



Brandeis University



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ALUMNI NEWS 2023-25

PhD, Sociology BA, and Masters Alumni



Our Brandeis Sociology alumni are up to many wonderful projects, research, and publications. Learn what your classmates and colleagues are working on currently!

Sociology PhD Alumni

Better, Alison (PhD in Sociology 2010, Joint MA in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 2005) - I am a Professor of Sociology at Kingsborough Community College, CUNY and was elected to the Council of the ASA Section on Sexualities for a term running 2023-26. I am also a Council Member of the ASA Sex and Gender Section (2021-24).

In addition to my teaching at KCC, I am engaged in leading faculty mentoring for my colleagues around tenure, promotion, and publishing, and also serves as a mentor for sociology PhD students around the country focusing on pleasure, sexuality, and embodiment (including UMASS, Michigan, and CUNY, among others).

I am the 2023 recipient of the American Sociological Association Section on Teaching and Learning Hans O. Mauksch Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Sociology. At ASA 2024, I will be giving the Mauksch Address on "Pedagogical Dirty Work: Lessons about Respectability from Sexualities Studies."

Fried, Mindy (PhD 1996) - These days, I'm juggling a few different projects:

- I got my start working on aging issues while I was a PhD student in the program, TA'ing for Shula Reinharz. Since that time, I've written a book about caregiving, and launched an award-winning podcast about caregiving called *The Shape of Care*.
- For the past 3 years, I've been working on aging issues for *Our Bodies Ourselves Today*, which is led by another Brandeis PhD, Amy Agigian! I just launched a fundraising campaign for Next Chapters, a new podcast about growing older. The podcast is a project of [Our Bodies Ourselves Today](#)! To learn more about the Next Chapters podcast, and to support the campaign, please check out our [website](#).
- Throughout 2023, my nonprofit organization, Hoopla Productions, trained a group of young people from ZUMIX, a youth nonprofit organization, in interviewing, audio editing, sound design and theatre skills. Using "data" from interviews with 7 immigrant activists that were conducted by

the youth, I wrote a play called *Open Your Heart: Immigrant Stories from Boston and Beyond*. The youth did an amazing job performing the play, along with 3 professional Latinx actors, last summer at Boston's City Hall Plaza. We now have a short documentary film called *Open Your Heart*. Check out our [website](#), which includes our trailer, and a form to request access to the film!

- I'm working with Amy Agigian, who is the Executive Director of *Our Bodies Ourselves Today!* My role is chairing an expert panel on "Growing Older", something we can all relate to, yes? ;-). We are now planning a podcast called *Next Chapters*. Stay tuned!
- I continue to consult to nonprofit organizations through Arbor Consulting Partners. Currently, I'm evaluating a leadership program for artists run by the Mandel Foundation.
- Thanks to Shula and Karen who introduced me to Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) back in the 90s, I've stayed involved with the organization. This year, I won the Feminist Mentoring Award, which was a real honor. I'm currently chairing the Media Relations Committee, which is producing a series of workshops on op-ed writing!
- And finally, my daughter, Sasha, who used to hang out with Judy in the Soc office, got married last September (see our wedding pic!). She and her spouse, D, moved from DC to the Boston area at the beginning of the pandemic, and they now live a 13-minute walk from my house. Such a gift!!



Potter, Debbie (Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy with the Heller School for Social 2007) - My latest publication can be found [online](#) : "Biographical disruption, redefinition, and recovery: Illness identities of women with depression and diabetes," *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*.

Rondini, Ashley (Joint PhD in Sociology and Social Policy with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management 2010) - Publications:

Rondini, Ashley C., Rachel H. Kowalsky, Jerry Saunders II, Omar Khan, Shanay Jones, Francesca Testa, and Isaiah Osazuwa. 2023. "Race, Erasure, and Skin Cancer Prevention Guidelines." *Contexts: Understanding People in Their Social Worlds* 22(4):22—33.

