RETHINKING HUMAN RIGHTS
Rethinking Human Rights symposium records, 1981-1984

Emory University
Emory University Archives
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Rethinking Human Rights symposium records, 1981-1984
Call Number: Series No. 59
Extent: 5.5 linear ft. (9 boxes)
Abstract: Records contain materials related to scholarly and cultural events held on the campus of Emory University around the theme of human rights during the 1982-1983 academic year. Culminating in a major symposium, Rethinking Human Rights, and a series of essays in Daedelus, the journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the events engaged divergent academic disciplines. Materials include not only lecture transcripts from the year’s numerous visiting scholars, but also grant proposals, committee minutes, memoranda and other planning documents, and correspondence.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restriction apply: Researchers must contact MARBL in advance to access audiovisual materials in this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Source
Transfer

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Citation
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Processing
Processed by Sean Suarez, 2014.

Collection Description

Administrative History
In September 1981 a faculty-led committee convened at Emory to plan The Human Rights Year, a year-long series of events to focus on human rights issues. For nearly three years after, David S. Pacini, then Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, and Ellen Mickiewicz, then Dean of Emory’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences co-directed the planning, execution, and conclusions of the “Rethinking Human Rights” project. Among the inaugural events for the year of inquiry and celebration was an address by President Jimmy Carter, delivered at Emory on September 15, 1982. In addition to speeches and lectures, activities included film screenings, art exhibitions, and concerts of both classical and contemporary music. Dignitaries like Kim Dae Jung (later President of South Korea) and poet Czeslaw Milocz visited campus in the spring. The year culminated in the Human Rights Symposium of April 10-17, 1983. Symposium attendees included theologian David Tracy, philosophers Dieter Heinrich and Leszek Kolakowski, economists Gaston Rimlinger and Mancur Olson, legal scholars Drew S. Days and Thomas Farer, historians Merle Goldman and Stanley Hoffman, and political scientist John Ruggie. After the symposium, Mickiewicz and Pacini worked through the next academic year alongside Daedelus editor Stephen Graubard to compile a journal issue based on the themes of the symposium and the papers presented there. In 1984, the special human rights issue of Daedelus was published.

Scope and Content Note
Collection consists of materials related to the Rethinking Human Rights project at Emory University from 1981-1984. Records include lecture transcripts, administrative and other correspondence, intra-University memoranda, committee minutes, grant proposals, event publicity, reports, and some academic resources related to the topic of human rights. Also includes video recordings of some lectures and panels from the Rethinking Human Rights events.

Arrangement Note
Organized in two series: (1) Subject files and (2) Audiovisual. Subject files are arranged alphabetically by subject. Files labeled with personal names include correspondence with, and writings authored by, the person named.
Description of Series

Series 1: Subject files, 1981-1984
Series 2: Audiovisual, 1983-1984
### Series 1
**Subject files, 1981-1984**
**Boxes 1-7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Affirmative Action Panel—Correspondence, 1983 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&quot;Affirmed and Denied&quot; Film Festival, 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>African Orthodox Church campaign for Spiritual Freedom, 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arts and Exhibits Committee Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arts and Exhibits Committee Proposals, 1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Black World People Colloquium, 1983</td>
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<td>Blumenthal, David—&quot;Not Egalité, But Fraternité,&quot; undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Butts, June Dobbs, 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
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<td>Cahill, Lisa, 1983-1983</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Callanwolde Dance Troupe, 1983</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Carter, Jimmy—&quot;Human Rights: Dilemmas and Directions,&quot; 1982</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nico Castell Concert, 1983</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>City of Atlanta Proclamation of Human Rights Week, 1983</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole Minutes, 1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Community Outreach, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Compendium of Readings on Human Rights, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Compiled Materials: Status Updates, Proposals, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Compiled Materials: Reports, Proposals, Grant Requests, 1982</td>
</tr>
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<td>Compiled Materials: Human Rights Year Proposals, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Coordinating Committee Minutes, 1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Coordinating Committee Packet, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Correspondence—Committees, 1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Correspondence—General Incoming, 1982-1983</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Correspondence—General Incoming, 1983-1984</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence—General Outgoing, 1982-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Courses on Human Rights, 1983</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td><em>Daedelus</em>—Announcements, Proposals, Fall 1983 Issue, 1982-1983</td>
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<td>Days, Drew S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Deutsch, Karl W.—&quot;From the National Welfare State to the International Welfare system,&quot; 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Development, 1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Evaluation Committee, 1983 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Evaluation Reports, 1983 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rethinking Human Rights symposium records, 1981-1984  
Series No. 59

