as well as adherence to public health guidelines, such as wearing masks and staying at home. The study was funded by the nonprofit organization Elrha, which seeks to solve global humanitarian problems.

The researchers took a three-pronged approach. In one report, they used a national Colombian health database to compare Venezuelans’ and Colombians’ utilization of health services. In another, they examined self-reported COVID-19

symptoms and adherence to masking and social-distancing measures via telephone surveys.

A third delved into people’s movement and its impact on COVID-19 cases by using anonymous cellphone data.

“In any migration crisis, there are a lot of assumptions made by policymakers and the host population about the behaviors of refugees,” says Harker Roa. “But our findings can provide evidence and inform policymakers as they decide on strategies for promoting access to health services for refugees in Colombia.”

A key finding of the health services utilization paper, led by Shepard, was that Colombians had 10 times the rate of reported COVID-19 cases compared to Venezuelans — contrary to the researchers’ expectations.

“Venezuelans tend to be poorer and often work in manual labor or delivery jobs rather than white-collar jobs that allow them to work from home, so we expected their case rates to be higher,” Shepard says. However, official COVID-19 case numbers rely on positive tests, and since testing was largely limited to those with better access to health insurance — Colombians — the data were likely skewed.

“It reminds us that in many parts of the world, the officially reported cases are just the tip of the iceberg,” Shepard says.

For hospitalizations, Venezuelans had almost the same rate as Colombians, indicating that patients with the most serious health needs were able to receive care.

“It’s impressive,” says Shepard. “It’s one thing for a policy to exist on paper, but these numbers show what was happening in reality.”

Bowser led the telephone survey of more than 8,000 Venezuelans and Colombians across 60 municipalities. She found that both groups were highly influenced by community members on

behaviors like wearing masks, social distancing and signing up for COVID-19 testing.

The findings indicate that the public discourse about individual decision making in a pandemic is less important than the actions of a community. “In reality, we do what people around us do. If communities are doing the right thing, people will do the right thing,” Bowser says.

One surprising finding was that Venezuelans were just as compliant with public health measures as Colombians, which was contrary to the researchers’ hypothesis. They had initially thought that lack of information and lack of hand sanitizer or soap and water, as well as more crowded living and working conditions, would keep the Venezuelans from being able to follow the guidelines. But since Venezuelans and Colombians share a common language, Spanish, and the Colombian government actively promoted the guidelines within migrant communities, both populations were able to follow important public health measures.

The third part of the study was led by Jamie Jason ’20, MS’21, then an MS in Global Health Policy and Management student, who examined daily aggregate mobility data from cellphone companies, provided by the United Nations Development Program, to determine correlation with COVID-19 cases and deaths. These data grouped Colombians and Venezuelans together.

Weekend activities turned out to be an important indicator for COVID-19 cases. Cities with specifically less weekend mobility enjoyed six times the reduction in COVID-19 cases compared to cities with just general reductions.

That’s because when people leave the house on weekdays, they’re often going to work or shopping for essentials in more structured environments conducive to masking and social distancing. However, people engage in riskier behaviors on weekends during social activities, with bigger gatherings and lower compliance with public health guidelines.

“Since COVID-19 can spread quickly during crowded indoor gatherings, it’s important for governments to enact stay-at-home measures and isolation policies during weekends to reduce the impact of riskier weekend behavior,” says Jason. He was one of several student researchers on the project, including PhD candidate Priya Agarwal-Harding, Anna Sombrio, MS’20, and several students in Colombia.

Now, the researchers hope local policymakers can use their data and findings to more effectively reach vulnerable populations, especially as the vaccine is being rolled out.

“Experts in political science and economics will be eager to use our data to analyze and understand what’s happening across the country,” says Harker Roa. “We have a track record of evidence-based policymaking in Colombia, so this study has a good chance of being heard by policymakers.”

A new step taken by the Colombian government in February 2021, after the conclusion of the study, makes its health care system even more inclusive. Around 1 million Venezuelans are now eligible to officially register with the government under a new authorization that allows them to sign up for insurance and access higher tiers of health care.

Harker Roa says it’s a step in the right direction, and “a very progressive policy. But the financial risk of the system is really high.”

For Bowser, who has dedicated her career to finding the most vulnerable populations and making sure they have the best services available, there’s room for optimism.

“It’s hard for governments, because opening health care services is an expensive budgetary issue,” she says. “But you’ll see in the case of Colombia, expanding services to some of the vulnerable patients may save them money in the end, with fewer people getting sick and coming in for emergency services. It makes sense long term.”



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#### IN THE NEWS

In April 2021, Bowser, Shepard and Harker Roa joined colleagues in a commentary piece in *Nature Medicine*, "Leave No One Behind: Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Refugee and Displaced Populations," arguing that giving COVID-19 vaccines to refugee and displaced populations and addressing health inequities are vital for an effective pandemic response.



## PUBLICATIONS

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### New book provides hands-on approach to relational analytics

June 2021: Professor Jody Hoffer Gittel and PhD candidate Hebatallah Naim Ali, MS'15, co-authored "Relational Analytics: Guidelines for Analysis and Action." The book acts as a guide, going beyond workplace people analytics to provide a research-based, practice-tested methodology for doing relational analytics, based on the science of relational coordination.

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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**Acevedo-Garcia, D., Noelke, C., McArdle, N., Sofer, N., Hardy, E.F., Weiner, M., Baek, M., Huntington, N., Huber, R., and Reece, J.** (2020). "Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Children's Neighborhoods: Evidence From the New Child Opportunity Index 2.0." *Health Affairs*. 39(10), pp. 1693-1701.

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**Firchow, P., and Urwin, E.** (2021). "Not Just at Home or in the Grave: (Mis)Understanding Women's Rights in Afghanistan." *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*. Published online Dec. 21, 2020.

**Gaumer, G., Jordan, M., Sherfat-Kazemzadeh, R., Hariharan, D., Bosman, V., and Nandakumar, A.K.** (2021). "The Role of Economic Factors and Risky Behavior for Youth and Young Adults in the HIV Epidemic in 29 Low- and Middle-Income Countries." *Journal of Global Health Reports*. 5, p. e2021026.

Goff, S.L., Gurewich, D., Alcusky, M., Kachoria, A.G., **Nicholson, J.**, and Himmelstein, J. (2021). "Barriers and Facilitators to Implementation of Value-Based Care Models in New Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations in

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Higgins, S.T., Slade, E.P., and **Shepard, D.S.** (2020). "Decreasing Smoking During Pregnancy: Potential Economic Benefit of Reducing Sudden Unexpected Infant Death." *Preventive Medicine*. 140, article no. 106238.

**Hodgkin, D., Adams, R.S., Ritter, G.A.**, Lee, S., Highland, K.B., and **Larson, M.J.** (2021). "Do Nonpharmacological Services Offset Opioids in Pain Treatment for Soldiers?" *Health Services Research*. Published online May 17, 2021.

Horner-Johnson, W., **Akobirshoev, I.**, Amutah-Onukagha, N.N., Slaughter-Acey, J.C., and **Mitra, M.** (2020). "Preconception Health Risks Among U.S. Women: Disparities at the Intersection of Disability and Race or Ethnicity." *Women's Health Issues: Official Publication of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health*. 31(1), pp. 65-74.

