Finding Aid to the Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers BANC MSS 2004/222 z

Marjorie Bryer
The Bancroft Library

2019
The Bancroft Library
University of California
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URL: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers
Creator: Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne, 1939-
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 2004/222 z
Physical Description: 13.95 linear feet (9 cartons, 4 boxes, 1 oversize box)
Date (inclusive): 1965-2018
Abstract: The Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers document her scholarship, professional work, and activism re: indigenous rights (international and national), indigenous peoples in the United States, the Miskitu Indians in Nicaragua, class and racial politics, and feminism. The collection contains correspondence; writings; research files on the Miskitu Indians; subject files; personalia; and audiovisual materials.
Language of Material: In English, Spanish, and Miskito.

Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Restrictions on Access
Cartons 1-9, boxes 1, 2, and 4, and Oversize Box 1 are open for research. Box 3 includes restricted information and is closed to researchers until 2054.

Accruals
Future additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers were given to The Bancroft Library between 2004 and 2019 by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternative forms of this collection.

Biographical / Historical
Activist, historian, and memoirist, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz is Professor Emerita of Ethnic Studies at California State University East Bay. She was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1938 and grew up in Central Oklahoma. After receiving her Ph.D. in History at UCLA in 1974, Dunbar-Ortiz taught in the newly-established Native American Studies Program at California State University, Hayward (now CSU East Bay) and helped found the departments of Women's and Ethnic Studies there. She has been active in the international indigenous movement for decades and is known for her lifelong commitment to national and international social justice issues. Dunbar-Ortiz has written extensively about indigenous rights, indigenous peoples in the United States and Central America, racial politics, 1960s social movements, and feminism.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers, BANC MSS 2004/222z, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Marjorie Bryer in 2019.

Related Collections
Bernard Nietzschmann papers (BANC MSS 2010/195)

Scope and Content of Collection
The Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers document her scholarship, professional work, and activism re: indigenous rights (national and international), indigenous peoples in the United States, the Miskitu Indians in Nicaragua, class and racial politics, and feminism.

The collection is divided into 6 series: Correspondence; Writings; Research Files on the Miskitu Indians; Subject Files; Personalia and Biographical Materials; and Audiovisual Materials.

Original folder titles were retained. Folders are variously labeled “Miskito” and “Miskitu.” Dunbar-Ortiz typically used the latter term, as that is the Miskitu peoples name for themselves.

Separated Materials
Digital materials have been transferred to the Digital Collections Unit of The Bancroft Library.
Publication Rights
Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction of some materials may be restricted by terms of University of California gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing and trademarks. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owner. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user. For additional information about the University of California, Berkeley Library's permissions policy please see: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/about/permissions-policies

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Access to audio-visual materials may be restricted due to technical limitations.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Miskito Indians -- Government relations.
Miskito Indians -- History.
Miskito Indians -- Wars.
Miskito Indians -- Civil Rights
Miskito Indians -- Nicaragua
Miskitu (Indigenous community : North)
Miskitu (Indigenous community : South)
Tasba Pri (Nicaragua)
Indians, Treatment of -- Nicaragua.
Dakota Indians.
Indians of North America -- History.
Indians of North America -- Colonization.
Feminists -- United States.
Rural poor -- Oklahoma.
Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne, 1939- -- Archives.

Series 1. Correspondence 1965-2018
Physical Description: Carton 1; Carton 2, folders 1-9
Scope and Content Note
Incoming and outgoing personal and professional correspondence; includes some subject file material. Please note that correspondence can be found in other series.

Carton 1, Folder 1-2
Allen, Chude Pamela, includes "When the Spirit" 1995-2004

Carton 1, Folder 3-8
Scope and Content Note
Dunbar-Ortiz's ex-husband. Letters from the 1960s are photocopies.

Carton 1, Folder 9
Buck, Marilyn 1999-2004

Carton 1, Folder 10-13
Burke, Ronnie, including "Inventory," "Pandemonium," and letters to Michelle la Relle [Michelle Callarman?] 1995-2000

Carton 1, Folder 14-15
Callarman, Michelle (daughter) 1989-2005

Carton 1, Folder 16

Carton 1, Folder 17
Carlsson, Brent 1986-1987

Carton 1, Folder 18-20
Dad/Family, including Barbara (Sister) and Maurice (Brother - re: Red Dirt) 1990-2005, undated
Series 1. Correspondence 1965-2018

Carton 1, Folder 21
Feminist Press 1995

Carton 1, Folder 22
Firestone, Shulamith 1998-2012

Carton 1, Folder 23
J circa 2003

Carton 1, Folder 24
Legassick, Martin, and Audrey Rosenthal Letters (photocopies) 1966-1967

