Power Moves

AFTER A CAREER IN GOVERNMENT, SAMANTHA POWER IS TAKING THE LONG VIEW
The Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, with support from the Hutchins Center, recently acquired the papers of the political activist and pioneering feminist thinker Angela Y. Davis. For more, turn to page 8.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University is dedicated to creating and sharing transformative ideas across the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The Fellowship Program annually supports the work of 50 leading artists and scholars. Academic Ventures fosters collaborative research projects and sponsors lectures and conferences that engage scholars with the public. The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America documents the lives of American women of the past and present for the future, furthering the Institute’s commitment to women, gender, and society.

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Returning Home to Radcliffe

This past spring, when I visited the Radcliffe Institute after being appointed dean, I felt as if I were returning home. I had been familiar with the Institute as a Harvard faculty member, but I got to know it better in 2016–2017, when I was a Radcliffe fellow. Now, with the academic year beginning soon, I’m looking forward to full immersion in the Institute’s programs.

A special highlight of the fall will be meeting the 2018–2019 Radcliffe fellows in September. We will welcome 54 individuals from 11 countries in this new class, pursuing work across the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts. They represent just under 3.5 percent of the applicant pool. I encourage you to read the full list of fellows on the back cover of this magazine and on our website.

This year’s fellowship class will welcome the inaugural Catherine A. and Mary C. Gellert Fellow, Arleen Carlson and Edna Nelson Graduate Student Fellow, and Edna Newman Shapiro ’36 and Robert Newman Shapiro ’72 Graduate Student Fellow, as well as the first Mellon-Schlesinger Fellow: Corinne T. Field, of the University of Virginia. Drawing on the collections of Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Field’s research during her fellowship year will explore the intertwined roots of generational conflict and race segregation in American feminism, arguing that white woman suffragists first promoted the idea of “waves” in order to justify political alliances with white supremacists.

During my first year as dean of the Institute, I hope to meet many alumnae, affiliates, and friends of Radcliffe here in Cambridge and at events around the country. The purpose of these events is for me to learn from the Institute’s supporters and to share some of the riches of this wonderful intellectual community.

We have an exciting year planned, and I hope that you will attend many of the Institute’s stimulating public programs on campus or online. In the meantime, I’ll be settling in to my new home at Radcliffe.

Tomiko Brown-Nagin
Dean
One Radcliffe fellowship tradition is to organize various outings for fellows, and a Boston Red Sox game is on the itinerary each spring. This year, as a courtesy to nonfans, Julie Guthman, the 2017–2018 Frances B. Cashin Fellow at Radcliffe, organized Baseball 101, a short primer on the sport in advance of their April 29 field trip. “Say what you will about professional sports, but baseball is idiosyncratic, asymmetrical, pastoral (so they say), and in certain respects, quite literally timeless,” wrote Guthman in an e-mail to her fellow fellows. “And we will get to enjoy it in one of America’s most iconic ballparks: Fenway Park, home of the great green wall.” About 10 fellows, many of them international, gathered for the session, in which Guthman explained the layout of the park and playing field, team makeup and functions, and game rules and eccentricities. “There’s a lot of nines and threes in baseball,” she said. They also viewed Abbott and Costello’s classic comedy bit “Who’s on First?” before Robert Darnton, the 2017–2018 Joy Foundation Fellow, illustrated, in less than four minutes, two social science theories—hermeneutics and narrative theory—through baseball.
Centered on Civil Rights: Tomiko Brown-Nagin

She was born in Edgefield County, South Carolina, also the birthplace of Strom Thurmond, a politician whom Tomiko Brown-Nagin, with characteristic understatement, describes as “resistant to racial change.” Thurmond personified the South’s commitment to Jim Crow. The congressman helped draft the Southern Manifesto—a statement in defiance of Brown v. Board of Education and a promise to thwart school desegregation—staged a record-breaking 24-hour filibuster of the Civil Right Act of 1957, and vociferously opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The landmark 1964 law, enacted just a few years before Brown-Nagin’s birth, banned racial discrimination in schools, public accommodations, and employment.

Brown-Nagin’s life has paralleled the civil rights movement. Her parents attended segregated schools. And her father, like most African Americans of his era, didn’t have the opportunity to attend college; she went to integrated schools and had the best education America provides: a doctoral degree from Duke, a law degree from Yale, a bachelor’s degree from Furman University, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. “I don’t think it’s a coincidence that I grew up with history very present and later became a civil rights historian,” Brown-Nagin says. “My father knew what he had not had, and he encouraged me to go out and get it. Because my growing up happened to coincide with the changes of the civil rights era, I was able to do precisely that.”

The struggle for civil rights has been at the center
of Brown-Nagin’s scholarly work. In her first book, *Courage to Dissent: Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2011)— which began as her dissertation at Duke—she explored the fight for civil rights in Atlanta from the bottom up, from the perspective of local people and the lawyers who represented them in court. Her approach earned her the Bancroft Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in the field of history, and a raft of other accolades.

Brown-Nagin is one of her generation’s finest legal historians and also writes and publishes about constitutional law, education law and policy, and law and social change. Brown-Nagin joined the faculty of Harvard Law School and of the Harvard history department in 2012 from the University of Virginia. Prior to becoming an academic, Brown-Nagin worked for two years as a litigation associate at a prominent law firm in New York City.

Brown-Nagin’s current book project revisits her interest in law and social change through the lens of biography. As she worked on *Courage to Dissent*, Brown-Nagin became especially interested in Constance Baker Motley, an African American attorney who was mentored by Thurgood Marshall and litigated numerous landmark civil rights cases, including *Brown v. Board of Education*. While Marshall attained fame, Constance Baker Motley is not nearly as well-known. With her new book, Brown-Nagin seeks to make Motley a more familiar name and to explore how culture and identity shape professional life. Brown-Nagin worked on her Motley biography while she was Radcliffe’s 2016–2017 Joy Foundation Fellow and conducted research for the book at Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library. Currently titled *The Civil Rights Queen: Constance Baker Motley and Struggles for Equality*, the book is slated for publication in 2020 by Pantheon Press.

While serving as dean of the Radcliffe Institute, Brown-Nagin maintains her two other affiliations with the University—as the Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School and as a professor of history in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences—but will reduce her commitments there. “I love teaching,” she says. “I find being a mentor to students valuable and joyful. I look forward to continuing this work, though certainly not in the same capacity.” Brown-Nagin will also play a faculty director of HLS’s Program in Law and History. She also served as a member of the University’s Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault and as a member of the search committee for the director of the Radcliffe Institute’s Schlesinger Library.

As Radcliffe’s dean, Brown-Nagin will also play an important role across Harvard. “I’m very much interested in the challenges that face the University and all of higher education,” she says. “I’ve written about issues in higher education, including college access and college success, and I’m delighted to continue to be involved in those endeavors.”

When she’s not busy leading the Radcliffe Institute, teaching, mentoring, and writing books and articles, Brown-Nagin spends time with her family. She and her husband, Daniel Nagin—who is clinical professor of law, vice dean for experiential learning and clinical legal education, and faculty director of the WilmerHale Legal Services Center and Veterans Clinic at Harvard Law School—have two sons, Julius and Avi.

“We like to go out to dinner,” Brown-Nagin says. “We love jazz, so we go to concerts here and outside Boston.” Favorite musicians? John Coltrane and Miles Davis, and Wynton Marsalis.

“One other thing,” Brown-Nagin adds. “We really like sports. I spend a tremendous amount of time attending my kids’ games: soccer, basketball, track and field. And we go to Celtics games. We definitely find ways to have fun. Having fun is really important.”
New Form and Function for Knafel

The Knafel Center, previously the Radcliffe Gymnasium, is inarguably the hub of the Radcliffe Institute’s public programs. Here, visitors gather dozens of times each year to experience the Institute’s intellectual content: lectures, symposia, conferences, performances, and more.

Less visible to the outside eye is its function as a site for exploratory seminars and accelerator workshops, during which participants from all over the world convene to push forward cutting-edge research. As these initiatives have grown over the years, so have their space and technology needs, and now Radcliffe is making major changes to keep up.

Knafel is presently in the final stages of a conversion focused on event needs, part of a major campus renewal project made possible by donor support during The Radcliffe Campaign. Work—including a gut renovation of the building’s first floor and smaller changes to the basement and second floor—began in the spring. Once completed, the site will be better outfitted for gatherings great and small: a digital media wall will greet visitors in the lobby, along with two seminar rooms with upgraded audiovisual capabilities, new multi-occupant and single-use bathrooms, a new green room for VIP speakers and performers, and an additional stairwell to ease traffic congestion between the first and second floors during the Institute’s larger events.

The Radcliffe community will begin reaping the benefits of these changes in the fall.
These pairings show renderings of the finished Knafel Center along with the various spaces during construction. At far left, the largest seminar room with its improved audiovisual capabilities. At center, the first-floor hallway that leads to second-floor access. Here, the lobby, with its new digital wall display.
Schlesinger Library Acquires the Angela Y. Davis Papers

ONE OF THE FOREMOST FIGURES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES, DAVIS IS ALSO A FOUNDATIONAL THINKER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMINISM.

Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library announced in February its acquisition of the papers of the prominent political activist and pioneering feminist thinker Angela Y. Davis. The resources of Harvard’s Hutchins Center for African & African American Research were crucial to securing this landmark acquisition.

“We are honored that Professor Angela Y. Davis chose the Schlesinger Library to be the permanent repository for a remarkable collection documenting a remarkable life,” Jane Kamensky, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library, said at the time. “The Angela Y. Davis Papers capture the many facets of her impact on the history of the United States and will enable researchers to recover new histories of topics ranging from black liberation and black feminism, to Frankfurt School social theory, to the rise and fall of the Communist Party in America, to the growth of mass incarceration and the prison abolition movement.”

Widely regarded as the finest archival collection for research on the history of women in the United States, the Schlesinger Library has received more than 150 cartons of unique and rare materials from Davis, including correspondence, photographs, unpublished speeches, teaching materials, organizational records, and audio from the radio show Angela Speaks. Davis’s incarceration and trial and the global “Free Angela” campaign are especially well documented by materials such as personal writings, transcripts, letters received in prison, and banners used in “Free Angela” marches around the world.

“My papers reflect 50 years of involvement in activist and scholarly collaborations seeking to expand the reach of justice in the world,” says Davis. “I am very happy that at the Schlesinger Library they will join those of June Jordan, Patricia Williams, Pat Parker, and so many other women who have been advocates of social transformation.”

Davis’s long-standing commitment to prisoners’ rights dates to her involvement in the campaign to free three California inmates known as the Soledad Brothers, who were accused of killing a prison guard during a riot at Soledad Prison in California’s Central Valley. Davis, just 26 years old, emerged as a leader of the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee, which galvanized the American left, including such disparate figures as James Baldwin, Jane Fonda, Jessica Mitford, and Jean Genet. Davis’s activism in the Soledad Brothers’ behalf led to her own arrest and imprisonment. In 1970, she was placed on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List on false charges and was the subject of an intense police search that drove her underground and culminated in one of the most famous trials in recent US history. During her 16-month incarceration, the “Free Angela” campaign was organized, leading to her acquittal in 1972.