Johnson, J.K., Johnson, R.M., **Hodgkin, D.**, Jones, A.A., **Kritikos, A.**, Doonan, S.M., and Harris, S.K. (2021). "Medical Marijuana Laws (MMLs) and Dispensary Provisions Not Associated With Higher Odds of Adolescent Marijuana or Heavy Marijuana Use: A 46 State Analysis, 1991-2015." *Substance Abuse*. Published online March 22, 2021.

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**Nicholson, J.**, English, K., and **Heyman, M.** (2021). "The ParentingWell Learning Collaborative Feasibility Study: Training Adult Mental Health Service Practitioners in a Family-Focused Practice Approach." *Community Mental Health Journal*. Published online April 4, 2021.

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**Perloff, J., Thomas, C.P.**, Macklin, E., Gagnon, P., Tsai, T., Isaza, I., Wayne, P.M., and Lipsitz, L. (2021). "The Impact of Tai Chi Exercise on Healthcare Utilization and Imputed Cost in Residents of Low-Income Senior Housing." *Global Advances in Health and Medicine*. Published online Jan. 22, 2021.

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**Sampath, R.** (2021). "A Commentary on Ambedkar's Posthumously Published 'Philosophy of Hinduism'—Part II." *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*. 2(1), pp. 1-16.

**Sampath, R.** (2021). "The Question as to Why We Have to Live Out the Agony of Our Own Epoch and Its Fundamental Un-Answerability." *Symposium: Theoretical and Applied Inquiries in Philosophy and the Social Sciences*. 8(1), pp. 117-138.

Saravanou, A., **Noelke, C., Huntington, N., Acevedo-Garcia, D.,** and Gunopulos, D. (2021). "Predictive Modeling of Infant Mortality." *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*. 35, pp. 1785-1807.

**Shepard, D.S., Zeng, W.,** Mutasa, R., Das, A.K., Sisimayi, C.N., Shamu, S., Banda, S., and Friedman, J. (2020). "Cost-Effectiveness of Results-Based Financing of Maternal-Child Health Services in Zimbabwe: A Controlled Pre-Post Study." *Journal of Hospital Management and Health Policy*. 4, p. 32.

**Soroui, S.T.** (2021). "Understanding the Drivers and Implications of Remote Work From the Local Perspective: An Exploratory Study Into the Dis/Reembedding Dynamics." *Technology in Society*. 64, 101328.

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**Stewart, M.T.,** Coulibaly, N., Schwartz, D., Dey, J., and **Thomas, C.P.** (2021). "Emergency Department-Based Efforts to Offer Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: What Can We Learn From Current Approaches?" *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. 129, 108479. Published online May 14, 2021.

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**Wright, G.,** Volodarsky, S., Hecht, S., and **Saxe, L.** (2021). "Lonely in Lockdown: Predictors of Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties Among Jewish Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Contemporary Jewry*. Published online June 8, 2021.

Zard, M., Lau, L.S., **Bowser, D.M.,** Fouad, F.M., Lucumi, D.I., Samari, G., Harker, A., **Shepard, D.S., Zeng, W.,** Moresky, R.T., Audi, M.N., Greene, C.M., and Kachur, S.P. (2021). "Leave No One Behind: Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Refugee and Displaced Populations." *Nature Medicine*. 27(5), pp. 747-749.

## PUBLIC DATA TOOLS

**Clemens Noelke, Nomi Sofer '91 and Nick Huntington** developed Mapping Child Opportunity, an interactive, web-based map platform that allows users to visualize Child Opportunity Index data for 72,000 census tracts (diversitydatakids.org/maps). Users can:

- Explore data for a census tract, metropolitan area, state or the entire nation.
- See where children of different races and ethnicities live in relation to opportunity.
- See data for all 29 indicators of the Child Opportunity Index for individual census tracts.
- Dig into three sub-indices of the Child Opportunity Index: Health and Environment, Education, and Social and Economic factors.
- Track change across two time periods.

## POLICY BRIEFS

The following policy briefs were created by two Heller research teams and presented to the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator between December 2020 and February 2021. Authors:

**Gaumer, G. (Principal Investigator), Nandakumar, A.K., Sherafat-Kazemzadeh, R., Akobirshoev, I., Mitra, M., Zandam, H., Hariharan, D., Daniels, E., Halasa-Rappel, Y., Jordan, M., Newaz, F., Khatri, D., and Malpass, A.**

- High and Low Performing Countries in the PEPFAR Program.
- Wealth Inequality and Adult HIV Prevalence.
- Child Mortality in South Africa: Disparities at the Intersection of Maternal Disability and HIV.
- Young Adults (Ages 15-24) in the HIV Epidemic in 29 Low- and Middle-Income Countries.
- Risky Sexual Partnering and the Young Adult HIV Gender Gap.
- Agency Among Married Women: Moving From Knowledge to Practicing Safer Sexual Behavior.
- The Tale of Two Epidemics: HIV/AIDS in Ghana and Namibia.
- Household Factors Associated With Managing the HIV Positive Population and Meeting the UNAIDS Goals.

- How Poverty and Lack of Agency Affect HIV Risk Behaviors Among Married Women in 25 African Countries.

## WHITE PAPERS

**Mechanic, R., Perloff, J., Perlman, A., and Pal, S.** (2021). "ACOs' Use of Telehealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Washington, D.C.: Institute for Accountable Care.

## BOOKS

Basaza, R., Namyalo, P.K., Mayora, C., and **Shepard, D.S.** (Eds.). (2020). "The Journey to Universal Health Insurance Coverage: What Are the Lessons for Uganda and the Other LMIC?" New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

**Lempereur, A.,** Salzer, J., Colson, A., Pekar, M., and **Kogan, E.B.** (2021). "Mediation: Negotiation by Other Moves." Chichester, U.K.: John Wiley and Sons.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Imm, P., **Brolin, M.,** Yost, J., and Stone, O. (2020). "Empowerment Evaluation." In Kilmer, R.P., and Cook, J.R. (Eds.), "The Practice of Evaluation: Partnership Approaches for Community Change." Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

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**Simon, L.** (2021). "Searching for a Theology of Liberation in India." In Rathore, A.S. (Ed.), "B.R. Ambedkar, The Quest for Justice, Vol. 5: Religious and Cultural Justice." Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.



# GRANTS

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**Associate Professor Pamina Firchow receives grant for “Everyday Peace Indicators and Resilience Indicators in Tunisia: Grounded Accountability Model”**

Firchow's Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) project partnered with the United Nations Development Program in Tunisia on an initiative funded by the U.N. Peacebuilding Fund on youth resilience. Led by Firchow, EPI provided training and engagement in participatory methods for civil society organizations in southern Tunisia. Student Amir Ben Ameer, MA COEX'21, assisted the project with administrative and translation support.