3 6  Farer, Thomas
3 7  Flinn—"Human Rights in the Labor Market: The Historical Perspective"
3 8  Ford Foundation Notes on Meetings, 1982
3 9  Ford Foundation Proposals and Responses, 1982-1983
3 10  Fraser, Arvonne—Correspondence, 1982-1983
3 11  Fraser, Arvonne—"Women—s Rights: Competing Demands in the Developing World"
3 12  Gedda, Nikolai
3 13  Genovese, Eugene—"Human Rights: The View from Slave Society"
3 14  Georgia Endowment for the Humanities—Project Proposals, Correspondence, 1982
3 15  Georgia Endowment for the Humanities Final Report (GEH 81-043), 1983
3 16  Georgia Endowment for the Humanities Final Report (GEH 81-063), 1983
3 17  Gerkin, Charles V.—"Concepts of Persons and Concepts of Rights"
3 18  Goldman, Merle
3 19  Griffin, Susan
3 20  Handel's Samson
3 21  Harrison, Helen and Newton—Commissioned Artwork, 1981-1983
3 22  Hartwell, R.M.—"The Morality of Capitalism," 1982 December
3 23  Healthcare in an Age of Limits" Colloquium, 1982-1983
3 24  Heinrich, Dieter, 1983 April
4  1  Hobsbawm—"The Development of Human Rights and the Labour Movement"
4  2  Hoffman, Stanley
4  3  Honorary Degree Proposals, 1982-1983
4  4  "Human Rights, Civil Rights" Brochure
4  5  "Human Rights, Civil Rights" Colloquium, 1982-1983
4  6  "Human Rights and Revolutionary Regimes: The United States and Nicaragua" Colloquium
4  7  "Human Rights from a Native American Perspective," 1983
4  8  "Human Rights: The Female Experience" Program Proposals, 1982 June
4  9  "Human Rights: The Female Experience" Lecture Series, 1982
4 10  "Human Rights, The Historical Dimension" Colloquium, 1982
4 11  Itineraries for Emory Administrators, 1983
4 12  Itineraries for Daedelus Symposium Participants, 1983
4 13  Judaism and Christianity Colloquium, 1983
4 14  Judt, Tony—"Marxism and Rights: Theoretical Problems and Practical Policy," 1982 November
4 16  Kim Dae Jung—"Christianity, Human Rights, and Democracy in Korea," 1983 March
1. Kolakowski, Leszek
2. Lane, David
3. Laney Letter to University Presidents, 1983
4. Leclerc, Ivor—"Community, the State, and National Society," 1981 August
5. Leclerc, Ivor—"Society and Foundations of the Political" 1981
6. Lecture Announcements, Schedules, and Invitations
7. Letters of Invitation, 1982
8. Magnificat and Requiem Performances, 1983
11. Milosz, Czeslaw, 1983 April
12. Murray, Todd W.—"Scientists and Human Rights: Andrei Sakharov and Phillip Handler"
18. Olson, Mancur
19. Orchestral Performances, 1983 March
22. Othello Screening, 1983
23. Paxton and White Concert, 1982
24. "We—II Never Turn Back" Exhibition
25. Project Director—s Information Packets, 1982
27. Publications Committee Minutes, 1981-1982
30. Questions and Clarifications, undated
31. Resources: bibliography and Outline for Human Rights Book
32. Resources: Bibliography of Works by Daedelus Contributors
33. Resources: Human Rights Formal Bibliography
34. Resources: Proposal for Publication of Human Rights Materials
35. Resources: Proposed Human Rights Reader
Resources: Rethinking Human Rights Final Report
Rimlinger, Gaston V.
Robinson, Willie E.—"Freedom struggles and the Effect on Black Rights"
Rockefeller Foundation Proposals and Correspondence, 1982-1983
Ruggie, John Gerard
Schein, Boris
Shaw, Robert—War Requiem Lecture, 1982 November
Sokolov, Sasha—"The Measure of All Men"
Status of Human Rights Year Activities, 1982-1983
Steering Committee Minutes, 1981-1982
Steering Committee Proposals, 1982
Sweet Honey in the Rock Concert, 1982
Syme, Ronald—"Human Rights and Social Status in Ancient Rome"
Symposium Arrangements for Cannon Chapel, 18/1983
Symposium Correspondence, 1981-1983
Symposium—Individual Lunch Arrangements, 1983
Symposium Invitation Responses, 1982
Symposium—Letters to Participants
Symposium—Tentative Budget, undated
Symposium Videotaping Arrangements, 1983
This is Not a Love Story (film)
Thomas, Lewis
Tomuschat, Christian, 1982-1983
Tracy, David
Transcripts of Symposium Discussions, 1983
Transcripts of Symposium Discussions, 1983
Transcripts of Symposium Discussions, 1983
University Lecture Series Proposal, 1983
University Lecture Series—"Rethinking Human Rights: The Dilemmas" (12 Lectures), 1983
Weinberg, Gerhard L.—"The Nazi Revolution: an Overt Reaction Against Human Rights"
Weinstein, Warren
E. O. Wilson Lectures, 1983
Women and Pornography Panel, 1983
Young, Andrew—Human Rights Week Sermon, 1982-1983
Zell, Glenn
7  24  Zweig, Bella—"Human Rights from an Ancient Perspective," 1983
### Series 2

**Audiovisual, 1983-1984**

**Boxes 8-9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daedalus Panel Discussion, Tape 1, 1983 April 4 (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>Daedalus Panel Discussion, Tape 2, 1983 April 4 (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>Daedalus Panel Discussion, Tape 2, 1983 April 16 (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>Daedalus Panel Discussion, Tape 3, 1984 April 11 (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>&quot;Human Rights and the Morality of Capitalism,&quot; Max Hartwell, 1982 October (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>&quot;Human Rights: Dilemmas and Directions,&quot; Jimmy Carter, 1982 September 15 (U-matic video tape)</td>
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<td>&quot;Political Uses of Psychiatry in the Soviet Union,&quot; Tape 1, Mark Fields (U-matic video tape)</td>
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