Carton 1, Folder 25
Linebaugh, Peter 2003-2004

Carton 1, Folder 26
Lloyd, Rees 1971

Carton 1, Folder 27
McDaniel, Wilma 2000-2005

Carton 1, Folder 28
Miskitu Indian-Sandinista Relations 1981-1983

Carton 1, Folder 29
Miskitu Indians - Miscellaneous Correspondence 1985-1988

Carton 1, Folder 30
Oklahoma University Press 2005-2009

Carton 1, Folder 31-32
Ortiz, Simon J. circa 1976-2000

Carton 1, Folder 33
Publishers, includes Contracts 2011-2018

Carton 1, Folder 34
Randall, Margaret 1993-2005

Carton 1, Folder 35
Regie's Letters (photocopies) 1968

Carton 1, Folder 36
Rudd, Mark [Raskolnikov?] 1990-1998

Carton 1, Folder 37

Carton 1, Folder 38
Sutton, Imre 1997-2000

Carton 1, Folder 39
Sympathy Cards - Uncle Fred's Death 2009

Carton 1, Folder 40
Thaxton, Rob circa 2004-2009

Carton 1, Folder 41
Wilson, Brian 1995-1997

Carton 1, Folder 42
Womack, John (Jack), Lee Smith, Blurbs, Sandy, Verso 1996-1998

Carton 1, Folder 43
Writer Friends 1987-1997, undated

Carton 1, Folder 44-51
Personal and Professional Correspondence circa 1974-1998

Carton 1, Folder 1-9
Personal and Professional Correspondence 1999-2017, undated

Series 2. Writings 1967-2018

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 10-41; Carton 3, folders 1-24; Cartons 4-6; Oversize Box 1, folder 6
Scope and Content Note
Includes book projects, articles, conference materials, lectures, talks, journals, notebooks, and planners.

Carton 2, Folder 10-11
Carton 3, Folder 1-20
Scope and Content Note
Consists of documents re: United States v. Consolidated Wounded Knee Cases, including the defendants’ supplemental memorandum, appearances, a brief, motions to Dismiss, the trial transcript, memoranda of law, and an appeal. There are also minutes from a special conference on international law and the International Working Group on Treaties; a Wounded Knee outline and trial chronology; Dunbar-Ortiz’s Sioux Hearing testimony; Sioux treaty correspondence (subpoenas); clippings; photographs; contracts and correspondence with Moon Press and Anne Kent Rush; notes; and correspondence with Vine Deloria, Jr. and others.

Carton 2, Folder 12-16
Scope and Content Note
Includes clippings, drafts (with various working titles), notes, proposals, research materials, and publicity. The folder labeled "Scotch-Irish Project" seems to be related to this book.

Carton 2, Folder 17
Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment - Review, Related Article, and Interview Questions 2018
Scope and Content Note
Includes notes, datos y ideas, drafts, timeline, historical contextualization, manuscripts, and meeting notes.

Carton 2, Folder 18-27
Outlaw Woman: A Memoir of the War Years 1983-2005
Scope and Content Note
Includes drafts, "Wendy's work," correspondence and emails, newspaper clippings, and research materials.

Carton 2, Folder 36-38
The Quest for Miskito Autonomy in Nicaragua 1989

Carton 2, Folder 39-41
Red Dirt-Related – Okies, Radical History Review Article, Okie Scholars circa 1993-1997

Carton 4, Folder 1-12
Scope and Content Note
Includes reviews, materials about the Red Dirt Rangers, fan letters, Verso catalogs, information about readings, newspaper clippings, a book proposal, notes, and a broadside.

oversize_box 1, Folder 6
Red Dirt Broadside 1997

Carton 4, Folder 13
Unforgetting the War Against Mexico/ Mexican War, includes Book Proposal, Notes 1973-2018

Carton 4, Folder 14-15


Carton 4, Folder 16
Writings and Conference Materials re: Indigenous People in the United States, Across the Americas, and Worldwide; Human Rights; International Law; and the Miskitu Indians in Nicaragua

Carton 4, Folder 17

Carton 4, Folder 18
"Colonialism, Underdevelopment, and the Liberation Process: Putting the Role of Women in Perspective..." NEH Seminar 1978

Carton 4, Folder 19
Talk with Louis Neckar at United Nations Conference on Racism August 1978
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Human Rights and Educational Responsibility Conference October 1978
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The Labor Situation in the Navajo Reservation, Southwest Labor Conference April 1979
Folder 23
Human Rights, Affirmative Action and the Need for Minority Education - Keynote Speech April 1980
Folder 24
Technology and Chronology in the Rewriting of American Indian History October 1980
Folder 25
Requirements for a "New History" of Native American and U.S. Relations December 1980
Folder 26
University of New Mexico - Publications/Lectures - Native American Studies 1980-1981
Folder 27
Position Papers re: Miskitu Indians, includes Primary Source Documents 1980-1982
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Survey of Protective Measures, Institutions, Initiatives, and Organizations in Reference to Indigenous Populations of the Americas December 1981
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United Nations/Human Rights (Fragment) circa 1981
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The Indigenous Question and the Miskito People in Nicaragua January 1982
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Navajo Times Op-Ed circa 1982
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The Indian Situation in Central America circa 1982
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Critique of the Allegations of Human Rights Violations against the Miskitu People of Nicaragua October 1983
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Genocide or Accident of Circumstance? November 1983
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Folder 39
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Marxism Against Racism Project 2016