“Angela Y. Davis has played a major role in American political and philosophical thought for the last half-century,” says Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of Harvard’s Hutchins Center. “I remember being inspired to take a philosophy class at Yale when I learned that her mentor, Herbert Marcuse, had called her his most brilliant student. Her consistent concern to ameliorate the conditions of the most unfortunate among us has inspired generations of students to commit their lives to service and scholarship. And her early calls for drastic prison reform have proven to be prophetic. Angela Davis’s archive will be studied for generations, and it is altogether fitting that the premier library on the history of women in America should house it.”

Schlesinger archivists have begun processing the collection, to which Davis will continue to add. The Angela Y. Davis Papers will be available for research by 2020.

“The acquisition of Angela Davis’s papers, documenting pivotal freedom struggles in the United States, Cuba, and the Middle East, makes the Schlesinger Library even more vital for all those seeking a deeper understanding of the history of oppression and resistance on a global scale,” says Elizabeth Hinton, an assistant professor of history and African and African American studies at Harvard. Hinton will curate a public exhibition of key materials from the collection, which will coincide with a major conference on race, gender, and the carceral state, to be held at the Radcliffe Institute in the fall of 2019.

“Angela Y. Davis has lived her life lending her voice to those who could not speak for themselves,” says Kenvi Phillips, curator for race and ethnicity at the Schlesinger Library. “Her decision to preserve her papers with the Library ensures that she will perpetually speak against inherently unequal power structures. We are thrilled to be part of the process of carrying the voice of the voiceless to future generations.”
A video about this acquisition is available at [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu).
WHEREAS Layli Long Soldier Examines the Lakota Struggle...

The poet read from her award-winning book and took part in a conversation that ranged from incorporating the Lakota language in her work to the 2010 resolution in which the US government officially apologized to Native Americans.

Layli Long Soldier was a visiting scholar at the Radcliffe Institute this past spring. During her time at the Institute, she gave a reading from her book WHEREAS (Graywolf Press, 2017), which won the 2017 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. Long Soldier was introduced by Nick Estes, a fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University and a cofounder of the Red Nation, a Native-led political organization committed to revitalizing indigenous kinship and combating anti-indigenous violence in all its manifestations.

This event was part of the Roosevelt Poetry Readings at the Radcliffe Institute and was cosponsored by the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP). The Roosevelt Poetry Readings are made possible by a donation to help bring poets of recognized stature to the Institute.

Long Soldier lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Vaporative (an excerpt)

When I want to write seriously I think of people like
dg for whom I wrote a long poem for whom I revised
until the poem forgot its way back troubled I let it go when
you love something let it go if it returns be a good mother
father welcome the poem open armed pull out the frying
pan grease it coat it prepare a meal
apron and kitchen sweat labor
my love my sleeves pushed
to elbows like the old days a sack
of flour and keys I push them
typography and hotcakes work
seduce a poem into believing
I can home it I can provide it
white gravy whatever the craving
poem rest here full don’t
lift a single l
etter.

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How Viet Thanh Nguyen Found His Voice

The Pulitzer Prize–winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen RI ’09 was four when he first started trying to forget. After fleeing war-torn Vietnam with his parents for the United States in 1975, Nguyen was sent to live with a white sponsor family near Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Eventually, he reunited with his mother and father, but that early experience as a refugee marked him “indelibly.”

“That’s when memory begins, and that’s when forgetting begins for me as well, because I spent much of my life trying to forget that experience of separation and of trauma—and trying to forget what it meant to lose a country. And then as a writer and a scholar I have been trying to remember what those things mean.”

Nguyen blended memory, political critique, and history in The Sympathizer (Grove Press, 2015), his debut novel about a double agent who escapes from Vietnam to Southern California during the fall of Saigon. The book was awarded the 2016 Pulitzer for fiction.

A Radcliffe fellow in 2008–2009, when he held the Suzanne Young Murray Fellowship, Nguyen returned to the Institute last winter for a discussion with Gish Jen ’77, BI ’87, RI ’02, also a former Radcliffe fellow. As part of the visit, he read from his nonfiction work Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War (Harvard University Press, 2016).

“I was born in Vietnam but made in America,” he read. “I count myself among those Vietnamese dismayed by America’s deeds but tempted to believe its words. I also count myself among those Americans who often do not know what to make of Vietnam and want to know what to make of it. Americans, as well as many people the world over, tend to mistake Vietnam with the war named in its honor, or dishonor as the case may be. This confusion has no doubt led to some of my own uncertainty about what it means to be a man with two countries, as well as the inheritor of two revolutions.”

Writing down the stories he wanted to forget was always a dream, but how to give them the voice he felt they needed remained a mystery, said Nguyen. His time as a Berkeley undergrad—specifically, exposure to Asian American literature and his work in ethnic studies—helped. These encounters were “crucial to my sense that writing stories could also include the history, the identity, the politics that was so fundamentally important to me, that had shaped me.”

A long spell in literary purgatory helped shape his voice and style. Nguyen pursued his PhD at Berkeley, became a professor at the University of Southern California, and toiled for years trying to teach himself the craft while developing stories that would be published years later in his 2017 collection The Refugees (Grove Press, 2017).

He called the experience “horrible.”

“I didn’t have writing teachers. . . . so I was learning how to write and I was also trying to learn how to be a human being, trying to learn what it meant to be emotionally mature, to try to investigate how I felt about things.”

The struggle paid off.

“Through that banging my head against the wall, the frustrations . . . when it came time to write a novel, it felt totally natural,” said Nguyen.

The author opted out of an MFA program and turned to academia, he told Jen, because he “didn’t believe in how writing is taught in this country.”

“The intimate, the emo-
During a question-and-answer session after the talk, an undergraduate from Afghanistan who had lived in a refugee camp said Nguyen’s work helped her make sense of her own writing and the world.

“How did you come to reach that emotional maturity [that enabled your writing], and what did that process look like?” she wondered.

The frustration and failure...
Ghosts of War

Viet Thanh Nguyen’s nonfiction book Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War, published by Harvard University Press in 2016, was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. In the following excerpt, Nguyen refers to the work of Lê thi diem thúy, who held a Radcliffe fellowship in 2002–2003.

On Victims and Voices

As a child, I was always aware of the presence of the dead. Although my Catholic father and mother did not practice ancestor worship, they kept black-and-white photographs of their fathers and their mothers on the mantel and prayed to God before them every evening. I knew the fathers and mothers of my father and mother only through their photographs, in which they never smiled and posed stiffly. In the 1980s, news of my grandparents’ passing into another world arrived one after the other, accompanied by more black-and-white photographs of rural funeral processions marching through a bleak northern landscape, of mourners dressed in simple country clothes and white headbands, of wooden coffins lowered into narrow graves. Visiting the homes of other Vietnamese friends, I paused to study the photographs of their relatives, invariably captured in black-and-white. Every household had these photographs, hallowed signs of our haunting by the past that were emblematic of a lost time, a lost place, and, in many cases, of lost people. For many refugees, the clothes on their backs and a wallet full of photographs were the only things they carried with them on their flight, “the family photograph clutched tight to a chest/When all the rest of the world burns.” [From “You Bring Out the Vietnamese in Me,” by Bao Phi from Sông I Sing, published by Coffee House Press in 2011.]

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Excerpted from Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War, by Viet Thanh Nguyen, published by Harvard University Press. Copyright © 2016 by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Why Sleep?

We humans spend a third or more of our time sleeping—but why? Nora Volkow, a psychiatry researcher and director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health, sees the question of why we sleep as a fundamental mystery of the brain. In the Kim and Judy Davis Dean’s Lecture she delivered at Radcliffe in March, Volkow described nearly a decade of research in her lab that has begun to unravel connections between sleep and other key brain functions.

“Biologically, we cannot forgo sleep,” Volkow said, “which highlights that it must play an extraordinarily fundamental role.” When we’re badly sleep deprived, our cognitive abilities decline; sleep impairment leads to more fatal accidents than alcohol use. Poor sleep has been associated with health problems such as obesity and a higher risk of dementia. Drugs can alter sleep behavior, yet the connection between sleep and addiction hasn’t been fully appreciated. Volkow sees the two as intrinsically linked.

Volkow is known for her work using brain imaging to tease apart the mechanisms of addiction in the brain, and particularly for demonstrating how cocaine damages the brain. She recounted how studying cocaine use led her to become interested in sleep. People who are addicted to cocaine often have significant disruption of sleep patterns. And when animals are allowed to use drugs freely, she said, cocaine is the only drug that will actually cause them to skip sleeping entirely. “As a result of forgoing sleep, these animals will be dead within three weeks,” she said; it’s striking “how profoundly a drug can remove the basic instincts of survival, that it could lead an animal to stop sleeping in order to get the drug.”

One question has always intrigued her, she said: “Why is it that, in general, drug-taking behavior tends to occur much more towards the end of the day?” One answer, of course, is social norms: we work during the day and party at night. But this behavioral pattern is also “likely to reflect the biology of our circadian rhythms,” Volkow said. Could these rhythms make drugs more rewarding toward the end of the day? Are people more sensitive to drugs—or perhaps even more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors—at night?

Questions like these spurred Volkow to begin studying how sleep affects the brain systems underlying addiction, along with other brain systems important for health.

The Dopamine–Sleep Connection

Volkow’s lab has conducted a series of studies on the connection between sleep and the dopamine system. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that helps to mediate motivation, movement, and the anticipation of rewards, and it’s also the primary mechanism through which drugs of abuse work. Although the role of dopamine in sleep-wake cycles has been debated over the years, Volkow said, “it has become clear that the dopamine system is fundamental for arousal.” Levels of dopamine in the brain have also been found to vary depending on time of day.

Volkow has pioneered the use of positron emission tomography (PET), an imaging technique that makes it possible to track the activity of specific molecules in the brain. Her lab has used it to study dopamine-releasing cells in a part of the brain called the striatum. Volkow described studies using PET and functional MRI to compare the effects of a night of sleep deprivation on healthy human subjects and those who had a good night’s sleep.
One of their molecular targets of interest has been dopamine D2 receptors, proteins on the surface of brain cells that interact with dopamine and help transmit its signals to cells. They found that sleep deprivation noticeably lowers the level of dopamine D2 receptors in the brain.

In animal studies, Volkow said, a decrease of these receptors makes the animals more vulnerable to drug-seeking, impulsive, or compulsive behaviors. She speculated that by depriving the brain of dopamine D2 receptors, sleep deprivation could increase the risk that people will compensate for the loss by seeking out drugs and other stimuli that produce more dopamine. The findings have prompted her team to look at previous studies that documented a decrease in dopamine D2 receptors in response to drugs. Some of those drug-induced effects, Volkow said, “may be also driven by the profound disruption of sleep.” The findings suggest that sleep disturbance and deprivation can be seen as a fundamental part of the pathology of addiction.

A recent study from her lab found that the alertness-boosting drug caffeine may work through an opposite effect. Using PET imaging, the researchers found that caffeine causes an increase in the availability of dopamine receptors in the striatum, which could at least partly explain its effects on alertness and arousal.

The Brain’s Waste Disposal System
Volkow then turned to a new thread of her research on sleep, prompted by an emerging theory about its role as a detoxification process.

All our organs are connected to the lymphatic system, which helps clear the body of wastes—all except the brain. “The brain is the most energetically demanding organ, so how is it getting rid of those wastes?” she said. About five years ago, the Danish neuroscientist Maiken Nedergaard found evidence that wastes may be carried from cerebrospinal fluid into blood vessels by way of glial cells, connecting cells in the brain. The system, which she dubbed the “glymphatic system,” seems to operate during sleep.