**Dolores Acevedo-Garcia (PI)** “Including Children of Immigrants in the Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Efforts and Safety Net”; Funders: W.T. Grant Foundation and Spencer Foundation

**Rachel S. Adams (PI)** “Healthcare Utilization and Readiness Outcomes Among Soldiers With Post-Deployment At-Risk Drinking by Comorbidity”; Funder: Uniformed Services University; subcontract to Brandeis from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

**Joe Caldwell (PI)** “Impact of COVID-19 on Medicaid Beneficiaries Receiving Home- and Community-Based Services”; Funder: The Commonwealth Fund

**Jody Hoffer Gittel (PI)** “Relational Coordination and Health Care Workforce Diversity Management”; Funder: Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation

**Dominic Hodgkin (PI)** “Technical Assistance Support Services for Mobile Addiction Services Programs”; Funder: Massachusetts Department of Public Health; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts General Hospital

**Institute for Behavioral Health** researchers were awarded five projects to evaluate Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, partnering with three organizations in Massachusetts; one in Findlay, Ohio; and one in Detroit.

▪ **Mary Brolin (PI)** “Evaluation of CCBC’s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion

Project”; Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); subcontract to Brandeis from Community Counseling of Bristol County (Mass.)

▪ **Robert Dunigan (PI)** “Evaluation of Detroit Recovery Project’s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Project”; Funder: SAMHSA; subcontract to Brandeis from Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.

▪ **Robert Dunigan (PI)** “Evaluation of High Point’s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Project”; Funder: SAMHSA; subcontract to Brandeis from High Point Treatment Center (Mass.)

▪ **Meelee Kim (PI)** “Hancock County (Ohio) Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic”; Funder: SAMHSA; subcontract to Brandeis from Family Resource Center

▪ **Gail Strickler (PI)** “Evaluation of the Advocates Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic”; Funder: SAMHSA; subcontract to Brandeis from the Advocates organization

**Andrew Kolodny (PI)** “Involving Families in Treatment of Inmates With Opioid Use Disorder”; Funder: Department of Justice; subcontract to Brandeis from Middlesex County (Mass.) Sheriff’s Office

**Maria Madison (PI)** “Hope Institute for System-Involvement Boston Public High School Youth”; Funder: City of Boston

**Tatjana Meschede (PI)** “External Evaluation of the Oak Foundation Initiative at the Women’s Lunch Place”; Funder: Oak Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Women’s Lunch Place (Boston, Mass.)

**Joanne Nicholson (PI)** “Adapting WorkingWell™ for Autistic Individuals in the Workplace”; Funder: Administration for Community Living/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; subcontract to Brandeis from Shepherd Center, Inc. This support was granted through the

LiveWell Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center’s App Factory competition, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Joanne Nicholson (PI)** “Virtual Community Engagement With Mothers With Mental Illness and Opioid Use”; Funder: PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute)

**Jennifer Perloff (PI)** “Emerging Regulatory Issues in Home-Based Care Provided or Led by Nurse Practitioners”; Funder: National Council of State Boards of Nursing

**Jessica Santos (PI)** “MassUP Winchendon Economic Empowerment Evaluation”; Funder: Massachusetts Health Policy Commission; subcontract to Brandeis from Heywood Hospital (Gardner, Mass.)

**Jessica Santos (PI)** “Youth Participatory Action Research”; Funder: Waltham Partnership for Youth (Waltham, Mass.)

**Palmira Santos (PI)** “Diabetes Self-Management Education in Rural Areas”; Funder: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; subcontract to Brandeis from MITRE Corp.

**Thomas Shapiro (PI)** “Modeling Discriminatory Debt and Wealth Extraction: A Study of Racialized Recruitment and Disparate Impacts of For-Profit Institutions of Higher Education”; Funder: Spencer Foundation

**Thomas Shapiro (PI)** “Project on Predatory Student Lending”; Funder: The Joyce Foundation

**Donald Shepard (PI)** “Health and Economic Value of Abbott’s Rapid-Four Panel Test in Antenatal Care”; Funder: Abbott Rapid Diagnostics International, Ltd.

**Maureen Stewart (PI)** “Examining Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Medicaid Managed Care Plans: Policies and Outcomes”; Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse

## PRESENTATIONS

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### **Cynthia Tschampl, PhD '15, gives inaugural Thomas Q. Garvey Public Health Lecture**

March 2021: In her keynote presentation, Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research (SIHPR) Scientist Tschampl discussed how tuberculosis epidemiology, policy, economics and equity play a role in strengthening pandemic response. The event was co-hosted by the Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Global Tuberculosis Institute at Rutgers.

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

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Gershenfeld, A., **Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.**, and Gershenfeld, N. "Designing Reality: Shaping the Digital Fabrication Revolution." Keynote presented at "Re-Imagining the Futures of 3D Printing in Society," sponsored by Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Heidelberg University, March 2021.

### **HIGH-IMPACT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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**Akobirshoev, I., and Mitra, M.** "The Compounding Effect of Race/Ethnicity and Disability on Children's Health Status in the United States." Poster presentation at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, June 2021.

**Akobirshoev, I., Mitra, M.,** and Cass, A. "Severe Maternal Morbidity Among U.S. Women: Disparities at the Intersection of IDD and Race/Ethnicity." Poster presentation at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, June 2021.

**Assan, J.K.** Respondent/Discussant, research conference on "Work and Economic Futures: Africa and Beyond." Sponsored by the African Centre for Career Enhancement and Skills Support (ACCESS), University of Leipzig, Germany; funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, April 2021.

**Chilingerian, J.** “Physician Compensation Models: Perspectives From the New Science of Medicine and Management.” Presented at the American College of Surgeons 2020 Clinical Congress, October 2020.

**Crown, W.H.** Plenary Session Speaker, “Rise of the Machines: Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning in Pharmacoepidemiology.” Presented at International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology Mid-Year Meeting, April 2021.

**Dassin, J.** Panelist, “Championing Equity, Inclusion and Collaboration in International Higher Education: Global Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Presented at the 65th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, April 2021.

**Dixon, P.** Panelist, “Measuring Peace.” Presented at the Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association Global Peace Conference, June 2021.

**Eaton, S.** “The Legacy of METCO.” Presented at “Raise Your Voice for Racial Equity,” METCO Annual Celebration, December 2020.

**Ho, S., and Gardiner, F.** Facilitators, “Power, Privilege and Positionality.” Presented at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions orientation, June 2021.

**Horgan, C.M., and Reif, S.** “Using Health Services Research to Improve the Delivery of Alcohol Services.” Presented as part of the Research Society on Alcoholism lecture series, June 2021.

**Hughes, D.M., Warfield, M.E., and Schneider, A.** “Trauma Among Foster Youth Is a Given: Youth Workers Can Make a Difference in Outcomes.” Presented at Texas Workforce Commission’s Youth in Foster Care Conference, March 2021.

**Huntington, N., Larson, M.J., De Jesús, D., Tschampl, C.A., Xu, Y., Canuto, M., D’Ippolito, M., Guzman, M., Stewart, E., and Lundgren, L.**

“Outcomes for Clients Experiencing Homelessness and Trauma in a Hispanic Massachusetts Addiction Treatment Agency Providing Integrated Primary and Mental Health Care.” Presented at AHSR (Addiction Health Services Research) Conference, October 2020.