Rondini, Ashley C. 2024. "Gender-Affirming Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Minority Youth." In Budd, Kristen (Ed.) *Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions for 2024*. Bristol: Policy Press (Forthcoming).



Rumbaut, Rubén G. (Sociology PhD 1978; MA in Sociology 1973)

New book was released in April 2024:

Immigrant America: A Portrait (with Alejandro Portes). New fifth edition, revised, expanded, and updated. University of California Press, 2024.

And a [Q & A with Rubén G. Rumbaut, author of the 5th edition of Immigrant America](#) (May 2024)



I have announced my *jubilación* from UCI effective July 1, 2024. (The English word "retirement," with its military and religious connotations of retreat and withdrawal, doesn't

hold a candle to its Spanish counterpart.) An “event” to mark and reflect on the occasion will be held next year.

I see this as a “permanent sabbatical,” which will free me of full-time teaching and service obligations. I’ll assume emeritus status as a research professor, keep my office... and regain vitally needed time. I have a book to finish with a colleague... and miles to go before I sleep.

I arrive at this moment of pending denouement (I call it a “*denouement!*”) with a sense of accomplishment and of “awe and owe”... of gratitude to all of you. We sociologists know better than most that it takes two to tango... and many more than “two” to make a career. (Walt Whitman put it better: “For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.”)

Parece mentira... I taught my first sociology class—an Introductory course with 240 students that I remember vividly—over 50 years ago (I still have the syllabus, which I typed and printed on a “ditto machine” [if you have to ask, google it!]).

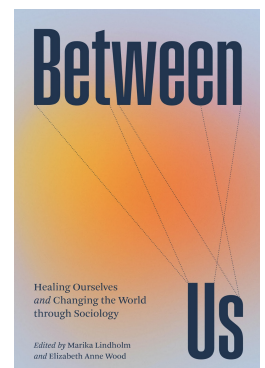
Fast forward to this week, many thousands of students and countless courses and syllabi later... from UCSD (including a full Spring quarter in Sierra Leone in my first year as a tenure-track assistant professor) to SDSU to MSU to UCI... not to mention research projects of all sorts, collaborations, publications, presentations, and bilingual keynotes all over the world (along with my share of the world’s vicissitudes): I just taught my last graduate seminar and my last (and best ever) undergrad class, a new course on war which I’ll never forget.

It has been my wont over the years, at the end of a course, to send my students a farewell message, in the form of course-relevant ideas that might stick like Velcro: a classic essay, a poem, a pairing of Marx’s 11th thesis on Feuerbach with Walter Benjamin’s 9th thesis on the philosophy of history. For this final occasion I’ve attached a cornucopia of reflections that have been lifelong companions along the way—from Ecclesiastes to a Cherokee proverb, from Mandela to Einstein to Twain to Yogi Berra, Shakespeare, Voltaire, Galeano and Machado, even an animated short of The Myth of Sisyphus... some of which may also catch your fancy. [Takeaways from a Life of Learning: Last Class Notes](#).

Tan, Catherine (PhD 2019) - I published my book! [*Spaces on the Spectrum: How Autism Movements Resist Experts and Create Knowledge*](#)



Wood, Elizabeth (PhD 1999) - *Between Us: Healing Ourselves and Changing the World Through Sociology*, edited by Elizabeth Anne Wood and Marika Lindholm, will be published on June 5, 2024 by The University of Chicago Press. This innovative collection brings together 45 sociologists to tell personal stories that illustrate the power of thinking sociologically. From the [University of Chicago Press website](#): *This heartfelt collection is a testament to sociology’s power to heal people and transform societies. Whether taking an adult son with autism grocery shopping or fighting fires in Barcelona, contending with sexism*



at the beach or facing racism at a fertility clinic, celebrating one's immigrant heritage, or acknowledging one's KKK ancestors, this book shows students that sociology is deeply rooted in everyday life and can be used to help us process and understand it. A perfect introduction to the discipline and why it matters, Between Us will resonate with students from all backgrounds as they embark on their academic journey.

