

FINN GARDINER

617.386.6980 • FGARDINER@BRANDEIS.EDU
EXPECTEDLY.ORG • [LINKEDIN.COM/IN/EXPECTEDLY/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/expectedly/)

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Master of Public Policy with eight years of nonprofit and academic experience in community advocacy for people with disabilities and LGBTQ people. Policy research, analysis, and advocacy. Group facilitation and community organizing. Participatory action research. Professional training on disability and LGBTQ rights, advocacy, and inclusion. Knowledge translation for lay audiences. Research and professional interests include comparative disability policy, education advocacy, inclusive technology, identity formation, and the intersections between disability, race, gender, sexuality, and other statuses.

EDUCATION

HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

- Master of Public Policy, 2018. Concentration in Children, Youth, and Families
 - **Relevant Coursework** Applied Econometrics, Research Methods, Applied Regression Analysis, Social Policy Analysis, Child and Family Policy: US and Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Contemporary Issues in Child, Youth, and Family Policy, Policy Implementation, National Data Sets, Sociological Inquiry, Political Economy and the American Welfare State
 - **Capstone Project** *Fostering Brilliance: Towards a Systematic Gifted and Talented Education Policy in Massachusetts*

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 2014.

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

- Associate of Arts in LGBT Studies and Associate of Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2012. Received Jack Collins LGBT Studies Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LURIE INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY POLICY, THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

January 2017 - present • *Communications Coordinator/Research Assistant*

- Synthesize and conduct secondary policy research on parents with multiple kinds of disabilities to create policy briefs and one-pagers for a variety of audiences, including policymakers, disability self-advocates, and disability professionals. Work with the principal investigators and other NCPD staff members to identify new topics to cover in briefs
- Devise strategies for dissemination of NCPD materials to other disability rights and research organizations
- Update and maintain a Lurie-run website containing research and resources for and about parents with disabilities
- Create, edit, and review website and social media content for publication
- Develop educational materials for fellow staff members to create high-quality social media content

AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

June 2017 – present • Regional Policy Analyst

- Conduct and aggregate secondary policy research to create policy briefs and white papers on topics relevant to disability advocates and researchers, including state and federal telehealth policy and transition services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Translate more technical briefs into easy-read or plain-language format to promote accessibility
- Connect with the broader Boston disability community through participation in disability-centric advisory committees, educational panels, lectures, and legislative briefings regarding policy, leadership, and social factors
- Mobilize Boston-based disability advocates by furthering public-policy strategy and advocacy for a view of disability activism that includes its intersection with other forms of oppression
- Prepare legislative testimony and meet policymakers to advocate for disability rights statewide

January 2015 – June 2017 • Boston Community Coordinator, Citizen's Jury Participatory Action Research Project

- Collaborated with a team of researchers from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Human Services Research Institute on a participatory action research project that aimed to gauge attitudes towards the creation of an integrated autism database in Massachusetts in order to address concerns and deliver recommendations to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Constructed, edited, and reviewed questions for a survey used to measure attitudes about autism databases and to serve as a recruitment tool for the Citizen's Jury
- Co-facilitated the Citizen's Jury event, in which interested stakeholders gathered to listen to experts on autism policy and disability databases to help create recommendations for state policymakers
- Performed event planning and project management, including identifying and securing an event venue and performing outreach for the event by contacting local organizations and individuals
- Wrote a final report, collaborated on a manuscript, and designed infographics about the Citizen's Jury process, synthesizing information from notes made during the event, survey data, and other information gathered during the project

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION / MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK

July 2015 – July 2016 • 2015–2016 Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellow

- Implemented and managed a mentoring program from the ground up for seven adults on the autism spectrum with a focus on employment, postsecondary education, government services, and other life skills, including a training curriculum, resource guide, and educational workshops to help participants work towards their goals
- Recruited participants via a multi-pronged strategy involving in-person outreach, networking with service providers and other nonprofits, and social media
- Developed a community resource guide for adults on the autism spectrum, their families, and service providers

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

June 2013 – May 2014 • Program Assistant Intern, DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness

- Advocated for disability accessibility in course design
- Made training videos accessible by supplying ADA-compliant captioning for training videos
- Aided in emergency preparedness knowledge translation via infographics and other visual media

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

February 2010 – May 2012 • Peer Educator, Gender Diversity Project

- Coordinated awareness events and sensitivity trainings for up to 60 people about transgender, gender-variant, and genderqueer identity within the academic environment

- Created, compiled, and distributed educational materials for faculty, staff, and students to increase awareness of LGBT student needs, and to find campus-wide and community resources

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND LECTURES

- “Designing for a Neurodiverse World,” Panelist, MIT Communications Forum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, March 2018.
- “Disabilities and Police Use of Force.” Panelist, Ruderman Inclusion Summit, Boston, MA, November 2017
- “A Citizen’s Jury to Develop Priorities in Autism Data Collection.” Co-Presenter, Early Career Professionals Session, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference, Hartford, CT, June 2017
- “Autism Info Matters: Data Collection, Participatory Action Research, and the Autistic Community.” Presenter, Association for Autistic Community Conference, Waynesboro, PA, September 2016
- Panelist, LGBTQ Disability Day, The White House, Washington, DC, June 2016
- “Health Care Experiences of Autistic Adults.” Panelist, Autistic Adults and the CRPD, United Nations, New York, NY, June 2016
- “Autism and Employment.” Co-Presenter, APSE-Massachusetts Conference, Worcester, MA, May 2016
- “Best Kept Secret.” Panelist, Deis Impact, Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, February 2016
- “#autisticpoc lives Matter: Racial Profiling, Institutional Discrimination, and Autism.” Panelist, Autism National Committee Conference, Manchester, NH, September 2015
- Guest Speaker/Panelist, A Brief Introduction to Disability Studies Class, MIT HSSP, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, August 2015
- “A Citizen’s Jury to Develop Priorities in Autism Data Collection.” Co-Presenter, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference, Louisville, KY, June 2015

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND POSTERS

- “A Letter to People at the Intersection of Autism and Race.” *All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism*, 2017 (anthology chapter)
- “Medicaid Block Granting Is Going to Kill Us,” *NOS Magazine*, March 2017 (article)
- “Charles Kinsey’s story is about race. It’s also about ableism” (with Lydia Brown and Manuel Díaz). *Sojourners Magazine*, July 2016 (article)
- “A Citizen’s Jury to Develop Priorities in Autism Data Collection” (with Alexandra Bonardi). American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference, Atlanta, GA, June 2016 (academic poster)
- “Rejecting the Politics of Shame.” *Thinking Person’s Guide to Autism*, April 2016 (article)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Editorial Board Member, *Autism in Adulthood* Journal, 2017-present
- Board Member, Human Services Research Institute, 2016-present
- Commissioner, Somerville Commission for People with Disabilities, 2016-present
- Massachusetts Attorney General’s Disability Advisory Committee, 2015-present

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

- **OPERATING SYSTEMS.** MacOS, Windows, Ubuntu Linux
- **OFFICE SOFTWARE.** Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Pages, Keynote, Outlook
- **DATA ANALYSIS.** Stata, Google Analytics
- **ELEARNING.** Articulate Studio, Moodle, Camtasia Studio
- **LANGUAGES.** Reading knowledge of French, Spanish, and German
- **DESIGN AND WEB.** Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat, Coda; HTML, CSS