“I couldn’t stop thinking about it—I said, ‘Oh my God, this is fascinating,’” Volkow reported. She and her colleagues have not yet found a way to use imaging to demonstrate conclusively that the glymphatic system is working in the brain. But they took a first step toward proving the concept by studying how sleep affects the clearance of a brain protein associated with disease.

New results in human subjects published by Volkow’s team in April show that a single night without sleep leads to about a 5 percent increase in beta amyloid, a protein that builds up in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease. The effect was particularly noticeable in the hippocampus, a center of memory. “A single night of sleep deprivation produces a significant increase in beta amyloid in the human brain,” she said.

The effect on beta amyloid clearance may be temporary, but it raises the question of whether chronic sleep deprivation has long-term effects on health. Volkow said that sleep has long been overlooked as a subject of basic research, but it has also been neglected as a potential therapeutic intervention. We know that sleep deprivation is harmful; actively promoting good sleep habits could be a way to prevent disease and keep us healthy.

Courtney Humphries is a freelance science writer based in Boston.
Who Belongs?

Citizenship means more than just formal membership in nation-states; it means belonging in communities, which are defined in part by gender. Participants in Radcliffe’s 2018 gender conference explored these themes through an evening focused on film and citizenship, three panels, and a keynote conversation with the Pulitzer Prize–winning author Jhumpa Lahiri.

Advances in communication, travel, technology, trade, and energy, and the flow of ideas across borders, have unquestionably made our planet seem smaller, prompting some in a position to take advantage of those breakthroughs to think of themselves as “citizens of the world.” But issues raised at Radcliffe’s annual gender conference, this year titled “Who Belongs? Global Citizenship and Gender in the 21st Century,” underscored the extent to which the privileges and protections of national citizenship still profoundly influence the well-being and basic survival of much of the world’s population.

“With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes, and with nationalism on the rise, citizenship has taken on even greater salience in our current moment,” said then-Dean Elizabeth Cohen in her introduction to the April gathering. Throughout the day, presenters considered how politics, racism, domestic violence, religious and cultural bigotry, poverty, and immigration and asylum are spheres where, in Cohen’s words, “gender intersects with citizenship in tangible ways.”

Written and Unwritten Rules
The conference was organized as part of Radcliffe’s two-year Institute-wide thematic focus on citizenship, and Cohen emphasized that “the link between gender and the rights and obligations of citizenship is hardly a settled issue.” Daniel Carpenter, the conference planning committee chair and faculty director of Radcliffe’s social sciences program, noted the influence of both “written and unwritten rules” in determining citizenship. Some imperatives are codified by law, he said, while others “are part of the fabric of our life but are less visible and sometimes entirely invisible.”

The Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. talked about an increasingly important unwritten factor in determining the sense of belonging and agency in the United States. “Socioeconomic status and growing income inequality are powerful forces shaping the contours of American society and politics,” said Dionne, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Georgetown University professor, and the William H. Bloomberg Visiting Professor at Harvard Divinity School. The persistent gender wage gap in the United States and women’s economic vulnerability compound the effects of other obstacles to political access and power, he observed.

Turning to immigration, the Boston College Law School professor Kari E. Hong categorized the Trump administration’s actions to block asylum seekers as “an attempt to weaponize misery.” Hong said the most shocking example is the tactic of forcibly separating children from their asylum-seeking parents in detention.
centers without adjudication at US border entry points. Such practices, she stressed, are in keeping with “a 20-year attack on asylum” in the United States, where, since 1996, immigration officers have had the authority to deport certain undocumented noncitizens through a process called expedited removal. Of the 5.5 million people deported between 1996 and 2016, Hong noted, “4.2 million . . . were turned away by one immigration officer without a lawyer and without an appeal.”

“The rule of law, when it comes to citizenship, has always been a moving target,” commented the Johns Hopkins University legal and cultural historian Martha S. Jones. Inconsistent, politically driven interpretations of US citizenship have arisen over the years in part, she said, “because citizenship was ill-defined” in our founding Constitution.

Race and gender were central and divisive issues in Reconstruction-era legislation that sought to codify citizenship rights, Jones noted. White abolitionist and women’s rights leaders such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were in favor of the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of citizenship for freed slaves. But they notably parted ways with the African American abolitionist, suffragist, and poet Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, who supported the 15th Amendment—which granted voting rights to African American men—despite its failure to do the same for white (or African American) women. “In this country,” Jones observed, “thorny, complicated texture questions around citizenship are nothing new.”

The Road to Being Heard
For women to gain and exercise citizenship rights, their voices must be heard. More women have achieved leadership positions in recent years, but not nearly enough to constitute a critical mass, according to research by the Princeton University professor Tali Mendelberg. Sharing the results of a study that simulated women’s participation in decision-making groups such as legislatures and corporate boards, Mendelberg revealed that men’s opinions and priorities prevail until women reach a “supermajority” of 80 percent. Unfortunately, she observed, “the road to female supermajority in places of power is very long and painfully slow.”

Slow progress is better than no progress, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, where Sarah Leah Whitson serves as executive director for Human Rights Watch. In Lebanon and Indonesia, she noted, laws that permitted rapists to avoid jail if they married their victims were recently struck down, and Tunisia has become the eighth country in the region to allow women to pass nationality to their children at birth.

In Saudi Arabia, women may now drive cars, and some provisions of the entrenched system that requires women to have male guardians approve critical decisions on their behalf are falling away. Human Rights Watch partnered closely with Saudi women activists to produce a 2016 video and social media campaign that featured direct testimonials from Saudi women about the negative impact of the guardianship system on their lives. “The videos garnered 2.5 million views on Facebook,” said Whitson, who believes that further advances will be made in the region “as women redefine their status as citizens, not subjects.”

Caught Between Cultures
Through different lenses, the Turkish sociologist Nilüfer Göle and the Pulitzer Prize–winning novelist Jhumpa Lahiri considered the concept of national identity for women whose lives traverse cultural and national boundaries.

Göle, a professor at l’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, raised the question of whether “we need to share the same norms in order to belong.” The complexity of the issue for minority women can be seen in the experience of the daughters of Muslim immigrants in Europe, who embrace their French, Italian, or German birthright but also choose to wear the hijab at school or at work. Göle said these young women are often
perceived by Europeans “as being aggressive, political, and ideological” because their decision to cover their bodies “questions the secular, feminist way of emancipation.”

Known for exploring the coming-to-America realities of first- and second-generation Indian immigrants in books such as *The Interpreter of Maladies* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999) and *The Namesake* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005), Lahiri offered a reading of her recently published short story “The Boundary.” The story raises themes such as violence against immigrants, the toll that displacement takes on family relationships, and the sense of being suspended between cultures.

In a conversation with the best-selling author Celeste Ng, which followed the reading, Lahiri, who was born in England to Bengali parents who subsequently emigrated to the United States, revealed that the pull of conflicting cultural influences in her childhood kept her from developing a sense of national identity. “My mother lives in Rhode Island, but she feels Indian, and nothing will make her not feel that way—that is identity,” Lahiri stated, adding, “I don’t have that.”

Although, she said, the absence of “a feeling of being this or being that,” has at times been “a source of anguish,” Lahiri nevertheless believes that ideally, “the writer should have no identity whatsoever. It is what allows you to think your way, feel your way, and understand your way into other hearts, other souls.”

**Nationalism and Polarization**

“This is not the America I know” is a complaint the University of Cincinnati nationalism scholar Rina Verma Williams has heard increasingly from those with widely divergent opinions about immigration and US citizenship as the country approaches what she termed “a tipping point in becoming a majority minority nation.” One of several speakers who addressed the global rise of nationalism, Williams sees growing tension in the United States between those who embrace civic nationalism—based on shared loyalties and beliefs—and those who subscribe to an ethnic nationalism, driven by the conviction that sociocultural loyalties and bloodlines determine who belongs.

The Harvard professor, CNN political analyst, and former White House advisor David Gergen noted that...
“pushback against immigrants and refugees can take forms that hinder efforts to empower women and ensure gender equality.” The Hastings College of Law professor Joan Williams said many white rural and Rust Belt women voted for Donald Trump in 2016 despite his affronts to gender equality because his America-first rhetoric and anti-immigration stance resonated with their sense that globalists and elites with cosmopolitan attitudes about citizenship are threatening local economic and social networks that have long defined their sense of American pride. “To them,” Williams said, “talk of open borders shows a shocking and hurtful lack of social solidarity.”

The Harvard professor and former UN ambassador Samantha Power (see page 20) said political polarization has reached such a virulent pitch in the United States that it affects our beliefs not only about who belongs in our country, but also about who belongs in our families. Republicans and Democrats have made significant progress toward consensus on favoring interracial and same-sex marriage in recent decades, she said, but a 2010 Pew Research poll indicated that 49 percent of Republicans and 33 percent of Democrats “would be upset if their child married someone in the other political party”—versus just 5 percent of Americans who felt that way in 1960.

Power also noted a 2017 Pew poll revealing that only 9 percent of Republicans and 8 percent of Democrats had themselves married outside their political party. “It’s extremely important to think about this,” she stressed, “as we consider the future of this country and the future of democracy, pluralism, and inclusion around the world.”

Deborah Blagg is a freelance writer.
The former US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power wants people to take the long view about their careers and their concerns about the current state of affairs.
Sitting in Byerly Hall on the Radcliffe campus, where she is spending the year as a Radcliffe fellow, the former US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power JD ’99, RI ’18 talks about the memoir she is in the process of writing. Just weeks after the Parkland school shooting, in which 17 people were killed and 17 were injured, Power hopes the timing and the audience for her memoir, tentatively titled “Education of an Idealist,” are the right ones.

“This feels very much like one of those moments when a major reclamation project is in order,” says Power, Radcliffe’s 2017–2018 Perrin Moorhead Grayson and Bruns Grayson Fellow. “When I see things in the news like the Parkland students taking matters into their own hands that the grown-ups have managed to screw up over so many decades, I feel affirmed in my judgment that young people are the right audience for a book about how we try to change some slice of the world.”

Returning to the Harvard campus after almost a decade in Washington and New York serving in the Obama administration, Power is struck by the discouragement and impatience she sees in many of today’s youth regarding their choices and opportunities. Through the telling of her own story, she hopes to show that the path is often bumpy and not always obvious and that that’s okay.

“They really care about things, but they say to me, ‘What I do won’t make a difference.’ They say, ‘I wasn’t like you,’ and I say, ‘I wasn’t like me. Let me go back.’”

**Power’s Career Path**

Her memoir charts the circuitous nature of her own career path—from journalist to academic to presidential advisor to diplomat. Power was just nine years old in 1979 when she emigrated with her family from Ireland. An athlete in high school, where she played basketball and ran cross-country, Power at one point wanted to be a television sportscaster. In 1989, after her freshman year at Yale University, she interned in the sports division at CBS in Atlanta. But after watching the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests on the CBS feed at work, she shifted her focus from sports to the world at large—specifically to issues of human rights.

Soon after graduation, in 1992, Power set off for Bosnia with little more than a press pass, reporting back for the next two years on the atrocities she was witnessing. Frustrated by her inability to change the course of events, she left journalism and in 1995 enrolled at Harvard Law School. There she began writing what would eventually become her first book, “A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide (Basic Books, 2002). In 2003, “A Problem from Hell” received a Pulitzer Prize.

