

*“Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done.”*  
*“Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases.”*

Louis Brandeis

February 12, 2015

Provost Lisa Lynch, President Fred Lawrence, and members of the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University:

Scientists are showing us that the climate crisis is threatening life on Earth as we know it, and that it demands immediate and transformative actions by individuals, governments, businesses, and organizations. As highly respected institutions of knowledge production and transmission, universities are perfectly positioned to lead the way. As a world-class academic institution of scientific and economic research and as a champion for social justice Brandeis University is called upon to act.

The extent and urgency of the crisis has become clearer with the release of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report,<sup>1</sup> which outlines the ongoing effects and future threats of climate change, including: scarcity of food and fresh water; extreme weather events; ocean acidification; sea level rise; loss of biodiversity; areas becoming uninhabitable; and mass human migration, conflict and violence. In response, the American Association for the Advancement of Science has issued this dire warning: “the wellbeing of people of all nations [is] at risk.”<sup>2</sup>

Brandeis is a highly regarded partner in the global health community. As our colleagues at Harvard wrote in April of 2014: “The World Health Organization estimated in 2005 that climate change caused some 150,000 deaths worldwide each year. The heads of the American College of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians of London in 2009 joined leaders of medical colleges from 12 other countries in calling climate change ‘the biggest global health threat of the 21st century.’”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, IPCC WGII AR5 Summary Statement for Policymakers,

[http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC\\_WG2AR5\\_SPM\\_Approved.pdf](http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SPM_Approved.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *What We Know* (2014), AAAS, <http://whatweknow.aaas.org/get-the-facts/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.harvardfacultydivest.com/open-letter-new>.

The billions of dollars in pledges demanded by poor countries in the Southern hemisphere to prepare for climate change mitigation make unequivocally clear that climate change is already a global social justice crisis. Brandeis has been training leaders in sustainable international development for many years. Our graduates are fighting around the world at the forefront of the battle for climate justice. We therefore ask our administration and the Board of Trustees to join us in taking bold action to support them and protect the integrity of our mission.

Fossil fuel companies are spending millions of dollars on attacking and undermining scientists and their discoveries. Because the science behind climate change, though extremely complex, is also clear: Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas are responsible for increasing the average temperature on the planet. 2014 was yet again the hottest year on record. Only if two thirds of the existing fossil fuel resources remain in the ground do we have a chance to prevent catastrophic, irreversible tipping points. Our work in the name of “Truth Even Unto its Innermost Parts” vehemently rejects the systematic dissemination of misinformation. Brandeis must take a stand in support of science and scientists everywhere.

Fossil fuel interests will not stop their unrelenting drive to burn their fuel stocks. We must find strategies to induce them to stop obstructing alternatives. As one step in this effort, the undersigned faculty members, together with the Brandeis Climate Justice student organization, urge those in charge of the endowment to remove all financial investments from fossil fuel interests. In signing this petition we join hundreds of distinguished faculty colleagues at Harvard University, Stanford University, Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and many others around the world. 229 members of Harvard University’s faculty signed on to the letter to president Drew Faust, originally published in April 2014, in which they write: “Our University invests in the fossil fuel industry: this is for us the central issue. We now know that fossil fuels cause climate change of unprecedented destructive potential. We also know that many in this industry spend large sums of money to mislead the public, deny climate science, control legislation and regulation, and suppress alternative energy sources.”<sup>4</sup> We agree. 300 members of the faculty at Stanford University wrote in January 2015: “to remain invested in oil and gas companies presents us with a paradox: if a university seeks to educate extraordinary youth so they may achieve the brightest possible future, what does it mean for that university simultaneously to invest in the destruction of that future?”<sup>5</sup> We agree. Collective action can make a difference. If enough institutions divest, this will put political pressure, if not economic pressure, on companies to change their business model.

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.harvardfacultydivest.com/open-letter-new>.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/interactive/2015/jan/11/stanford-fossil-fuel-divestment-letter>)

There is ample evidence to suggest that careful divestment from fossil fuels will result in no significant financial hardships for institutions.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, since the true costs of greenhouse gas emissions are currently not taken into account in determining fossil fuel companies' stock prices, investing in them is becoming increasingly risky. This phenomenon is known as the 'carbon bubble'.<sup>4</sup> There is a long history of responsible investors who redirected investments away from socially unacceptable enterprises, and Brandeis has taken action before to disengage financially from reprehensible activities (i.e., divesting from Apartheid South Africa).<sup>5</sup>

In addition to doing everything we can to promote climate-friendly alternatives and eco-intelligence right here on our campus, we must stop profiting from fossil fuel extraction and invest our endowment in sustainable alternatives instead.