**Joshi, P., and Acevedo-Garcia, D.** “Integrating Racial/Ethnic Equity Into Policy Research: Policy Assessments to Improve Child Health.” Presented at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network monthly research meeting, October 2020.

**Kolodny, A.** “How Social Determinants of Health Impact the Opioid Crisis.” Presented for the IPRO Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization series, “Delivering Whole Person Care: Improving Outcomes in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment,” May 2021.

**Larson, M.J., Huntington, N., De Jesús, D., Tschampl, C.A., Xu, Y., Canuto, M., D’Ippolito, M., Guzman, M., Stewart, E., and Lundgren, L.** “Integration of Primary Care and Mental Health Into a Hispanic Massachusetts Addiction Treatment Agency: Needs and Outcomes.” Presented at the AMERSA (the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction) 44th Annual Conference, November 2020.

**Lempereur, A.** “Post-Settlement Mediation in Burundi After the Civil War: How to Compose Relations With Leaders.” Sponsored by Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs, March 2021.

**Mechanic, R.** Panel Moderator, “Evolving Models for Virtual and Home Health Care.” Presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, June 2021.

**Meschede, T.** “Persistent Racial Wealth Disparities: Drivers, Consequences and Policy.” Presentation as part of “Confronting the Racial



Wealth Gap” series, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire’s College of Liberal Arts/Responsible Governance and Sustainable Citizenship Project; Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics; and Carsey School of Public Policy, December 2020.

**Mitra, M.** “Health Equity: Inclusion of Diverse Populations.” Presented at “Building the Research Pipeline: Home and Community-Based Services and the Dual Eligible Population,” sponsored by the Administration for Community Living, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Arnold Ventures Foundation, January 2021.

**Rosenfeld, L.,** and Litt, J. “Using a Systems Perspective to Transform Pediatric Clinical Practice: Teaching and Clinical Improvement Opportunities.” Presented at the National Collaborative for Education to Address Social Determinants of Health Annual Conference, Northwestern University, February 2021.

**Shepard, D.S.,** Hitimana, R., Kulchyskyj, M., **Zeng, W.,** and Musange, S.F. “Expanded Primary Care in Bugesera District, Rwanda: Opportunities for Increasing Preventive Services.” Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, November 2020.

**Soroui, S.,** and **Nevins, D.S.** “Placeless Workforce Development? Exploring the Implications of Virtual Workforce Development Services for Local Workforce Policy.” Presented at LERA (Labor and Employment Relations) 73rd Annual Meeting, “A Transformational Moment? Work, Worker Power and the Workplace in an Era of Division and Disruption,” June 2021.

**Tschampl, C.A.** Co-Chair, Stop TB Session, “COVID and TB.” Presented at the 2021 North America Region Annual Meeting of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, February 2021.

**Weil, D.** “Making the Gig Economy Work for Gig Economy Workers.” Sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, July 2020.

**Weil, D.** Panelist, “Uber and Lyft and Worker Misclassification.” Presented at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, July 2020.

**Weil, D.** “Stopping Wage Theft: Role of Enforcement.” Presented at Equitable Growth/Rutgers University Virtual Conference, September 2020.

**Weil, D.** “Drivers of Workplace Inequality.” Presented at Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Research Virtual Conference, February 2021.

**Weil, D.** “Protecting Agricultural Workers.” Presented at Economic Policy Institute Virtual Panel, February 2021.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Adams, R.S.** “At-Risk Substance Use Following Traumatic Brain Injury: Exploring the Intersection With Intimate Partner Violence.” Presented at PINK Concussions Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury Task Force Call, March 2021.

**Chun, D.** “Poverty and Inequality: Local Realities, Systems and Narratives.” Sponsored by HEAL Winchendon, February 2021.

**Dixon, P.** “Bottom-Up Measurement and Peace: Evaluating the Work of Colombia’s Truth Commission.” Presented to Colombia’s Truth Commission, July 2020.

**Ho, S.** “ADA at 30: Building an Inclusive Progressive Movement.” Presented at the Center for American Progress, July 2020.

**Madison, M.** Panelist/Moderator, “Women’s Health and Health Care: COVID-19 Impact, Challenges and Policies.” Sponsored by UMass Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, December 2020.

**Meschede, T.** “Supporting Student Financial Needs During and After the Crisis.” Presented at the 2020 Virtual Prosperity Summit, hosted by Prosperity Now, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, October 2020.

**Sampath, R.** “Race and Caste: Similarities and Differences.” Presented at “Decoding Racial Discrimination Based on Work and Descent,” sponsored by Amnesty International, September 2020.

**Santos, J.** Panelist, “Building an Equitable Economy.” Sponsored by Harvard Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging and ClassACT HR 85, January 2021.

**Santos, J., Jee, E., and Stewart, S.** “The Racialized Impacts of COVID-19 on Essential Workers’ Career Pathways.” Presented at “Uneven Outcomes in the Labor Market: Understanding Trends and Identifying Solutions,” conference sponsored by Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland and Philadelphia, February 2021.

#### TRAININGS AND WEBINARS

**Boguslaw, J.** “Can Employee Share Ownership Improve Racial and Gender Wealth Equity?” Presented at webinar sponsored by the Aspen Institute, October 2020.

**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.** Provided interest-based bargaining training to over 400 leaders from Kaiser Permanente and the Alliance of Health Care Unions in advance of their 2021 collective-bargaining negotiations, April 2021.

**Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J., et al.** “Making the Leap to Large.” Virtual seven-workshop series funded by the National Science Foundation, hosted by the Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science, April and May 2021. Over 350 researchers attended each session, which included guidance on stakeholders, data leadership, project leadership, workforce development,

and other aspects of research and engineering on a large scale.

**Dixon, P.** Provided virtual training on Everyday Peace Indicators to the Search for Common Ground organization, November 2020.

**Lempereur, A.** “Responsible Negotiation: Preparation, Conduct and Debrief.” Online negotiation training sponsored by the Forward Thinking organization, in cooperation with the House of Wisdom Institute, for a group of over 20 individuals in Gaza, presented August-October 2020.

**Loya, R., and Smith-Gibbs, M.** “Expanding the Promise of Brighter Futures for Children.” Webinar sponsored by Asset Funders Network, April 2021.

**Reif, S.** “Substance Use and Addiction Matter for I/DD and Brain Injury: A Workshop About Substance Use, Disorders and Treatment.” Webinar sponsored by Metrocare, Dallas, April 2021.

# AWARDS AND HONORS

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## **Maria Madison named one of 50 most influential people of color in higher education**

March 30, 2021: Madison, who is Heller's associate dean for equity, inclusion and diversity and director of the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity, was recognized alongside fellow Massachusetts educators and administrators in a public event co-hosted by WGBH and the cross-cultural professional organization Get Connected!

## **APPOINTMENTS TO PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARDS, REVIEW COMMITTEES**

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**Joan Dassin '69** was named chair of the External Advisory Committee of the MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine program at the Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, U.K.

American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) President David Oxtoby appointed **Susan Eaton** to serve on an AAAS task force that will make recommendations on a new philanthropic entity, the National Trust for Civic Infrastructure.