In 2005, while she was teaching at Harvard Kennedy School, her career took one of its most dramatic turns when she was contacted by then–Illinois Senator Barack Obama’s office. Obama had read “A Problem from Hell” and wanted to meet with her. Their meeting resulted in Power’s taking a leave from Harvard to advise Obama and eventually joining his 2008 campaign for president. After a negative comment she made about his Democratic primary opponent, Hillary Clinton, went viral (she believed it was off the record), Power resigned from the campaign. Her exile was short-lived, however.

Once in office, Obama appointed Power to the National Security Council as special assistant to the president in charge of human rights and multilateral affairs. In yet another unexpected career twist, in 2013, she was nominated by Obama to be the US ambassador to the United Nations. In an 87–10 Senate vote, Power became the youngest person ever to hold the office. In both roles, hers was a clear and persistent voice calling for countries to unite to stop the suffering of people around the world, from civilians in Syria and Iraq to victims of the extremist group Boko Haram in Nigeria and casualties of the Ebola virus in West Africa.

Power looks back—a little amazed—at the unlikely trajectory of her career and hopes that the twists and turns along the way will inspire others to focus not on a specific title or role but, rather, on knowing what matters to them and then getting to work. It is okay, she says, to have no clear idea of where you want to end up.

“When I meet with young people and I describe to them the serendipity and breaks I got, but also the hours I put in,” Power says, “I hope it can make more accessible the idea that they, too, can find a path into journalism or activism or government or diplomacy. I would like to find a way to make things that feel out of reach feel more possible.”

Students on campus, she says, often ask how they can become a UN ambassador. “Not that way, I’m afraid,” she says. “I don’t think it works to choose a title to aim for. Instead, I ask them, ‘What’s the very specific and small thing that is within your power now, which if you do it, will also help you grow and learn?’ I tell them, ‘If you keep growing and learning, the results should take care of themselves.’”

**Writing Her Book at the Radcliffe Institute**

Her year as a fellow at Radcliffe has not only given Power the time to reflect and write, but also offered her a perspective she might not have gained had she gone off to write on her own. Each year, Radcliffe brings together fellows from diverse backgrounds, with wide-ranging talents. She recently attended a talk by one Radcliffe colleague on the art of textiles and by another on ancient Greece and the implications of its approach to justice for our current criminal justice debates.

“The temptation for everyone who writes in the
wake of government service is to litigate some of the debates that went on,” Power says. “My being in an environment at Radcliffe where people bring such wholly different perspectives has helped pull me out of my government, bureaucratic navel-gazing. The breadth of experience I’m surrounded by has created a broader aperture than I think I might otherwise have had coming straight out of the government. It has helped me to look up rather than back and try to write something that’s more enduring, more forward looking.”

Readers will be disappointed, however, Power says, if they think her new book is about how an activist and idealist had the “spirit knocked out of them by cold reality.” She understands why readers might have that expectation, given the trope of the naïve idealist. But, she says, she understood from the start the realities of working in a large government bureaucracy.

“I knew it was hard before I went in,” Power says. “Of course it’s hard. For my book “A Problem from Hell,” I interviewed 300 US officials or people who influenced US policy.” But she thought the trade-offs were well worth it. “I also knew that when the machinery of the US government is working on behalf of the American people or vulnerable people abroad, or on behalf of our security, or in order to fight the Ebola epidemic, it can make a huge difference.”

It is gratitude, not disillusionment, that Power regularly expresses about her eight years in government, about the privilege and opportunity to be part of a team that is trying to help improve people’s lives around the world. Still an avid sports enthusiast, whose devotion to the Boston Red Sox began long before the team’s World Series wins, Power sometimes uses sports analogies to make her points. “People often ask me what I am most proud of, but I don’t even know how to answer. When you’re in government, you’re on a team to such an extent you don’t feel like any particular achievement is yours to be proud of. You may occasionally be in the headlines for this or that, but when it’s working, it works because so many people are rowing in the same direction.”

An Optimist and a Pragmatist

Today—recently settled in Concord, Massachusetts, with her husband, the Harvard Law School professor Cass Sunstein, and their two children, Declan, nine, and Rian, six—Power is enjoying the newfound time and flexibility. “I had a lot of lost time to make up with my kids,” she says. “I have taken advantage of the very different flexibility that I now have compared to when I was at the White House or working as ambassador, when I was being woken up
in the middle of the night responding to various crises. It’s really affirming for my kids that I’m here.”

Power is also pleased and a little surprised at how her new life has offered her yet another role. Instead of rubbing elbows with heads of state and monarchs, she now finds herself involved in domestic politics, raising money and speaking out in behalf of candidates running for Congress, while also joining the board of advisors for Let America Vote, which fights voter suppression. As a journalist, an author, an academic, and a diplomat, Power previously focused exclusively on foreign policy and national security issues.

“It’s funny, because change in oneself happens so gradually you don’t really see it happening,” she says about her enthusiasm for local politics, “but what has become clear to me since leaving government is that the extent to which we can keep the United States strong and safe is inextricably linked with whether or not we can recover the health of our democracy. Obama used to quote Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, who said, ‘The most important office of any democracy is not that of president but that of citizen.’ We have to work on fixing what ails us here or our division will help those abroad who have decidedly undemocratic tendencies. And what we do—most recently on Cuban normalization, the Iran deal, climate—will be undone.”

Having become a US citizen in 1993, Power is especially distressed by the country’s current treatment of immigrants and refugees. “In the modern era, we have never been more unwelcoming to refugees or immigrants in our society. We’ve changed our mission statement as a nation.”

Despite the results of the 2016 presidential election, which she admits she and many others in the Obama administration did not see coming, she remains both an optimist and a pragmatist. “I’ve worked very hard not to allow the election to infect my temperament and my way of engaging with other people, but instead to let it motivate me.”

In the many interviews she has been asked to give over the past year, Power repeatedly strove to offer a balanced perspective. “There are the reckless tweets and the hollowing of the State Department and the pulling out of treaties and the insulting of our allies and the cozying up to authoritarians,” she says. “That’s our foreign policy at one level. But our foreign policy is also what our institutions have been doing—the reporters who keep getting attacked and yet pound the pavement and expose significant corruption, making themselves a check on some of the worst excesses of this administration; the courts that have offered some protection to Dreamers; and some of our mayors and governors and people in the private sector who have combined to do everything they can to come as close as possible to meeting our Paris commitments. All of this only underscores how indispensable citizen action and elections are.”

Returning to the Classroom

Power is looking forward to returning to the classroom come fall, with a joint appointment at Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Law School. “I come back with a heightened appreciation for the privilege of encountering young people whose minds remain open, and I say that because it doesn’t always last. This kind of intellectual laboratory, where you can explore ideas and hear different viewpoints, whether politically or because you’re from different countries or different socioeconomic backgrounds—it’s not happening enough in America or around the world.”

Power is asked whether, after so many years away from Boston, her loyalty to the Red Sox endures. She says it does, although she admits that some things have changed.

“I see that same baseball pathology in my sweet son, who’s a Washington Nationals fan, and now, in my karmic negotiation with the higher powers, I’m much more interested in my son’s happiness than my own, so the Red Sox prayer quotient is a little lower because mine are now reallocated for my son.”

And with that she’s off to pick up her daughter at school.

Sarah Abrams is a freelance writer based in Cambridge.
Heaven is improbable, but how improbable is this existence?
It might seem oddly contradictory that in a time of rapidly proliferating truths, untruths, and “fake news,” the world of fiction has the power to ground us in reality. Yet now, more than ever, made-up stories have the heft of truth, providing the emotional and intellectual sustenance we crave. That realization feels particularly apt when considering the power of works by the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Marilynne Robinson. The author of *Housekeeping* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1980), *Gilead* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004), *Home* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008), and *Lila* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014), Robinson, 74, trails a long list of honors and awards wherever she goes; the fact of that critical success and her many, many fans (including President Barack Obama—more on that later) can be somewhat intimidating. ¶ What becomes clear in talking to her, however, is that while she is appreciative of these accolades, Robinson—a professor emeritus at the University of Iowa and a visiting scholar at Radcliffe in the spring—is far more interested in exploring life’s big questions. The scope of that ambition shows up in the titles of essay collections such as *The Givenness of Things* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015) and *What Are We Doing Here?* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018) but is also apparent in the tangible, fully realized lives of characters such as Sylvie, the unconventional, nomadic aunt of *Housekeeping*, and John Ames, the elderly minister of *Gilead*, who finds a late second love in Lila, an itinerant worker with a difficult past. Understated and incisive, Robinson’s fiction is stripped down, yet somehow generous—all words that also describe what she’s like in conversation. ¶ Robinson grew up in Sandpoint, Idaho, a town in the state’s panhandle flanked by water and wilderness. She’ll tell you that her childhood was really very pleasant. She read what she wanted and was free to wander and “look at things”—probably one of her favorite pastimes both then and now. In childhood, she became aware of alternate societies, embodied by hermits living in the mountains,
vagrants who rode the boxcars passing through town, and men who lived in the “Skid Row” area of Spokane, where Robinson’s family ran big-city errands. She remembers, on one such visit, a man: young, nice looking, and dressed in a weather-beaten suit. Robinson stared at him through the car window. “And he looked at me, as if to say, what are you looking at?” she says. “He was an interesting type who I photographed in my mind and returned to many times. A strange but important memory.”

That seminal experience ties into the themes of *Housekeeping*, a novel populated by characters who live outside conventional norms. Robinson wrote it as a PhD student, while on a teaching exchange in France. With the university on strike, she essentially shut herself in a dark room in her rented house and “plunged” around in her thoughts, “trying to remember Idaho, where I hadn’t lived for 17 years.” In the end, she had a manuscript; she sent it to a friend, who (unbeknownst to her) sent it to his agent, who saw that it was published. For Robinson, it was an unexpected but pleasant turn of events that she accepts with a shrug and a frequent refrain: “What can I say? It’s always surprising.”

Low-key, Robinson nevertheless gives the impression of someone who is fully present. Words—what we say to each other—matter. Sitting quietly at a Fay House conference table, her large, gray-blue eyes unwavering, she gamely answers questions about why she’s a Congregationalist (“It’s very democratic, and that appealed to me”), her preferred translation of the Bible for everyday use (the Revised Standard Version), and the books of the Bible she returns to again and again (there are many, including Job, Romans, Corinthians, James, and Ruth, but she mentions Isaiah first—“It has beautiful, beautiful visions of reconciliation”). You might also find Robinson reading about quantum entanglements in *Scientific American*, an experience she likens to reading the Psalms. “I love these beautiful hypotheses about the beginnings of things, the configuration of the universe,” she says. “It rearranges your notion of existence.”

Being publicly identified as religious is uncommon enough in today’s world that students at Iowa of all faiths and nationalities sought her out when they felt misunderstood, she says. “They knew that I’d understand them because I’m religious, not because my religion on paper resembled theirs,” she explains. “Human beings do a lot of very self-defeating things, but there is nothing worse now than the tendency to create this idea around entrenched difference between one religion and another, when in fact religion is something that really does embrace a million variations.”

Having taught at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop for 25 years, Robinson is heartened by a relatively recent increase in the program’s diversity. “It makes the whole atmosphere of the place more attentive to what life is made of,” she says. “There’s a vitality and even an honesty in the writing. It’s less mannered and more focused on the physicality, the particularities of the world.” Which are the hallmarks, she argues, of good fiction.