We ask you to join us in this very urgent effort.

#### Faculty Against the Climate Threat (FACT)

#### SIGNED

#	Date	Name	Title	Department/School
1.	1/25/15	Sabine von Mering	Prof.of German and WGS	GRALL/WGS/CGES
2.	1/26/15	Judith Herzfeld	Prof. of Biophysical Chemistry	Chemistry
3.	1/26/15	Ellen Wright	Assistant Prof of Psychology	Psychology
4.	1/26/15	Malcolm Watson	Prof. of Psychology	Psychology
5.	1/26/15	Neil Simister	Assoc.Prof. Biology	Biology
6.	1/26/15	Paul Miller	Assoc. Prof. of Biology	Biology
7.	1/26/15	Leslie Zebrowitz	Professor of Psychology	Psychology
8.	1/26/15	Lawrence Wangh	Professor of Biology	Biology
9.	1/26/15	Mark Adler	Professor of Mathematics	Math
10.	1/26/15	Rachel Woodruff	Lecturer in Biology	Biology
11.	1/26/15	Jim Bensinger	Prof. of Physics	Physics
12.	1/26/15	Matthew Fraleigh	Assoc. Prof. of E. Asian Lit. and Culture	GRALL/COML/EAS
13.	1/26/15	James Mandrell	Assoc.Prof. of Hispanic Studies,COML	ROMS
14.	1/26/15	Sophia Malamud	Assoc.Prof. of Language and Linguistics	Computer Science
15.	1/26/15	Maria Miara	Lecturer in Biology	Biology
16.	1/26/15	Timothy Hickey	Prof. of Computer Science	Computer Science
17.	1/26/15	Paul Monsky	Prof. of Mathematics	Mathematics
18.	1/26/15	Matthew Headrick	Assistant Prof. of Physics	Physics

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<sup>6</sup> For example, see: Patrick Geddes (Chief Financial Officer, Aperio Group), *Do the Investment Math: Building a Carbon-Free Portfolio* (2013).  
[aperiogroup.com/system/files/documents/building\\_a\\_carbon\\_free\\_portfolio.pdf](http://aperiogroup.com/system/files/documents/building_a_carbon_free_portfolio.pdf).