Dana Zarhin (PhD 2013) - I published several articles in the past year. One of my articles, titled "The pull into wakefulness: How sociocultural categories intersect to shape sleep opportunity and sleep ability in Israel," was published in Sleep Health. Another article, titled "Sleep as a familial and communal matter: A Qualitative study of social norms around sleep health in Israel," was published in BMC Public Health. Additionally, I co-authored an article titled "Residents' choice of a placement in periphery hospitals in Israel: the significance of personal/family and professional considerations" with Feder-Bubis, P., Bin-Nun, G., Sherf, M., Heiman-Neuman, N., which was published in Health Policy.

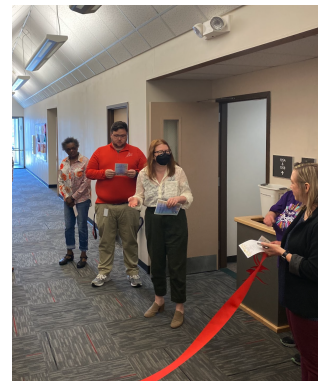
I presented some of my articles at various international conferences. One of these articles, titled "How and why people use mobile phones near bedtime and in bed: Israelis' narratives of digitally enabled sleepful sociality," was presented at the British Sociological Association (BSA) conference in 2023. Another article, "The pull into wakefulness: How sociocultural categories intersect to shape sleep opportunity and sleep ability in Israel," was presented at BSA's 2024 conference. Additionally, I presented my article "Sleep as a familial and communal matter: A qualitative study of social norms around sleep health in Israel" at the 2nd International Conference on Public Health, Health Education & Healthcare Services.

Sociology BA and Masters Alumni

Berro Krugman, Miriam (BA 2020, MBA/MPP 2022) - I started a new role at Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice as the Research and Policy Associate. I'm currently working on a qualitative, community-based research project on language access in the Massachusetts Courts, along with maintaining an online Know-Your-Rights resource for youth experiencing homelessness.

Bravve, Elina (BA 2007) - After about 7 years as an urban planner for Baltimore City, I joined the U.S. EPA in 2022. I work for the Office of Community Revitalization, part of the Office of Policy at HQ. My overall professional interests remain the same and I'm always glad to connect with others who are working at the intersection of affordable housing, land use, and equitable development. Email me at elina.bravve@gmail.com.

Foley, Anne Marie (Joint MA in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 2020) - I'm still at Allen Community College going up for tenure next academic year. I am now the co-chair for DEI and co-advisor of Phi Theta Kappa and the LGBTQIA+ club. In my role as co-chair of DEI, my first initiative involved collaborating with students and co-workers to establish the first interfaith room at Allen Community College and in Southeast Kansas. Additionally, as co-advisor of the LGBTQIA+ club, I have been actively involved in mentoring students to create the first lavender graduation at Allen Community College, marking a significant milestone as the first of its kind among community colleges in the state of Kansas. I have advocated for LGBTQIA+ rights alongside students, working towards better policies and procedures to provide a safe learning environment for all students, including processes



for name changes, discrimination/harassment protocols, and DEI training, etc. I have expanded mentoring opportunities for LGBTQIA+ students by connecting them with experts on rurality and queerness, including Riley Marie (Brandeis Alum). Lastly, I have developed and delivered lectures on Human Trafficking Prevention at Allen Community College and Hope Unlimited, actively contributing to the creation of a trauma-informed task force on human trafficking survivors in Allen County.

Markovitz, Jonathan (BA 1989) - After obtaining a PhD in Sociology at UCSD and teaching for about a decade, I went to law school and am now a staff attorney at the ACLU of Southern California.

Pascoe, C.J. (BA 1996) - I recently published a new book! [Nice Is Not Enough: Inequality and the Limits of Kindness at American High School](#).



Enjoy and happy reading of the [2023-2024 Sociology Annual Newsletter!](#)