**IN THE 24 YEARS BETWEEN **

*Housekeeping’s* publication and *Gilead’s*, Robinson read, and read widely—fiction, of course (she refers to 19th-century writers as “my darlings” and has taught *Moby Dick* multiple times), but also everything from Karl Marx to Adam Smith to the Old Testament. The books of Genesis and Exodus, in fact, happen to be her current focus for the Hulsean Lectures, a series of eight talks given throughout the year at Cambridge University’s Faculty of Divinity. She plans to expand the scope of the lectures for a book that will give readers an appreciation for the Old Testament as an approachable, coherent body of literature. She is also at work on her next novel, briefly described as “another turn of the question” in the sense that it, too, will be part of the world she has created around Gilead, Iowa.

Robinson is so well known for her deeply philosophical, thoughtful essays and fearlessness when taking on life’s big, difficult questions that it can be easy to neglect more-prosaic questions about how she goes about daily life. Gardening, for example, is in her blood—her parents gardened, as did her grandfather, and when her schedule settles down, she would like to do more of it. She writes in long-hand and then types out what she has written, revises on the page, and retypes multiple drafts along the way to a finished manuscript. For news, Robinson watches CNN and reads the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Journal*, she adds, is “Republican by instinct,” but when its reporters uncover something salient, it has an added authority for just that reason.

Now, about Barack Obama: The former president began reading *Gilead* between campaign stops in
Iowa; he awarded Robinson the 2012 National Humanities Medal, interviewed her for the *New York Review of Books*, and recorded a video tribute when she retired from Iowa in 2016, exchanging handwritten letters with her along the way. Two years later, the political landscape looks a bit different. But cynicism in the face of current events is damaging and “very easy—one solution to every question,” Robinson says. “There’s enough cynicism in the culture that you can learn mild contempt for anyone whose biography you read. People don’t matter because they have ordinary vices; they matter because they have very distinctive gifts or virtues.”

Robinson is struck, however, by the institutional instability and general erosion of democratic authority cropping up in some European countries—a trend that many would say is echoed in the United States. Whatever the headlines may bring, however, she is heartened by the courage and activism shown by students in the aftermath of the mass shooting at Florida’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. “If we took them as they present themselves, we would say their public education is splendid, that they have a kind of moral solvency that we are always so reluctant to grant to a younger generation.”

“We’d better be the hope for the future,” Robinson adds firmly. “This is a country that has tremendous strength and resilience. . . . We need to be the source of optimism.”

Julia Hanna is an associate editor at the *Harvard Business School Bulletin*. 
In April, Marilynne Robinson headlined the Julia S. Phelps Annual Lecture in the Arts and Humanities at the Knafel Center, appearing in conversation with James Wood, a Harvard professor of the practice of literary criticism and a staff writer at the New Yorker. Their differing worldviews—Wood is the author of The Book Against God (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003)—led to a spirited, often humorous discussion.

Noting the themes of resurrection in Robinson’s work, Wood, the son of a minister, confessed that he, too, is “fairly obsessed” with the idea: “The problem is that I can’t believe it.”

“I think of people as being much too profound, much too complex, much too open to the extremes of experience to simply live four score years and die,” Robinson responded. “On humanist grounds, it seems inevitable to think there’s more to us than perishes in this world.”

The tension between belief and disbelief led naturally to the topic of doubt, which Robinson said she’d always considered to be a dialectic with faith. “That’s what Calvin says,” she remarked, citing the French theologian and Protestant reformer. “You slip back because your assumptions are too narrow; being instructed by doubt, you make another experiment with belief.” But she hasn’t doubted in a while, she added, reflecting that her life’s path has been completely unanticipated. “I feel like I know what I want to do, which I consider to be a great blessing,” Robinson said. “So long as my faculties hold together, I will do that. I’m amazed at the opportunity.”
Disturb the System

MICHAEL POLLAN ENTERED Bennington College as a freshman in the mid-1970s, just as I’d decided, in the early weeks of my junior year, to leave the school that, despite tantalizing courses by Camille Paglia and Bernard Malamud, had always seemed too far out to me. Not everyone was drug-addled, but I couldn’t shake the memory of a night during my own first year when a classmate had fallen to the ground outside my window, thrashing and screaming in the grip of an LSD flashback. At dorm parties, a broad spectrum of stimulants were on offer, and I faced the same pressure to ingest that I’d hoped to leave behind in departing my radical-chic California high school. I wish I’d known that Michael Pollan’s room across the hall, a magnet for the talkative and exuberant among us, was a relatively drug-free zone. It took reading How to Change Your Mind to find that out.

Pollan points to the 1970s as a decade in retreat from experiment with hallucinogens, when LSD had “already completed its speedy media arc from psychiatric wonder drug to counterculture sacrament to destroyer of young minds.” As a college student, Pollan himself fell prey to the “moral panic” and judged the prospect of “rolling the mental dice with a psychedelic drug . . . a bad idea.” Forty years later, approaching 60 and reading headlines about a resurgence of experimentation with LSD and psilocybin (‘shrooms) for medical treatment, the intrepid food writer decided it was time to expand his palate with a few potentially mind-altering substances, under expert guidance each time, ultimately concluding: “These remarkable molecules . . . may have more to offer us later in life, after the cement of our mental habits and everyday behaviors has set.”

How to Change Your Mind is a far more comprehensive user manual than the Aldous Huxley books that turned on acid freaks in the 1960s. Chapters on the history and chemistry of the drugs, the neuroscience of tripping, and Pollan’s “travelogue” accounts of his personal drug trials are persuasive and entertaining. Is our time ripe for a renewed quest for the “ego-less” high, turning inward and dropping out for at least the duration of an LSD trip? “One good way to understand a complex system is to disturb it and then see what happens,” Pollan writes. Whether that system is your brain or the body politic, he could not be more right in 2018.

The Second Coming of the KKK: The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s and the American Political Tradition
by Linda Gordon Bl ’84, RI ’14
Liveright, 269 pp.

Although written by “one of those the Klan detested—a Jew, an intellectual, a leftist, a feminist, a lover of diversity,” Linda Gordon’s clear-eyed account of the Klan’s resurgence in the 1920s as a mass social movement is precisely the dispassionate record needed to understand how seeds of hate sown long ago bear poisoned fruit today. “Enlarging itself was the Klan’s highest priority,” Gordon writes, outlining a strategy of disseminating fake news stories, dispatching spokesmen to rallies that whipped up a “politics of resentment” targeting marginalized groups, and trading in far-right and far-left rhetoric to grab the center. Any opposition or “disrespect for the Klan only intensified its hostility and sense of righteousness.” Stronger in the North than the South, and no longer secret, the new Klan boasted millions of members, mostly ordinary citizens lured by barbecues and brass bands to recruitment picnics. Brought down by the egregious crimes and corruption of its demagogues, this iteration of the Klan may have been short-lived, but “its redefinition of Americanness, and thereby un-Americanism” lives on.
Jane Goodall wasn’t there, but none of this could have happened if it weren’t for Goodall’s pioneering research on chimpanzees, begun in 1960 at a campsite in Tanzania’s Gombe Stream National Park. By 1969, the camp had become a field station, with graduate students and volunteers taking over whenever Goodall—a former secretary to the paleoanthropologist L. S. B. Leakey who earned her doctorate in 1965 on the basis of her Gombe work—traveled to lecture and raise funds.

That’s when a young American volunteer named Ruth Gordon and her research partners decided to move one step closer to the animals under study, not simply noting their activity but befriending them—even, in Gordon’s case, tolerating the attentions of a male chimp, Gordon’s boyfriend, also a researcher, had left Gombe for school, but he and others would always be haunted by Gordon’s mysterious death in a fall one night in July 1969. Dale Peterson, Goodall’s biographer, became the confidante of those haunted researchers; no one could come closer to the truth than he does in this unmatched tale of primates in the wild.

Sharon Weinberger brings a storyteller’s flair to the history of DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), the ominous-sounding security agency responsible for both Agent Orange and the Internet.

Today, DARPA hums along in an office tower in Arlington, Virginia, but it once held sway in the Pentagon, where, independent of the military, its schemes could be green-lighted in a matter of minutes. Born of “national hysteria” after the Soviet Union’s 1957 Sputnik launch, DARPA began as ARPA, tasked with winning the space race, but soon ceded that role to NASA, turning to defense strategy in Southeast Asia and helping to cool the Cold War by proving that nuclear arsenals could be monitored by satellite. Weinberger doesn’t stint on DARPA’s mistakes—experiments with mass hypnosis, the Reagan-era Star Wars initiative—or Strangelovean personalities. There is a thrill in reading a woman’s skilled reporting on this hypermasculine subject, and with it, a hope that commanding such a story might lead one day to women flipping the script, giving peace a chance.

“TheImagineers of War: The Untold Story of DARPA, the Pentagon Agency that Changed the World” by Sharon Weinberger ‘18

I can’t really break it down to them because I can’t really break it down to myself,” writes Roy Hamilton to his adored wife, Celestyal. They are the couple whose complicated history Tayari Jones traces in An American Marriage, her fourth and most expansive novel so far. Jones, too, refuses to simplify or summarize. Rejecting the easier, more conventional marriage plot of romantic fiction, Jones probes what happens after the “I dos”; the rude discoveries, the cruel accidents that fate bestows. “Maybe that’s what innocence is,” Celestyal writes in her first letter to Roy, “having no way to predict the future.”

Why the letters? Like too many young black men, Roy is wrongfully incarcerated for a crime he did not commit, and Jones draws on the tradition of prison letters to enable her characters to tell their own story. Despite what appears a setup for righteous rage, An American Marriage is a subtly drawn indictment of the prison-industrial complex and its systematic breakdown of black marriages, families, lives. Maybe the best anyone can hope for is finding, as Roy finally does, that “life is good, only it’s a different type of good from what I figured on.”

“An American Marriage: A Novel” by Tayari Jones RI ’12

The poet Henri Cole’s first foray into prose is not easily pinned down. Essay collection, travelogue, memoir, poet’s manifesto, common-place book, photo album: all these apply. Yet the result is neither dizzying nor kaleidoscopic, rather measured and meditative—a juggling act in slow motion. Cole’s ideal poet must be “attuned to the secret vibrations of the world,” and Orphic Paris is capturing, as he writes of a favorite film, “the struggle between feeling and thought.”

“French is not my mother tongue, though it is my mother’s tongue,” Cole explains, suggesting his attachment to Paris as well as the detachment that enables his writing. Constrained by a youth when “gays and lesbians were not encouraged to love, marry, and reproduce,” and consequently “pessimistic about love, human relations, and the possibility of happiness,” Cole celebrates, alone in his apartment with a bottle of champagne and Willa Cather’s My Ántonia, the legalization of same-sex marriage in France: “On the horizon, the top of the Eiffel Tower kept me company with its sparkling lights that suggest freedom.” For Cole, in la Ville Lumière, “the only real light is the light of the imagination.”

“Orphic Paris” by Henri Cole RI ’15

SUMMER 2018  RADCutsche MAGAZINE
Radcliffe Day 2018

May 25 was a beautiful, sunny day and the largest Radcliffe Day ever. Nearly 2,000 attendees gathered in two tents—one in Radcliffe Yard and one across the street in Greenleaf Yard—to celebrate The Radcliffe Campaign and watch Hillary Rodham Clinton receive the Radcliffe Medal.