19.	1/26/15	David Buchsbaum	Prof. of Mathematics (Emeritus)	Mathematics
20.	1/26/15	Sarah Lamb	Prof. of Anthropology	Anth, WGS, SAS, HSSP, PRS
21.	1/26/15	Anita Hannig	Assistant Prof. of Anthro	Anth, HSSP, WGS
22.	1/26/15	Elizabeth Ferry	Prof. of Anthropology	Anth, LALS, WGS
23.	1/26/15	Donald Hindley	Professor of Politics	Pol, EAS, LALS
24.	1/26/15	Mary Baine Campbell	Professor of English	COML, WGSS, MVL
25.	1/26/15	Gordon Fellman	Prof. of Sociology	Soc, PAX, IMES
26.	1/26/15	Ann O. Koloski-Ostrow	Prof. of Classical Studies	CLAS, ANTH, FA, ITAL, WGS
27.	1/27/15	Jane A. Hale	Assoc. Prof. Emer.French. & COML	ROMS
28.	1/27/15	Peter Conrad	Professor of Sociology	Sociology, HSSP
29.	1/27/15	Ana Villalobos	Asst. Prof of Sociology	Sociology
30.	1/27/15	William Flesch	Professor of English	English
31.	1/27/15	Laura Quinney	Professor of English	English
32.	1/27/15	Patrick Gamsby	Lecturer in Philosophy	Philosophy/HOID
33.	1/27/15	Gary Jefferson	Professor of Economics	Economics/IBS/EAS
34.	1/27/15	Mark Hulliung	Professor of History	History
35.	1/27/15	Jody Hoffer Gittel	Professor	Heller School
36.	1/27/15	Nader Habibi	Prof. of the Economics of the Middle East	Economics, IBS
37.	1/27/15	Janet McIntosh	Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology	Anth
38.	1/27/15	James Lackner	Professor of Physiology	Psychology/Volen Ctr
39.	1/27/15	Marya Lowry	Assoc. Prof of Theater	Creative Arts/Theater
40.	1/27/15	Christopher Frost	Lecturer in Fine Arts	Dept. of Fine Arts
41.	1/27/15	Sue Lanser	Professor of Comp Lit, English, WGS	Humanities
42.	1/27/15	Caren Irr	Professor of English	ENG, ENVS, FTIM
43.	1/27/15	Paul Morrison	Professor of English	Humanities
44.	1/27/15	Leonard Muellner	Professor of Classical Studies	Classics/Humanities
45.	1/27/15	Brian Donahue	Assoc. Prof. Am. Environmental Studies	ENVS, AMST
46.	1/27/15	Jennifer Gutsell	Asst. Professor	Psychology/ Volen
47.	1/27/15	Carmen Sirianni	Professor of Sociology and Public Policy	Sociology, Heller
48.	1/27/15	Nina Kammerer	Senior Lecturer	Heller
49.	1/27/15	Dawn Skorczewski	Professor of English	English
50.	1/27/15	Laura Miller	Assoc. Professor of Sociology	Sociology
51.	1/27/15	David Cunningham	Prof. of Sociology & Social Policy	SOC/SJSP
52.	1/28/14	Erica Harth	Prof. Emerita	ROMS
53.	1/27/15	Talinn Grigor	Assoc. Prof. of Fine Arts	FA
54.	1/27/15	Elizabeth Merrick	Senior Scientist and Lecturer	Heller
55.	1/27/15	Thomas A. King	Assoc. Prof. of English & WGS	ENG, WGS, SQS, CAST
56.	1/27/15	Jonathan Anjaria	Asst. Professor of Anthropology	Anth
57.	1/27/15	Yukimi Nakano	Lecturer in Japanese	GRALL
58.	1/28/15	Dian Fox	Prof.,Hispanic Studies and WGS	ROMS, WGS
59.	1/28/15	Melissa Stimell	Professor of the Practice	Legal Studies
60.	1/28/15	Daniel Kryder	Assoc. Professor	Politics
61.	1/28/15	Charles C. Chester	Lecturer	Environmental Studies
62.	1/28/15	David Sherman	Assistant Professor	English
63.	1/28/15	Karen Klein	Assoc. Prof Emerita	English & Humanities
64.	1/28/15	Irina Dubinina	Assoc. Professor of Russian	GRALL
65.	1/29/15	Harleen Singh	Associate Professor	GRALL, WGS, SAS
66.	1/29/15	Hisae Fujiwara	Assistant Professor of JAPAN	GRALL

67. 1/29/15	Tory Fair	Associate Professor	Fine Arts
68. 1/30/15	Tatjana Meschede	Scientist/Senior Lecturer	Heller
69. 1/30/15	Dominic Hodgkin	Professor	Heller
70. 1/30/15	Seth Coluzzi	Assistant Professor	Music
71. 1/31/15	Raymond Knight	Professor	Psychology
72. 2/1/15	Ellen Kellman	Assistant Professor	NEJS
73. 2/5/15	Stephen Whitfield	Professor	American Studies
74. 2/5/15	Faith Smith	Assoc Professor	AAAS,ENG,LALS,WGS
75. 2/5/15	Dmitry Kleinbock	Professor	Mathematics
76. 2/5/15	Joseph Assan	Assist. Prof.Political Economy of Sustainable Development	
	Heller		
77. 2/5/15	Janet Boguslaw	Senior Scientist and Lecturer	Heller
78. 2/6/15	Peter Kalb	Assoc Professor	Fine Arts
79. 2/6/15	Sandra Venner	Fellow	Heller
80. 2/6/15	Larry Bailis	Associate Professor	Heller
81. 2/6/15	Aida Yuen Wong	Associate Professor	Fine Arts/EAS/GRALL
82. 2/6/15	Karen V. Hansen	Professor	Sociology & WGS
83. 2/6/15	Gannit Ankori	Professor of Fine Art	Fine Arts
84. 2/6/15	David Powelstock	Assoc. Prof.	GRALL
85. 2/6/15	Lawrence Simon	Professor of International Development	Heller School
86. 2/7/15	Bernadette Brooten	Professor	NEJS/WGS/PRS/CLAS
87. 2/7/15	Daniel Stepner	Professor of the Practice	Music Dept.
88. 2/7/15	Stephen Dowden	Professor of German	GRALL/COML
89. 2/7/15	Mike Coiner	Associate Professor	Economics
90. 2/7/15	John Plotz	Professor	English
91.2/7/15	Gina Turrigiano	Professor	Biology/Neuroscience
92. 2/7/15	Ira Gessel	Professor	Mathematics
93. 2/2/15	Michael Hagan	Associate Professor	Physics
94. 2/7/15	Sacha Nelson	Professor	Biology/Neuroscience
95. 2/7/15	Albion Lawrence	Associate Professor	Physics
96. 2/7/15	Tsipis Judith	Professor	Biology
97. 2/7/15	Ari Ofengenden	Assistant Professor	NEJS
98. 2/7/15	Azadeh Samadani	Assistant Professor	Physics
99. 2/7/15	Xiaodong Liu	Assistant Professor	Psychology
100. 2/7/15	Daniel Bergstresser	Associate Professor	IBS
101. 2/7/15	James Morris	Associate Professor	Biology
102. 2/7/15	Lotus Goldberg	Associate Professor, Lang & Linguistics	Computer Science
103. 2/8/15	David H. Roberts	Professor of Astrophysics	Physics
104. 2/8/15	Laura Goldin	Professor of the Practice	Environmental Studies
105. 2/8/15	Joe Cunningham	Professor	Psychology
106. 2/8/15	Olivier Bernardi	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
107. 2/8/15	Eugene Sheppard	Associate Professor	NEJS
108. 2/8/15	Silvia Arrom	Professor Emeritus	Hist/Latin Amer. Studies
109. 2/9/15	Melissa Kosinski-Collins	Associate Professor	Biology
110. 2/9/15	Greg Childs	Assistant Professor	History
111. 2/9/15	Kanan Makiya	Professor	NEJS/Crown
112. 2/9/15	Marion Howard	Assoc. Professor of the Practice	Heller
113. 2/9/15	Alain Lempereur	Professor	Heller