**Robert Mechanic** was appointed to the editorial board of *The American Journal of Accountable Care*.

**Monika Mitra** was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Disability and Health Journal*. She and **Sharon Reif, PhD '02**, served as guest editors of a special supplemental issue of the journal focused on disability and substance use/misuse. This will be the first collection of papers that address these topics together to emphasize the need to focus on substance use issues among people with disabilities in accessible, appropriate and evidence-based ways. The NIDILRR-funded INROADS project, a collaboration between the **Institute for Behavioral Health** and the **Lurie Institute for Disability Policy**, is sponsoring this special issue.

**A.K. Nandakumar** co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Global Health* dedicated to universal health coverage.

**Joanne Nicholson** is co-editor and co-founder of the *Journal of Parent and Family Mental Health*. This journal was established to publish brief research reports related to policy and practice. The 12 papers published so far have been downloaded over 13,000 times, reflecting 663 institutions and 114 countries.

**Rajesh Sampath** joined the editorial advisory boards of the Springer Series in International Social Work and the series in Social Work and Social Change.

**Donald Shepard** was appointed associate editor of *PLOS NTD* (Public Library of Science, Neglected Tropical Diseases).

**Cynthia Tschampl, PhD'15**, joined *Frontiers in Psychiatry* as a review editor in addictive disorders, a specialty section of the journal.

**David Weil** served on the following:

- Expert Review Panel, Racial Equity 2030, W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- Advisory Board, Quality of Work Research Consortium, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.
- Labor Advisory Board, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS FOR PUBLICATIONS**

A paper by Pamela Paxton, Kristopher Velasco and **Robert W. Ressler**, "Does Use of Emotion Increase Donations and Volunteers for Nonprofits?" published in *American Sociological Review*, won the Academy of Management Best Journal Article award from the Public and Nonprofit Division.

#### **CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

**Finn Gardiner, MPP'18**, and **Sandy Ho, MPP'22**, were among the 2020 inductees to the Susan M. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame, which honors those who are making a significant difference in the lives of youth and adults with disabilities through mentoring and seeks to raise awareness about the importance of mentoring for individuals with disabilities.

**Maria Madison** was named a Distinguished Alumni honoree by the St. Joseph (Mich.) Public Schools Foundation.

**Robert W. Ressler** was recognized with the Emerging Scholar Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS**

**Joanne Nicholson** was named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

**David Weil** served as a 2020 LERA (Labor and Employment Relations Association) Fellow for Contributions to Research in Labor and Employment Relations, May 2020-May 2021.

#### **CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEES**

**Robert Mechanic** served as co-chair of the Payment and Delivery Reform Track for the 2020 and 2021 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meetings.

**Cynthia Tschampl, PhD'15**, served on the planning committee for the 2021 North America Region Annual Meeting of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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## **Scientist Peter Dixon in *The Washington Post* on reparations for Black Americans**

Aug. 24, 2020: In “U.S. Cities and States Are Discussing Reparations for Black Americans. Here’s What’s Key,” Dixon explains that unlike other social policies, reparations are for those whose rights have been violated. Dreisen Heath of Human Rights Watch referenced the op-ed in her written testimony submitted on Feb. 17, 2021, to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

## **OP-EDS**

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**Susan P. Curnan** published an op-ed in the *MetroWest Daily News* on Feb. 14, 2021, “Time for an American Youth Congress?”

**Susan Eaton** authored an op-ed in *Inside Philanthropy* on Aug. 26, 2020, “What Is Philanthropy Doing to Take on Housing Segregation? What Should It Do?”

**Anita Hill** authored an op-ed in *The Boston Globe* on Sept. 19, 2020, “Ginsburg Shaped Our Country’s Vision of Equality.”

**Robyn Powell, PhD’20**, published an op-ed in *DAME* magazine on July 24, 2020, titled “The ADA Turns 30: Disability Rights Are Still at Risk.”

## **HIGH-PROFILE MEDIA COVERAGE**

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**Dolores Acevedo-Garcia** appeared on a Sept. 15, 2020, panel discussion on PBS’ “Frontline,” “Growing Up Poor: The American Dream Deferred.”

**Janet Boguslaw** served as a project adviser to “The Kitchenistas,” a documentary that appeared on KPBS-TV (San Diego, Calif.) in March 2021.

**Jon Chilingirian** appeared on a segment of the March 2, 2021, edition of “Dayton (Ohio) 24/7,” “How the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Is Helping Miami Valley Pharmacies.”

**Karen Donelan** was quoted in a Nov. 16, 2020, article in *The Washington Post*, “Some Places Were Short on Nurses Before the Virus. The Pandemic Is Making It Much Worse.”

**Anita Hill** appeared on a segment of the Oct. 14, 2020, episode of “The Daily Show” titled “Anita Hill — Why She Chose to Endorse Joe Biden.”

**Andrew Kolodny** was interviewed by CNN’s Dr. Sanjay Gupta on the March 17, 2021, edition of the “Coronavirus: Fact vs. Fiction” podcast titled “The Perfect Storm.”

The HBO documentary “The Crime of the Century,” which premiered in May 2021, features **Andrew Kolodny**, and delves into how pharmaceutical companies and government regulations enabled overproduction and distribution of synthetic opiates.

**Andrew Kolodny** was quoted in a June 3, 2021, WGBH News segment, “Healey Says Sackler Family Trying To ‘Hijack and Abuse Bankruptcy Process’ To Shield Themselves.”

**Robert Kuttner** interviewed Sen. Elizabeth Warren for an Oct. 23, 2020, piece, “An Interview With Elizabeth Warren,” in *The American Prospect*.

**Robert Kuttner** was interviewed on KCUR Radio (Kansas City, Mo.) for a Jan. 25, 2021, edition of “Up to Date” titled “How the Concentration of Wealth Makes the Corporate Elite Untouchable.”

“Dividends of a Just Economy,” **Robert Kuttner’s** book review of “Anti-System Politics: The Crisis of Market Liberalism in Rich Democracies” by Jonathan Hopkin (Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press), appeared in the April 29, 2021, issue of *The New York Review of Books*.

**Tatjana Meschede’s** research was cited in a Feb. 22, 2021, article in *The Wall Street Journal*, “U.S. Retirement Crisis Hits Black Americans Hard.”

**Monika Mitra** appeared on a Feb. 18, 2021, Boston 25 News segment, “25 Investigates: Autistic Group Home Resident Sexually Assaulted by Her Caretaker.”

**Rajesh Sampath** was quoted in a Sept. 21, 2020, article in *The Boston Globe*, “What Is Critical Race Theory, President Trump’s Latest Political Target?”

**Thomas Shapiro** was quoted in *The Boston Globe’s* Feb. 24, 2021, article titled “Making Student Debt Relief Stick.”

**Laurence Simon** was quoted in a Sept. 28, 2020, piece on CNN.com, “Even in the U.S., South Asians Say Caste Has Proved Hard to Escape.”