America’s Role in a Changing World
The morning panel—titled “Toward a New Global Architecture? America’s Role in a Changing World”—recalled Clinton’s work as US secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. “The challenges Secretary Clinton grappled with almost 10 years ago are still very much with us,” said then-Radcliffe Dean Lizabeth Cohen. “And many of them feel only more urgent today.”

Nicholas Burns—a foreign service officer for 27 years before he joined Harvard Kennedy School as the Roy and Barbara Goodman Family Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations—moderated the panel.

Burns paid tribute to Cohen, who was presiding at her last Radcliffe Day before stepping down as dean after seven years in the position. “She has led this Institute,” he said, “with strength and dynamism and passion and an unflagging belief that reason and empirical thought and the pursuit of knowledge represent the highest values of the Radcliffe Institute and of Harvard University.”

As prelude to the panel, Burns enumerated many of Hillary Clinton’s diplomatic achievements. “She pioneered an important conceptual change about how we should think about diplomacy,” he said. “It was her insight that American diplomacy, American development, and American defense must all be linked in one cohesive national strategy.”

“This panel is meeting at a time when America’s greatness on the global stage is being challenged as never before,” Burns said. He pointed out that every president after World War II until President Trump believed that US power and purpose were based on “enduring foundations such as NATO, free trade, and a willingness to keep America’s doors open to immigration and refugees.” Now, he said, “we are retreating in all of those areas.”

The four panelists, beginning with Anne-Marie Slaughter JD ’85, addressed questions posed by Burns. Slaughter was a professor at Harvard Law School from 1994 to 2002 and from 2009 to 2011 served as director of policy planning at the State Department, where she worked with Clinton.

Does the United States Still Lead in the World?
Burns asked Slaughter whether she agreed or disagreed with the view that the United States is no longer leading in the world.

“Right now,” she responded, “we are less the global hegemon than the global hypocrite.” In her view, “we need to make foreign policy and diplomacy the work of many, many more people than those of us on this panel and in this University and in Washington.” Slaughter pointed out that cities throughout the country are playing an important role in fighting terrorism and climate change. “We are going to meet our commitments through those cities’ efforts and the efforts of universities, businesses, nonprofit leaders—all of us.”

What Should President Trump Do about Putin and the Defense of Democracy?
Michele Flournoy ’83, who served as the undersecretary of defense for policy from 2009 to 2012—when she, too, worked with Clinton—tackled Burns’s question about Putin. “The most important step we need to take is to re-establish a very clear policy of deterrence,” she said. “We need to clarify where the lines are with Putin with regard to us and our European allies.” Above all, she said, the United States has to deter Russian meddling in the next round of US elections. “This is the biggest threat to our democracy that exists,” she said.

The United States Has Been the Most Important Outside Power in the Middle East Since the 1970s. Is There an Overarching Strategy That Our Government Should Pursue There?
Megan O’Sullivan, the Jeane Kirkpatrick Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School, who served as a special assistant to President George W. Bush and was the deputy national security advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan, was the first panelist to address this question. “In fact,” she said, “it still is very much in US interests to be engaged in the Middle East and to be invested in a better outcome for that part of the world.” But one strategy won’t suffice, she said, to address all the challenges there.

David Ignatius ’72, an associate editor and columnist for the Washington Post and a fellow at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center, said that much of the Middle East, but particularly Syria, is a tragedy. “We feel a sense of horror,” he said, “for what’s happened to people.” Ignatius recalled traveling two months earlier through Raqqa, the capital of the Islamic State. “It looks like the pictures we remember of the Battle of Berlin at the end of World War II,” he said. “It’s a nightmare.” While Syria as a whole is a failed state, he said, in the east of the country, US Special Forces and our allies have almost completely destroyed ISIS. The United States can “bring to bear a level of military power that people just have to take seriously.”
Videos from Radcliffe Day 2018 are available at www.radcliffe.harvard.edu.

Tony Rinaldo

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright delivered a testimonial about her friend Hillary Rodham Clinton. Here is an excerpt:

I would not have been secretary of state if it hadn’t been for Hillary. . . . President Clinton said so publicly. . . . We were actually traveling abroad, and we were at a foreign embassy. We used to have this thing where I’d introduce Hillary, and she would introduce him. . . . During this period of great mentioning, Hillary came to him—she said, “Why wouldn’t you name Madeleine? She is most in tune with your views, expresses them better than anybody else, and besides, it would make your mother happy.” . . . As I think many of you here can attest, there’s nothing like a good job recommendation when you need it.

Healey

Just weeks ago on this very campus, Parkland students came to town. We see this incredible surge in energy by young people all across the country. What do you make of this, and what would your advice be to young people today?

Clinton

I’m thrilled by the activism we’re seeing. One of the most difficult issues we confront is the tragically high rate of gun deaths in this country and the constant pattern of mass shootings. . . . What the Parkland students are trying to do—and I’m very much admiring of this—is to turn commonsense gun safety laws into a voting issue. People will say, “Well, it’s always been a voting issue, hasn’t it?” It has been for the other side.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey ’92 conducted an interview with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Here are excerpts from their conversation.

Healey

I know there are a lot of people in the audience who wish Chelsea well, and Charlotte and your grandson, and are also looking for some advice on how to raise strong girls and women in today’s world. Do you care to say anything to that?

Clinton

I want to mention one area that I feel really strongly about. We need to develop empathy and kindness in our children, for themselves and for others. I was really fortunate because when I was very young, through my church I had a lot of those experiences. . . . There are many ways of trying to raise strong, bright kids, but I hope we can raise strong, bright, kind, and empathetic kids as well.
When Jobs Disappear
CAN WORKING-CLASS AMERICANS MAKE A GOOD LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Amy Goldstein RI ’12—who has been a staff writer at the Washington Post for the past 30 years—observed people falling out of the middle class during the Great Recession of 2007–2008. These people were “shell-shocked to find themselves there,” she said. It seemed to Goldstein that something profound was happening. “We were a country of up, not down, and suddenly there was a fair amount of down,” she told the capacity crowd in the Great Room of the W Hotel during an event cosponsored by the Harvard Alumni Association.

Goldstein realized that she hadn’t seen much writing about what it means to individuals and communities to lose work, so she took time off from her day job to find a community to write about. The result was Janesville: An American Story (Simon & Schuster, 2017), about a midwestern community that struggled to find a way forward after the General Motors plant that had operated there for 80 years closed in 2008.

Another Radcliffe fellow, Ruth Milkman RI ’13—a distinguished professor of sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and a distinguished professor of labor studies and director of research at the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies—joined Goldstein at the New York event to discuss the consequences of losing a job. Lizabeth Cohen, then dean of the Radcliffe Institute and the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies at Harvard, moderated a discussion between the two fellows. Goldstein was the 2011–2012 Katherine Hampson Bessell Fellow at Radcliffe, and Milkman was the 2012–2013 Matina S. Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Milkman pointed out that many people who lose their jobs after age 45 re-enter the workforce doing nonstandard work: a contract job for a little while and part-time rather than full-time work. “These are the people you see working in Home Depot, maybe not here in New York, but in most of America,” she said. She added that pensions are disappearing for many people who work outside the public sector, which will make the plight of older workers more pronounced in years to come.

Cohen raised the question of retraining. “We hear about how a miner can become something else,” she said, “and an oil worker can take on a job in a hospital or another area of our economy that’s doing well.”

Retraining, Goldstein said, was one of the reasons she chose to study Janesville: in the years after the jobs went away, it had the largest enrollment increase in Wisconsin’s college system. However, only a third of people who started retraining finished, “and that’s pretty typical of community college completion rates nationally,” she said.

Nevertheless, through the
Jennies Esperanza

Jewels from the Schlesinger Library
TALES FROM THE VAULT SPANNING THE LIBRARY’S FIRST 75 YEARS
MAY 16, 2018

At the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills, Jane Kamensky, the Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, presented an illustrated lecture in which she used objects from the Library’s collections to tell fresh stories about American history.

The Schlesinger Library began in August 1943, when the Radcliffe College alumna Maud Wood Park donated materials she had amassed in her work on behalf of women’s suffrage. The Radcliffe College Women’s Rights Collection comprised 30 cartons of manuscripts and 300 books and periodicals. In its first year of operation, the collection welcomed seven researchers. Today, the Schlesinger is the largest women’s history library in the United States and holds more than 4,000 manuscript collections, over 125,000 volumes, and troves of audiovisual materials. Thousands of researchers access the collection on site and online every year.

Ruth Milkman

years, Janesville was resilient, Goldstein said, with a long tradition of building its own economy. The Parker Pen Company originated there, and, early in the 20th century, so did the tractor factory that was later bought by General Motors. But after the Great Recession, the businesses that came in—including a distribution center for Dollar General—didn’t offer good jobs.

Before the conversation opened up to audience questions, Milkman made a point about where she thinks the anger about job loss should be directed. “What really makes me sad,” she said, “is the way in which the very justifiable anger and resentment that working-class Americans feel today is being directed at immigrants and to some extent at people of color more generally, instead of where it should be directed, which is at economic forces and employers who have restructured work in such a way as to make good jobs so hard to find.”
Events Online

Red Sox Nation: Exploring Sports and Citizenship

In this panel discussion, the Hall of Fame pitcher Pedro Martínez and Boston Red Sox executives discuss how the Red Sox organization endeavors to engage with the community and to support good citizenship by the team and all of Red Sox Nation.

Encontro das Águas (Meeting of Waters)

Clarissa Tossin RI ’18, a Los Angeles–based interdisciplinary artist, shares a collection of her works that span a period of nearly 10 years and are linked by the common themes of circulation and displacement.
The Difficult Miracle: The Living Legacy of June Jordan
In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the arrival of the papers of the poet and activist June Jordan at the Schlesinger and the 75th anniversary of the Library’s founding, this panel discussion features scholars, poets, and activists exploring the many facets of Jordan’s work.

Obesity: It’s More Complex than You Think
As part of the 2017–2018 Epideemics Science Lecture Series, Fatima Cody Stanford, a leading expert on obesity, challenges the notion that weight regulation can be determined by a simple equation applied to all persons equally and instead explores the impact of the environment and the role our brains and bodies play in the complex processes of weight regulation.

The Other Side of Terror: Blackness and the Culture of US Empire
Erica R. Edwards RI ’18 shares her progress on a book in which she argues that changes in racial power brought about by the War on Terror have transformed 21st century African American literature.

Next in (Data) Science
In this year’s Next in Science Series, innovative early-career scientists demonstrate how data science approaches have become critical to a variety of fields, including social media, the movie industry, public health, and the study of the origins of our universe.
Exploring Architecture and Globalization

Artadia, a national nonprofit organization that supports artists with unrestricted, merit-based awards, named Clarissa Tossin RI ’18 a recipient of the 2018 Los Angeles Artadia Award. “Departing from the utopian modernist project of Brasilia as a central topic, Clarissa Tossin has been producing poignantly critical work around modern architectural projects in Brazil and the rest of Latin America, and the historically complex relationship of these countries with the United States,” said Selene Preciado, an independent curator and one of the jurists. “Recently, she has been exploring a stronger and more direct dialogue with local modern architecture, more specifically in Los Angeles, weaving together her concerns on progress and utopia, language and translation, flow of economic powers, and representation and misrepresentation.”