114. 2/9/15	Joshua Ellsworth	Lecturer	Heller
115. 2/9/15	Fernando J. Rosenberg	Associate Professor	ROMS
116. 2/9/15	Jonathan Unglaub	Associate Professor	FA
117. 2/9/15	Douglas Theobald	Associate Professor	Biochemistry
118. 2/9/15	Martine Voiret	Senior Lecturer.	ROMS
119. 2/9/15	Ellen Smith	Assoc. Professor & Dir.,	Hornstein Program
120. 2/9/15	Joseph M. Wardwell	Assoc. Professor & Dir.	Fine Arts
121. 2/9/15	Marya R. Levenson	Professor of the Practice	Education
122. 2/9/25	Kelley Ready	Senior Lecturer	Heller/SID
123. 2/10/15	Mari Fitzduff	Professor	Heller/Coex
124. 2/10/15	Susan Holcombe	Professor Emerita of the Practice	Heller School
125. 2/10/15	Stan Wallack	Professor; Exec. Dir. Schneider Inst.	Heller School
126. 2/10/15	Gregory Freeze	Professor	History Dept.
127. 2/10/15	ChaeRan Freeze	Associate Professor	NEJS
128. 2/10/15	Cheryl L Walker	Associate Professor	Classical Studies
129. 2/11/15	Sarah Mead	Professor of the Practice	Music
130. 2/11/15	Jennifer Cleary	Senior Lecturer	Theater Arts
131. 2/13/15	Richard Gaskins	Professor	AMST, LGLS
132. 2/13/15	Wendy Cadge	Professor	Sociology & WGS
133. 2/14/15	Raj Sampath	Assistant Professor	Heller School
134. 2/16/15	John Wardle	Professor	Physics
135. 2/15/17	Hermann Wellenstein	Associate Professor	Physics
136. 2/22/15	Joyce Antler	Professor	American Studies
137. 3/14/15	Leonard Saxe	Professor	Hornstein/Heller
138. 3/16/15	Govind Sreenivasan	Associate Professor	History Dept.
139. 3/17/15	Rebecca Torrey	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
140. 3/17/15	Timothy Street	Assistant Professor	Biochemistry
141. 3/31/15	Marc Weinberg	Adjunct Assistant Professor	English
142. 3/31/15	John Lisman	Professor	Biology
143. 3/31/15	Ramie Targoff	Professor	English/MCH
144. 3/31/15	Berislav Marusic	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
145. 4/1/15	James Haber	Professor	Biology
146. 4/17/15	Mihaela Papa	Adjunct Lecturer	Heller School
147. 4/21/15	Abigail Cooper	Assistant Professor	History/AAAS
148. 4/22/15	Elif Sisli Ciamarra	Assistant Professor	IBS
149. 7/11/15	Stanley Deser	Professor emeritus	Physics
150. 4/26/16	Eric Olson	Senior Lecturer	Heller