**David Weil** was quoted in the following:

- An Aug. 17, 2020, article in *The Los Angeles Times*, “Wage Theft Plagues L.A. Garment Workers. Why Aren’t Fashion Retailers Held Responsible?”
- An Oct. 19, 2020, article in *The New Yorker*, “Trump’s Labor Secretary Is a Wrecking Ball Aimed at Workers.”
- A Jan. 6, 2021, article in *Slate*, “What Grocery Drivers and Fired ER Doctors Have in Common.”
- A Jan. 6, 2021, article in *The Washington Post*, “Albertson’s Is Laying off Employees and Replacing Them With Gig Workers, as App Platforms Rise.”
- An April 23, 2021, *VICE* News segment, “Inside McDonald’s Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Problem.”

#### HOSTING A LARGE EVENT/CONFERENCE WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

In September 2020, **Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld** hosted a virtual panel for Australia’s Fair Work Commission titled “The U.S. Experience of Cooperative and Productive Workplaces: Kaiser Permanente and the Alliance of Health Care Unions.” The panel featured representatives of the unions, management and physicians in the Kaiser Permanente system.

The **Center for Global Development and Sustainability** organized a spring 2021 webinar series on global policy and justice. The series included:

- “Next Steps in Climate Compatible Development” with Professor Simon Maxwell of the European Union.
- “Black Lives and Anti-Racist Development” with Professor Alfred Zack-Williams of the *Review of African Political Economy*, U.K.
- “Livelihood Sustainability and Wellbeing in an Era of COVID-19 in Developing Countries,” with **Joseph Assan**, director, MA Program in Sustainable International Development, the Heller School.
- “Fulfilling the Promise of 40 Acres: African American Reparations in the Twenty-First Century,” with Professor William A. Darity Jr., of Duke University, and folklorist Kirsten Mullen.

On July 27, 2020, the **Lurie Institute for Disability Policy’s National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities** (NRCPD) hosted a webinar titled “Passing State Legislation to Protect the Rights of Parents With Disabilities.” Presenters included **Robyn Powell, PhD’20**, of the Lurie Institute and NRCPD.

On Oct. 8, 2020, the **Lurie Institute** and the **Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy** hosted “Disability Rights Are Civil Rights: A Conversation on Inclusive Democracy,” a panel discussion featuring Rebecca Cokley of the Center for American Progress; Claribel Vidal of the Ford Foundation; and **Sandy Ho, MPP’22**, of the Lurie Institute.

On Feb. 22, 2021, the **Lurie Institute** and the **Community Living Policy Center (CLPC)** held a webinar discussion between disability community members, self-advocates and policy researchers titled “Unfair and Unequal: COVID-19 and People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.” During the discussion, which drew over 800 attendees, leaders and experts from the disability community considered lessons learned, future federal policies, and ways to promote equitable home- and community-based services during the

pandemic. CLPC director **Joe Caldwell** served as moderator.

The **Massachusetts Health Policy Forum** held the following virtual forums during the 2020-21 school year:

- “Impact of the 2020 Presidential Election on Health Policy,” Nov. 16, 2020.
- “Telehealth in a Post Pandemic World,” Dec. 3, 2020.
- “Vaccine Hesitancy in the Commonwealth: Tailoring the Message to Move the Needle,” June 3, 2021.

On Dec. 1, 2020, the **Eli J. & Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program** co-sponsored a panel with MassINC titled “Digitally-Divided to Digitally-United: Early Lessons From the Pandemic Response.” The event drew over 100 attendees and was moderated by **Maria Madison**, associate dean for equity, inclusion and diversity and director of the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity. Madison also served as a panelist, and presenters included Segal Fellow **Zayna Basma, MPP/MBA’20**.

#### **POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Research by **Dolores Acevedo-Garcia** and **Pamela Joshi, PhD’01**, on the exclusion of children in immigrant families from the social safety net, shaped the poverty-reduction initiatives in the American Rescue Plan. The economic relief package increases the amount of child tax credit per child and expands the credit to include very low-income families, which could cut child poverty by 50%.

CLPC’s **Joe Caldwell**, **Sandy Ho, MPP’22**, and partners provided policymakers with research and technical assistance to pass vital legislation. This includes the American Rescue Plan, which provides the highest increase in home- and community-based-services (HCBS) funding in U.S. history.

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, chair of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, says, “I’m thankful for the tireless work of advocates and policy experts — like the Brandeis University Community Living Policy Center — that helped inform my bill, the COVID HCBS Relief Act, S. 151, which was included in the American Rescue Plan.”

**Traci Green’s** work on fentanyl test strips and follow-up advising to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration informed the April 2021 reversal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services policy forbidding the use of federal funds for the purchase of these harm-reduction tools. Based on Green’s research and that of others, it is now permissible to use federal funds for the purchase of these lifesaving tools.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, modeling work conducted by **Traci Green’s** team informed state actions to release individuals from incarceration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities, to safely and humanely reduce transmission of COVID-19 and reduce detention and incarceration.

**Cynthia Tschampl, PhD’15**, organized and participated in 13 meetings with congressional offices to educate on global health issues, particularly around tuberculosis.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Mary Brolin, PhD’05**, presented evaluation findings from Worcester’s Healthy Environments and Resilience in Schools (Worcester HEARS) initiative. The project tested the effect of integrating trauma-sensitive education practices and individual student supports at four elementary schools and one middle school in the Worcester Public Schools. The project also introduced social-emotional learning curricula MindUp, Open Circles and Second Step, which the district continues to use. The district will

continue trauma-sensitivity training for educators through a partnership with UMass Medical School and is also offering individualized services to students and teachers through mobile stabilization teams. The project was covered in a May 25, 2021, article in the Worcester (Mass.) *Telegram & Gazette*, “Schools to Expand Program’s Practices: HEARS Initiative Put Focus on Student Trauma.”

**Joanne Nicholson** co-founded Let’s Talk Worldwide, an international group of researchers and practitioners committed to rigorous implementation and testing of model programs for families living with parental mental illness.

**Joanne Nicholson** created the Maternal Mental Health Research Collaborative (MMHRC), a virtual community for mothers with mental illness and/or substance use disorder. In the past year, Nicholson and her community co-leader hosted four co-design workshop sessions with community experts, as well as two community engagement studios. They also published a website that includes community engagement resources, as well as video clips from participating mothers and crowdsourced Q&As with researchers. The MMHRC Facebook group has over 35,000 followers actively engaged in building their community of mothers of color, as well as mothers living with diverse disabilities.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

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## **Pierce Holmes, MPP'22, receives fellowship at the RAND Center to Advance Racial Equity Policy**

The fellowship, awarded in May 2021 through a partnership with the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity, allows Holmes to engage closely with research on possible national reparations policy for Black Americans. He says, "Getting my hands on this project while also developing smaller pieces of my own has been extremely fulfilling, because I have been able to focus all of my efforts and research on my primary interest: racial justice."

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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**Abodunrin, E.A.** (2021). "Prioritizing Health and Productivity to Support Urban and Informal Women Entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Cities and Health*. Published online April 28, 2021.

**Bohler, R., Hodgkin, D., Kreiner, P.W., and Green, T.C.** (2021). "Predictors of U.S. States' Adoption of Naloxone Access Laws, 2001-2017." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 225, 108772. Published online May 21, 2021.