A still from Tossin’s video work Ch’u Mayaa (2017, see page 38), part of the Pacha, Llaqt, Wasichay exhibition currently on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art, was featured in a New York Times article titled “Museums Turn Their Focus to US Artists of Latin Descent.”

Earlier this year, the artist had a solo exhibition at the Blanton Museum of Art, in Austin, Texas. Encontro das Águas (Meeting of Waters) explored the impact of industrialization and globalization in the Amazon region along with the material culture of the indigenous groups in the area. The Blanton’s blog featured a Q&A about the installation, which was on view in Los Angeles, weaving together her concerns on progress and utopia, language and translation, flow of economic powers, and representation and misrepresentation.

In 2019, Tossin will return to Radcliffe to present an exhibition titled Future Fossil. The culmination of her fellowship work at Radcliffe, the show will be on view from January 31 to March 16.)

Honor Roll

Each spring, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences announces its newly elected members. Among this year’s crop are Alexei Borodin RI ’17; Risa L. Goluboff ’93; Viet Thanh Nguyen RI ’09; Laurie L. Patton ’83; Naomi E. Pierce PhD ’83, BI ’90, RI ’06; Nancy L. Ross ’80; Ellen V. Rothenberg ’72; and Leigh H. Royden ’76, RI ’10.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation also announced its 2018 fellows this spring; they included Reginald Dwayne Betts RI ’12; Moon Duchin ’97, RI ’19; Lauren Groff RI ’19; Stefan Helmreich RI ’19; Jane Kamensky BI ’97, RI ’07; Joan Naviyuk Kane ’00; Eleanor Kaufman ’89; Min Jin Lee RI ’19; David Levine AM ’05, RI ’14; Waiyee Li GSAJF ’93, RI ’03; Nicolás Pereda RI ’13; Lisa Randall ’84, PhD ’87, RI ’03; and Lily Tuck ’60.

Beth Simmons RI ’19, the Andrea Mitchell University Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, was awarded a 2018 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. Her proposed project is concerned with international peace and security.

ZZ Packer RI ’15 and Leah Wright Riguueur RI ’18 are among the 23 2018–2019 W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute Fellows. While in residence at the institute, which is housed at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, both will continue to work on the projects they pursued at Radcliffe.

We Love Reading, the literacy initiative founded by Rana Dajani RI ’18, was chosen a winner of the UNHCR’s Urban Refugee Children Innovation Challenge.

Human Rights Watch honored Hala Aldosari RI ’18 at its annual Voices for Justice dinner, where she re-
ceived the Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism. Aldosari is a Saudi human rights scholar and writer who frequently speaks out against her home country’s deep-seated sexual discrimination.

This spring, in Ottawa, **Wendy Hui Kyong Chun RI ’03** was named the Canada 150 Research Chair in New Media, and **Shireen Hassim RI ’18**, the Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics. The Canada 150 Research Chairs program was launched to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary by providing Canadian post-secondary institutions with a one-time investment to attract top-tier, internationally based scholars and researchers. Kirsty Duncan, Canada’s science minister, called the program “a global talent competition.” So far, 28 chairs have been recruited. Chun will join Simon Fraser University, while Hassim will go to Carleton University.

**Matatu: A History of Popular Transportation in Nairobi** (University of Chicago, 2017), by **Kenda Mutongi RI ’01**, has been awarded the 2018 Hagley Prize in Business History. The cash prize and medallion, awarded by the Business History Conference, is for the best book in business history, broadly defined. Mutongi is a professor of history at Williams College and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Tulasi Srinivas RI ’17** has been awarded a 2018 Luce/ACLS Fellowship in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs for her new book project, “The Absent Goddess: Religion, Ecology and Violence in Urban India.” Srinivas, who is an associate professor of anthropology at Emerson College, will also soon publish the book on which she worked during her fellowship, *The Cow in the Elevator: An Anthropology of Wonder* (Duke University Press, 2018).

**Kathleen Cash RI ’08** received the Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism. Aldosari is a Saudi human rights scholar and writer who frequently speaks out against her home country’s deep-seated sexual discrimination.

**Sex, Shame, and Violence: A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling in Poor Communities** (Vanderbilt University Press, 2016), by **Kathleen Cash RI ’08**, was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title of 2017. “In clear prose and illustrative examples of materials used, the book provides an ethnographically and theoretically grounded challenge to rethink goals, methods, and messages,” said the magazine in a review. “This is not a light read, but its depth, clear writing, and practicality make it essential reading for anyone with an interest in women’s lives and relationships in contexts of vulnerability.”

**Inklings**

**Axel Meyer RI ’18** recently co-authored a scientific paper that appeared in *Science Advances*. “Success of Cuckoo Catfish Brood Parasitism Reflects Coevolutionary
History and Individual Experience of Their Cichlid Hosts” documents behavioral strategies shaped by evolution in brood parasites from Lake Tanganyika.

In a special section titled “The Awakening: Women and Power in the Academy,” the Chronicle of Higher Education published an opinion piece by Sharon Marcus RI ’18 (see page 48) titled “We’re Not Even Close.” In the essay, Marcus writes about power in the academy, turning the tables to show how far from workplace equality women academics are.

The article “A Model for ‘Sustainable’ US Beef Production,” on which Gidon Eshel RI ’17 is listed as lead author, was published by Nature Ecology & Evolution. Another article to which he contributed appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; titled “The Opportunity Cost of Animal Based Diets Exceeds All Food Losses,” it sparked measurable, or else we deem it dispensable, a waste of time.” She goes on to remind us, “Joy lies in immaterial superfluity.”

The Los Angeles Times article “By Going Vegan, America Could Feed an Additional 390 Million People, Study Suggests.”

John Tasioulas RI ’15 contributed an article to the Judicial Power Project’s blog. In “Feeling our Way: Human Rights as Democratic Beliefs,” he registers his objections to Noel Malcolm’s view of human rights as merely the product of democratic consensus.” In addition, the website Rights Info covered the research he did during his Radcliffe fellowship.

A Ben Miller RI ’15 has published a series of pieces that build on work he did during his Radcliffe fellowship. Chapters of his fiction collaboration with the painter Dale Williams, it all melts down to this: a novel in timelines, appeared in Bat City Review, Hotel Amerika, and the Hunger. He also published nonfiction essays: “The Hornpipe and the Rake” appeared in Ecotone; “Sing Me a Song of 19 University Place” in the Southern Review; and “The First Forever” in 1966.

Claire Messud RI ’05 had a piece of cultural criticism published in the Paris Review. “Ours is a bleakly utilitarian era,” she writes in “The Time for Art Is Now.” “Every act, it seems, must be overtly purposeful, its value Tackling Social Issues through Art

The Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership commissioned a solo exhibition from the Chicago-based visual artist Ellen Rothenberg RI ’93. ISO 6346: ineluctable immigrant, which ran earlier this year, was her response to the global refugee crisis and postelection xenophobic, anti-immigrant, and racist rhetoric. The installation used selections from the Spertus archives and collections along with primary photographic research during the construction of Tempohome Dorf in Berlin, currently the largest temporary refugee housing in Germany.

With Daniel Eisenberg, Rothenberg was recently named an inaugural Faculty Research Fellow of the Institute for Curatorial Research and Practice at the School of Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), for a two-year term; they are partnering with the International Research Center re:work in Berlin. Their project will launch with a symposium at SAIC in October, followed by a publication and an exhibition at the SAIC Sullivan Galleries in the fall of 2019.

Rothenberg also recently published Shadowed! (Green Lantern Press, 2018), a book that features artwork from her installation elsetime along with essays in response.
fellowship in an article titled “Minimum Core Obligations: Philosopher John Tasioulas on a Contested Idea.” Tasioulas is the director of the Yeoh Tiong Lay Centre for Politics, Philosophy, and Law in the Dickson Poon School of Law, King’s College London.

“No More Maybe,” a new fiction piece by Gish Jen ’77, BI ’87, RI ’02, appeared in the New Yorker this spring. The online version includes links to an interview with the author about how the story came about and to audio of her reading it.

Zia Haider Rahman RI ’18 recently made it into the Boston Globe’s Names column. The novelist took part in a conversation with the Academy Award–winning actor Sean Penn, who was in town to promote his own novel.

Science magazine published “In War Zones and Refugee Camps, Researchers Are Putting Resilience Interventions to the Test,” which reports on research that Rana Dajani RI ’18 conducted around the physiological effects of conflict on a group of teens—many of whom were Syrian refugees in Jordan—and whether such effects can be managed by teaching resilience. Dajani was also invited to participate in a meeting, hosted by the ELRHA and the World Health Organization, to share these recent findings in mental health and psychosocial support research in humanitarian settings.

As DACA came to an end, Mae M. Ngai RI ’04, a history professor at Columbia University, reflected on US immigration policy in a New York Times opinion piece titled “Immigration’s Border-Enforcement Myth.”

Khalil Gibran Muhammad RI ’17, the Suzanne Young Murray Professor at Radcliffe and a professor of history, race, and public policy at Harvard Kennedy School, examined the growing threat of white nationalism in an article titled “How the Alt-Right Uses Social Science to Make Racism Respectable,” which appeared in the Nation.

The New York Times paid tribute to the prolific writer Ursula K. Le Guin ’51, who died earlier this year at age 88. Her obituary lauded her as an “immensely popular author who brought literary depth and a tough-minded feminist sensibility to science fiction and fantasy.” Best known for her novels, Le Guin also published poetry, short stories, essays, children’s literature, and translations.

Shelf Life

The clinical psychologist Daphne de Marneffe ’81 recently published The Rough Patch: Marriage and the Art of Living Together (Scribner, 2018) “This book is full of observations that may help troubled partners think differently about their relationship,” said Kirkus Reviews, calling it “a book of good intentions and helpful advice and a worthy manual for spouses.”

Uzodinma Iweala ’04, RI ’12 has published his second novel, Speak No Evil (Harper, 2018), a coming-of-age story featuring a privileged Nigerian American high schooler, Niru, who is struggling with his sexuality. Said a review in the New Yorker, “The soul of Speak No Evil is the tortuous, exquisitely rendered relationship between Niru and his father, a man whose authority his son resents and admires.”


The National Book Award winner Linda Pastan ’54 has published A Dog Runs through It: Poems (W. W. Norton, 2018), a collection of poems—both serious and lighthearted—for dog lovers. In a review, the New York Journal of Books said, “Readers will enjoy the simplicity and clarity of this collection, one that captures how dogs inspire us, and what we can learn from our best friends.”

SEAN ALONZO HARRIS is a lucid and essential guide to what can happen here.” Both authors are professors of government at Harvard.

William Hurst RI ’16 has published Ruling before the Law: The Politics of Legal Regimes in China and Indonesia (Cambridge University Press, 2018), the book he completed during his fellowship year. It is the first systematic comparative study of the world’s largest communist and majority-Muslim nations. “No one but Hurst could have written this book,” said Tom Ginsburg, of the University of Chicago Law School, in advance praise. “A monumental achievement and a major advance in socio-legal studies.”

Mary A. Hood BI ’82 has published All the Spectral Fractures (Shade Mountain Press, 2017), her latest collection of poems. The author of three other poetry collections and three essay collections, Hood is a professor emerita of microbiology at the University of West Florida with more than 60 scientific articles to her name.