**Bolton, R., Logan, C., and Gittel, J.H.** (2021). "Revisiting Relational Coordination: A Systematic Review." *The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*. 57(3), pp. 290-322. Published online Feb. 15, 2021.

Forman, B., **Basma, Z.**, and Gourley, K. (2020). "Going for Growth: Promoting Digital Equity in Massachusetts Gateway Cities." Boston: MassINC.

**Kragen, B., Averill, A., Scheindlin, L., and Doonan, M.** (2020). "Telehealth in a Post Pandemic World." Waltham, Mass.: Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.



**Kritikos, A.F., Johnson, J.K., and Hodgkin, D.** (2020). "Past 30-Day Marijuana Vaping: Prevalence and Predictors of Use in a Nationally Representative Study of U.S. Youth." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 60(2), pp. 258-266.

**Kroeger, T., and Wright, G.** (2021). "Entrepreneurship and the Racial Wealth Gap: The Impact of Entrepreneurial Success or Failure on the Wealth Mobility of Black and White Families." *Journal of Economics, Race and Policy*. Published online Feb. 22, 2021.

**Mazel, S., Zisman-Ilani, Y., Hennig, S., Garnick, D., and Nicholson, J.** (2021). "Virtual Engagement in a Social Media Community of Mothers With Substance Use Disorders: Content Analysis." *JMIR Formative Research*. 5(6), e24353.

**Saadoun, M., Bauer, M., Adams, R.S., Highland, K., and Larson, M.J.** (2021). "Opioid and Nonpharmacologic Treatments Among Soldiers With Chronic Pain and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder." *Psychiatric Services*. 72(3), pp. 264-272.

## PRESENTATIONS

Almeida de Stein, B., and **Escobar, M.F.** "Ecuadorians in MA: The Role of Country of Origin Governments in Supporting Integration Abroad." Presented at panel session, "Local Inclusions Versus National Exclusions," at the Refugee Integration Conference and Art Festival, sponsored by Tufts University, October 2020.

**Bohler, R., Thomas, C.P., Strickler, G., Clark, T., Horgan, C., and Kolodny, A.** "Innovative Community-Based Responses to the Opioid Epidemic." Poster presentation at the 2020 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, October 2020.

**Daman, E.** "Lightning Sessions: Shifting Wealth and Power: Empowerment Economics as a Model for Equitable Funding Practices." Presented at the 2021 Just Economy Conference, sponsored by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, May 2021.

**Gantla, S.** "Empowerment Economics: Framework for Building Community Wealth and Power: Trying On Empowerment Economics: A Racial Justice Approach to Community Building." Presented at webinar sponsored by National CAPACD (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development), December 2020.

Hyde, J., Dryden, E., **Bolton, R.**, Dvorin, J., Wu, J., and Bokhour, B. "Providing Patient-Centered Care Through Whole Health Approaches: What Does It Take to Transform Healthcare Delivery in a Large Medical System?" Presented at 2020 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, July 2020.

**Khanna, A.** "'A woman with disabilities can do it too': Perinatal Care Experiences of Women With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." Presented at 2021 Society for Disability Studies at the Ohio State University Conference, April 2021.

**Kim, L.H.** "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Access to Mental Health Services Under the ACA." Poster presentation at 2021 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, June 2021.

**Martinez, E., and Menaldo, M.** "Liderazgo, Incidencia, y Participación Política (Leadership, Advocacy, and Political Participation)." Webinar organized by Youth to Lead and Instituto Republicano Internacional in El Salvador, March 2021.

**Routhier, G., and Molinsky, J.** "Multidimensional Housing Insecurity: A New Approach to Measuring, Understanding and Addressing Problems Among Renters." Sponsored by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, May 2021.

*“Entrepreneurship is sometimes framed as a ticket to economic prosperity, but it should perhaps be thought of as a highly leveraged bet.”*

TERESA KROEGER, PhD CANDIDATE, AND GRAHAM WRIGHT, PhD'15,  
IN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS, RACE AND POLICY

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**Sam Hyun, MPP'21**, was quoted in a July 21, 2020, article in *The Boston Globe*, "Asian-Americans, Long Used as a Racial Wedge, Are Confronting Anti-Black Racism in Their Own Communities."

**Dr. Megan Mahoney, EMBA'22**, testified in favor of permanent Medicare telehealth expansions during a March 2021 U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce health subcommittee hearing about telehealth payment policies.

**Dr. Palma Shaw, EMBA'21**, is a co-host of the podcast "Sisterhood in Surgery." **Dr. Ourania Preventza, EMBA'17**, was a guest on the Nov. 19, 2020, episode.

**Dr. Sherri Young, EMBA'22**, was featured in a Jan. 24, 2021, article in *The New York Times*, "How West Virginia Became a U.S. Leader in Vaccine Rollout," for her work to vaccinate West Virginians.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

PhD candidate **Rendelle Bolton** received a nomination for best student poster at the 2020 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting for her poster "Audit-Feedback to Improve Data Capture of New Healthcare Services: Implications for Implementation Evaluation and Research."

PhD candidate **Rendelle Bolton** received a Veterans Administration Pain/Opioid Consortia of Research Rapid Start Grant to support her dissertation, "Organizational Context and Variation in CIH (Complementary and Integrative Health) Use Among Veterans With Chronic Pain Within the Whole Health System of Care."

**Goldie Davoudgoleh, MA/MBA'22**, was selected as an iFellow of the iCenter in May 2021. The iCenter strives to transform the professional field of Israel Education.

PhD student **Tauren Nelson** received the Rappaport Public Policy Summer Fellowship from the Harvard Kennedy School.



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How culturally competent teachers can create a more equitable education system:  
Sana Shaikh, PhD'20

**HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN EDUCATION AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY AS A TOPIC FOR YOUR DISSERTATION?**

I started my career with Teach For America. My background was not in education, but in political science. I had six weeks of training, then became a teacher in Baltimore City. I was passionate about the mission statement, making a differ-



ence in the lives of kids, but I didn't know what it meant to be culturally competent. I didn't know how to be my authentic self, or how to create activities that let kids see themselves in the curriculum.

As a Pakistani immigrant who grew up in a predominantly white space, I was also affected by the public school system. Now, as a mother with small children, I see the inequities are still there. That's why I'm so passionate about this work.

**TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DISSERTATION.**

I studied the intersection of racial identity and relationships in developing culturally responsive classrooms. Culturally responsive teaching is a pedagogic framework for educators to create a classroom that centers students' interests, experiences and values. I used relational coordination as the anchor of my theoretical models, and I focused my study on Connecticut Title I schools, which have higher percentages of Black and brown students.

Two of my papers compared the experiences of white and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) teachers with students, as well as their relationships with colleagues, administration and community members.

One finding was that white teachers said that parents and families were a barrier to student progress, rather than allies. However, BIPOC



## *“In all organizations, including schools, definitions are critical in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts.”*

SANA SHAIKH, PhD’20

teachers viewed their students’ racial and cultural identity as assets, and they were more able to discuss how they included their students’ interests and values in classroom learning.

For me, the most interesting finding was that Black teachers had lower relational coordination with parents and community members than white teachers, which was different from my hypothesis. I thought they would have stronger relationships because of shared backgrounds or modalities of living, but that was not the case.

Another one of my papers focused on the value that Black teachers bring to their classrooms. One important attribute I saw was authenticity: bringing yourself to the work. In the study, I noticed the manner in which Black teachers talked about their experiences and journeys in public schools and the reckoning they’ve had with white supremacist culture to be powerful in connecting with their students.

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUR WORK?**

One recommendation is for principals to create professional development opportunities for teachers to learn cultural competency, and for principals to better acknowledge and affirm BIPOC expertise. Another is to develop family resource rooms, which allow parents and other family members to better engage in their students’ learning outcomes.

In all organizations, including schools, definitions are critical in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)

efforts. How are you defining DEI work? How are you defining the impact you want to make? What are the theoretical models and strategies to anchor your work? In an organization, if you don’t define these terms, people fill in gaps based on their experience.

It’s also important to acknowledge that no one is really there yet. We are just at the starting point of this long marathon. Even the most progressive spaces that have been working in DEI for decades, if they stumble or slip up or don’t acknowledge validity of trauma, they must rebuild trust with community and employees.

### **WHERE ARE YOU WORKING NOW, AND HOW ARE YOU INCORPORATING YOUR RESEARCH INTO YOUR WORK TODAY?**

I got my dream role this year as DEI program manager at Curriculum Associates, an educational tech company.

My role is internal-facing and I work predominantly with HR and our talent teams to manage, facilitate and develop employer research groups for Latinx, LGBTQ, Black and Asian populations in partnership with a consulting company that works with and drives longer-term planning. We’re creating different pipelines to provide BIPOC talent a path to the company. It’s really exciting because I spent six years looking at data, talking to folks, getting their stories and narratives, and now I’m in a position where my programs can help create that type of space in the company.



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## Improving child well-being and equity across the United States: Clemens Noelke

Research Scientist Clemens Noelke is dedicated to revealing inequities through applied research at the Institute for Child, Youth and Family



Policy. He received Heller's Early Career Investigator Award in 2021 for his work as research director for [diversitydatakids.org](https://diversitydatakids.org) (DDK), an online data and analysis tool focused on children across the U.S. Here

he discusses his major research interests and collaborations at Heller.

### **TELL ME ABOUT YOUR WORK ON CHILD OPPORTUNITY.**

I'm interested in how neighborhood contexts shape children's healthy development. At DDK, we have about 1.5 billion estimates, including the Child Opportunity Index (COI), which provides neighborhood-level measurements of 29 key factors, such as good schools, green spaces and health care access, which are necessary for healthy child development.

It is a big challenge to produce this data on an industrial scale in a way that is robust, replicable and uses the best available approaches to calculate indicators and accurate margins of error.

I'm proud of the work we've been doing with users of the COI. Sometimes users don't have organizational capability to take full advantage of the data. We try to help and also develop efficient processes so that we can assist many users who may have very little staff support.

For example, our users are deciding where to offer certain resources, like where to place early childhood education centers, where to target hospital resources for preventive care, or which neighborhoods to send participants of a housing voucher program. In a lot of those circumstances, it was the COI that made people understand spatial and

*“Virtually all mothers and infants come into contact with the health care system [at birth] and data are collected, but it’s not being used as much as it could.”*

CLEMENS NOELKE

racial or ethnic inequalities, and helped users to incorporate equity considerations front and center into their decision making.

**HOW ARE YOU USING MACHINE LEARNING IN YOUR WORK?**

I’m working with PhD student Yu-Han Chen on using machine learning to predict infant mortality. Birth is such an interesting point: Virtually all mothers and infants come into contact with the health care system and data are collected, but it’s not being used as much as it could to inform policies to address inequity. Infant mortality is still substantially higher before the first birthday in the U.S. than in other developed countries, and it’s even higher for infants born to African American and Native American mothers.

Machine learning is a new technology for the social sciences. A lot of our work is focused on understanding the effects of an intervention or policy change on children’s outcomes, but using machine learning, you can predict the likelihood of something happening. You can optimize certain processes, like the allocation of scarce resources in a costly neonatal or home-visiting program. We use a data set of all registered births in the U.S. It’s comprehensive — there’s no bias in terms of who is in the sample, which is important for equity. We use over 100 variables measured at birth about pregnancy, birth, mothers and delivery, and we use relatively sophisticated algorithms to make a prediction that there will be an adverse outcome. The risk scores obtained from such models could be used to recommend a referral after discharge.

**HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH DEAN DAVID WEIL ON WAGE NORMS?**

My PhD and postdoc were on labor market issues, so this was a good fit. Wages in the low-wage labor market have stagnated or declined in real terms over the last 30 to 40 years. The federal minimum wage is still at \$7.25. What can you do to boost wages, especially for people of color and women who are overrepresented in the low-wage sector?

I suppose things started with the “Fight for 15” campaign for the \$15 minimum wage. More recently, employers started publicly announcing wage increases, most notably Amazon, which raised its minimum wage to \$15.

Our study found that higher minimum wages set by companies like Amazon, Walmart and Target lead to higher pay for low-wage workers at nearby businesses. This illustrates a “contagion effect”: When you push one, others follow. From a policy perspective, it shows that movements like the “Fight for 15” have an effect.

It also shows that companies underpay their workers systematically. How else can you explain that all of a sudden Amazon can increase their wages substantially? It’s not that workers are suddenly more productive. You assume that workers are paid as much as they contribute — if they were paid too little they would leave, or if they were paid too much the employer would go out of business. But workers have very little power and employers know how to exploit that.

# HELLER RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

RESEARCH ACTIVITY  
JULY 1, 2020–  
JUNE 30, 2021

105

NEW PROPOSALS

71%\*

FUNDING HIT RATE

163

ACTIVE PROJECTS

TOTAL FUNDING:

\$21.4

MILLION

FUNDERS INCLUDE: CENTERS  
FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
AND PREVENTION; CITY  
OF BOSTON; W.T. GRANT  
FOUNDATION; UNITED  
NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME; CENTERS FOR  
MEDICARE AND MEDICAID  
SERVICES; U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

\*BASED ON PROPOSALS WITH  
DECISIONS AS OF 6/30/2021





# NEW FACULTY AND SENIOR SCIENTISTS

KAREN DONELAN  
STUART H. ALTMAN CHAIR  
IN U.S. HEALTH POLICY  
SCHNEIDER INSTITUTES  
FOR HEALTH POLICY AND  
RESEARCH

EXPERTISE: HEALTH  
SURVEY RESEARCH; HEALTH  
WORKFORCE RESEARCH;  
HEALTH SYSTEM INNOVATION  
AND EVALUATION; HEALTH  
SYSTEMS AND SERVICES  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION  
RESEARCH; HEALTH TEAMS  
FOR OLDER ADULTS

WILLIAM CROWN  
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST  
SCHNEIDER INSTITUTES  
FOR HEALTH POLICY AND  
RESEARCH

EXPERTISE: HEALTH  
ECONOMICS;  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
ECONOMICS; REAL-WORLD  
ANALYSIS; COMPARATIVE  
EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH;  
CAUSAL INFERENCE;  
MACHINE LEARNING

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