Barbara Berenson ’80, JD ’84, MPA ’84 has published Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers (History Press Library Editions, 2018), in which she focuses on lesser-known figures in the suffrage movement, such as Lucy Stone and Maud Wood Park. Berenson—a senior attorney at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, an author, and a historian—appeared on WBUR’s Radio Boston to discuss the book, audio of which is archived online. She researched the book in part at the Schlesinger Library.

China and the Writing of English Literary Modernity, 1690–1770 (Cambridge University Press, 2018), on which Eun Kyung Min RI ’05 worked during her fellowship year, has been published. The book examines the development of English literary
modernity through how Chinese culture was viewed at the time.

In Making Time for Making Music: How to Bring Music into Your Busy Life (Oxford University Press, 2018), Amy Nathan '67, MAT '68 shows, through more than 350 real-life success stories, the many ways busy adults fit music making into their schedules. The book also includes a resource list of websites, organizations, and summer programs for amateur musicians.

Ewa Lajer-Burcharthy AM ’00, RI ’14 has published The Painter’s Touch: Boucher, Chardin, Fragonard (Princeton University Press, 2018), in which she reinterprets the development of modernity in 18th-century French works of art. Lajer-Burcharthy, who is the William Dorr Boardman Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, also recently coedited, with Elizabeth M. Rudy, Drawing: The Invention of a Modern Medium (Harvard Art Museums, 2017), which accompanied a Harvard Art Museum exhibition of the same name.

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran ’94, an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh, has published The Shale Dilemma: A Global Perspective on Fracking and Shale Development (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018). The comparative study explains how countries have chosen to make very different trade-offs in the debates surrounding energy security, economic development, climate change, and local participation in shale gas decision making. It also recommends practical steps to help countries reach better, more transparent, and more farsighted decisions.

All About Madam C. J. Walker (Blue River Press, 2018), a book for young readers about the first self-made woman millionaire, is the latest by A’lelia Bundles ’74, Walker’s great-great-granddaughter. “Impressively informative and especially

Poet to Lead Mellon Foundation

Elizabeth Alexander RI ’08 has been named president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a post she took in March. A poet and scholar, Alexander previously developed or led such institutions as the Poetry Center at Smith College, the Department of African American Studies at Yale University, the poetry nonprofit Cave Canem Foundation, and the Ford Foundation’s grant-making programs in arts, media, and culture.

Alexander has also written a new introduction for Pauli Murray’s Dark Testament and Other Poems (Liveright, 2018), out in paperback in September. In 2009, she composed and delivered “Praise Song for the Day” at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Alexander is the author of The Light of the World: A Memoir (Grand Central Publishing, 2015), which was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critics Circle Award.
well written for young readers ages 9 to 13,” said the Midwest Book Review.

A new book by Vicki Druss Goetz ’77, Searching for God in the Garbage (W. B. Publishers Inc., 2017), under her nom de plume Bracha Goetz, is a candid memoir about joyfully overcoming food addictions.

The book on which Héctor Carrillo RI ’13 worked during his fellowship has been published. Pathways of Desire: The Sexual Migration of Mexican Gay Men (University of Chicago Press, 2017) is an ethnographic study of gay men who have left Mexico in pursuit of greater sexual freedom in the United States. Carrillo based the book on 12,000 pages of interview transcripts and field notes.


Out in November, the latest book from Elizabeth D. Samet ’91, a professor of English at the United States Military Academy, is The Annotated Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant (Liveright, 2018), which she edited and for which she wrote a new introduction.

On Stage and Screen
The New York–based artist collective the cell awarded the playwright Honor Molloy RI ’03 a monthlong residency to develop a new play, The Round Room. She presented it on April 30.

Lav Diaz RI ’17 came to Radcliffe with plans to write film noir. He left with a Pinoy rock opera. His latest film, Ang Panahon ng Halimaw (Season of the Devil), is a 33-song musical, much of which he wrote during his fellowship year. He showed the film, shot in Malaysia, at the 2018 Berlinale. “Diaz remains emphatically his own artist, whether to exhilarating or punishing effect,” said a Variety review. “Don’t give in to the masses’ sensibilities! Warns one of his typically catchy lyrics, and you can’t say he doesn’t practice what he preaches.”

Kavery Kaul ’73 has directed and produced a documentary feature, Cuban Canvas. The film—which had its first screening at the festival Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, DC—follows five visual artists living and working in Havana.

Literature to Life/Young Audiences
New York adapted for the stage The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, the Pulitzer Prize–winning novel by Junot Díaz RI ’04. Elvis Nolasco starred in the Book-It Repertory Theatre production, in which he played more than 20 characters. “It’s not just good. It’s HOLY [EXPLETIVE] good,” said a re-
always remain skeptical of the crowd in our post-authentic condition,” said a review in *Art in America*.

**Grace Notes**

This spring, the American Academy of Arts and Letters announced its 2018 music award winners. Among them was John Aylward RI ’12, who received the Walter Hinrichsen Award in Music, given for the publication of a work by a gifted composer.

Camilo Mendez RI ’18 was chosen as one of two winners of ICEBERG New Music’s 2017–2018 Call for Scores for his work *Cartography of Confined Spaces*, which was then performed by Yarn/Wire in New York. ICEBERG New Music is a collective of 10 composers who organize concerts that promote new music. Mendez’s work was selected from more than 100 submissions. “It is great to be recognized by fellow composers,” he said of the honor.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic—called “America’s leading orchestra” by Alex Ross ’90, the *New Yorker*’s music critic—announced that it had commissioned 50 new works for 2018–2019, its 100th season. Among these premieres are pieces by Paul Desenne RI ’11, Michelle Lou RI ’14, and Steven Takasugi RI ’16.

The collection of monologues *HEAR WORD! Naija Woman Talk True*—which was staged at the American Repertory Theater earlier in the year—was brought by its creator, Ifeoma Fafunwa, to a UN-organized event on International Women’s Day.

**Public Life**

Oprah Winfrey recognized the storytelling gifts of Tayari Jones RI ’12 by selecting *An American Marriage: A Novel* (Algonquin Books, 2018) for Oprah’s Book Club earlier this year. (See a review on page 33.)

The poet Jana Prikryl RI ’18 read at the award-winning Blacksmith House Poetry Series on the last day of April, National Poetry Month. Gail Mazur RI ’97, RI ’09 is the founding director of the series.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie RI ’12 returned to Cambridge during Commencement as Harvard’s Class Day speaker. “Her eloquence and perspective as a writer and public speaker have inspired audiences to look beyond stereotypes and social norms to recognize our common humanity,” said Berkeley Brown ’18, cochair of the speaker selection committee, of the celebrated author.

This spring, Ifeoma Fafunwa RI ’18 appeared in a United Nations International Women’s Day program titled “Unity in Diversity: An Evening of Art and Hope with Nigerian Women.” The event was organized by UN Women, the UN Population Fund, and the Nigerian Mission to the UN, with other partners.
QUICK STUDY

SHARON MARCUS

Inspired by Celebrity, Pure Beauty—and a Cat

Sharon Marcus, the Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University and cofounder of the online magazine Public Books, specializes in 19th-century British and French culture. At Radcliffe, where she was the 2017–2018 Elizabeth S. and Richard M. Cashin Fellow, Marcus completed a book that argues that modern celebrity is the result of dramatically unpredictable interactions among the public, the media, and celebrities themselves.

Who are your heroes? Artists, especially singers and dancers, who make the difficult seem easy: Ella Fitzgerald, Margot Fonteyn, Fred Astaire.

Best personality trait? Tenacity.

Who is your muse? I recently read that John Milton, while writing his epic poem Paradise Lost, was visited every night by an angel named Urania who dictated the next day’s lines to him. But my muse is my cat.

Tell us your favorite memory. When I was about six years old, my father went for a walk after a big snowstorm and came home with a gorgeous branch of red berries encased in ice. We kept it in the freezer for months. It was my first experience of pure beauty.

Describe yourself in six words or fewer. I really like to eat.

What is your most treasured possession? I’m not that attached to my possessions, but if my house were on fire, after saving living beings, I’d make sure to rescue my passport and my backup drive.

What inspires you? Every oppressed person who has ever spoken out against injustice.

Name a pet peeve. Being asked to name only one pet peeve—I have so many!

Were your life to become a motion picture, who would portray you? A casting agent once told me she saw me as Rhea Perlman’s younger sister. But for my dream biopic: Lea Michele for the younger me, Anjelica Huston for the older me.

Where in the world would you like to spend a month? Australia, New Zealand, Japan.

What is your greatest triumph so far? Teaching myself to swim.

Whose tunes do you enjoy? Tune-Yards, Joanna Newsom, Fiona Apple, Katy Perry, Adele, Beck, Prince, Joni Mitchell, Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, Mozart operas, and anything sung by Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Aretha Franklin, or Nina Simone.

What is your fantasy career? Being a literature professor.

How do you define celebrity? Anyone known to more people than can possibly know one another.

What would most people be surprised to find out about the origins of modern celebrity culture? Almost everything you think the Internet or Hollywood invented existed in the 19th century: celebrity chefs, interactive communications with fans, star-studded benefit concerts to help victims of diseases and natural disasters. Things move farther faster now, but little about today’s celebrity culture is genuinely new.

During your fellowship talk, you asked audience members to help with your research by answering questions about celebrity. What did you learn from their answers? I learned that audience members at Radcliffe talks are a remarkably diverse group. I asked people to name five figures who come to mind as celebrities, and the answers ranged from orchestra conductors to scientists to politicians to pop singers. But when I did a Reddit Ask Me Anything on celebrity a few years ago, in a setting where the site’s users see everyone’s questions and comments, the participants quickly converged around very negative views of celebrities.

The answers to this questionnaire have been edited for space. See the unabridged version—and video of Marcus’s fellow’s presentation—on our website.
75 Stories, 75 Years

RADCLIFFE’S VIRTUAL EXHIBITION PROVIDES A RARE GLIMPSE INTO WOMEN’S HISTORY

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Schlesinger Library organized an exhibition of documents and objects that evoke the depth and breadth of the Library’s holdings. Using items in the collections, 75 Stories, 75 Years: Documenting the Lives of American Women at the Schlesinger Library illuminates not only women’s lives through the ages, but also the history of the Library itself—through stories that are harrowing, heartbreaking, pathbreaking, brave.

On view at the Schlesinger Library through October 2018, 75 Stories, 75 Years is the first exhibition at Radcliffe that is also available online:

http://schlesinger75radcliffe.org
João Alves Physics and Astronomy/Astrophysics; Robin Bernstein American Studies; Lucas Bessire Anthropology; Sara Bleich Biology and Medical Sciences; Ciprian S. Borcea Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Katie Bugis Multidisciplinary; andré m. carrington Literature; Stephanie DeGooyer Literature; Hernan del Valle Nonfiction; Marine A. Denolle Earth and Planetary Sciences; Lisa Diller Biology and Medical Sciences; Moon Duchin Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Cora Dvorkin Physics and Astronomy/Astrophysics; Cynthia Dwork Computer Science; Betül Ekşi Sociology; Corinne T. Field Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Tanisha C. Ford African American Studies; Eve Fowler Visual Arts; John Kuumuori Ganle Biology and Medical Sciences; Ja’Tovia Gary Film and Video; Marta Gentilucci Music; Malick W. Ghachem History; Francisco Goldman Fiction; Kaitlyn Greenidge Fiction; Lauren Groff Fiction;