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The American Trial undated

Carton 5, Folder 9
Heroes undated

Carton 5, Folder 10
The Pueblo Indians of Northern New Mexico: A Historical Study of Land Tenure and Nationahood undated

Carton 5, Folder 11
Spiro Agnew, Billy the Kid, and Me undated

Carton 5, Folder 12-14
Miscellaneous Writings 1968-2010

Scope and Content Note
Includes reviews, notes, essays, poetry, a proposal, articles, information about readings and talks, clippings, correspondence, publishers' administrative and financial records, and "Where Have All the Farmers Gone?"

Carton 5, Folder 15-16
Reviews of Dunbar-Ortiz's Books/Reviews by Dunbar-Ortiz, Articles circa 1980-2003

Carton 5, Folder 17
Seminar on Racism in the U.S. – Planning Committee/Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Colonialism 1983-1984

Carton 5, Folder 18-21
Conferences, Panels, Talks, Public Lectures, Colloquia, Proposals 1983-2018

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Publicity for Gigs and Publications 1997-2000

Carton 5, Folder 24
Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings 2011-2013

Carton 5, Folder 25-39
Journals/Notebooks 1978-1985

Scope and Content Note
These are diaries and notebooks that contain logistical and contact information and notes. Most are labeled with dates and places; they were kept in chronological order. Titles include Resistance – Power for the Powerless – Notes on a Phase; Nicaragua Libre; San Francisco; Summer in Strausbourg; ICIHI Notes; Rome; 8th Trip to Nicaragua Libre.

Carton 6, Folder 1-23
Journals/Notebooks 1986-2018, undated

Scope and Content Note
Includes Bennington; San Francisco; War Diary; Nine Months of My Life, to accompany the revision and publication of Red Dirt; Notes toward a Feminist Memoir; for Valerie; Norther days; University of Toledo; a memory book (a gift from her nephew); and 80th Year of Life.

Carton 6, Folder 24
Notepad - Red Dirt, Ethnic Studies 1002, Itineraries, Notes, Contacts undated

Carton 3, Folder 24

**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folder 25; Cartons 7-8; Carton 9, folders 1-7; Boxes 1-2; Oversize Box 1, folders 1-5

**Arrangement**
Original order was maintained. Dunbar-Ortiz arranged the materials by subject matter and theme, not by date or author. Primary and secondary materials are intermixed.

**Scope and Content Note**
Contains newsclippings, reports, and statements and position papers regarding the Miskito Indians in Nicaragua compiled for the preparation of "La cuestión miskita en la revolución nicaragüense" (1986) and "The Miskito Indians of Nicaragua," (1988). Primary and secondary sources are intermixed. Includes some writings by Dunbar-Ortiz and some correspondence.

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**Scope and Content Note**

Dunbar-Ortiz was co-director of the IWA. These files contain materials regarding the Indigenous Peoples in International Law Project; issues of "Indigenous World"/"El Mundo Indigena"; and materials on Miskitu autonomy, the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and Benjamin Lindner.

|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Project Navajo Self-Determination Proposal May 1983**

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<th>Carton 8, Folder 20</th>
<th>United Nations Committee on Human Rights (UNCHR), including Miskitu Refugees 1981-1987</th>
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<td>Carton 3, Folder 25</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) - Guatemala - (International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) 1989</td>
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<td>Carton 8, Folder 23</td>
<td>Consejo Indio de Sud America/Indian Council of South America (CISA) 1984-1986</td>
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**Project for Funding - Sandinistas 1985**

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<th>Natural Resource [illegible] Mosquitia 1985</th>
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<td>Carton 8, Folder 28</td>
<td>Amnesty and Rights for Mosquito Natives 1988</td>
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**Hans Petter Buvollen circa 1985-1992**

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<th>Carton 8, Folder 29-30</th>
<th>Recovery and Aid in Nicaragua circa 1987-1993</th>
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<td>Reconstruction of Miskito Communities 1983-1988</td>
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<td>Carton 8, Folder 34</td>
<td>Left Press circa 1984-1990</td>
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<td>Carton 8, Folder 35</td>
<td>Version Taquigráfica de la Mesa Redonda sobre la Exmibal 1969</td>
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**Publications 1970-1990**

- Includes the Bulletin of the Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA), Avances, Sunrise, Principles and Policies..., Tierras Lateríticas, Black Scholar, Indian War and Peace with Nicaragua, Wiñay Marka, and Indians in the Crossfire.

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<th>Carton 8, Folder 37-38</th>
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**Finding Aid to the Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz papers BANC MSS 2004/222 z**

BANC MSS 2004/222 z
Maps of Honduras/Nicaragua 1980, undated
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request and United States State Department Documents 1981-1986
The Miskito Natives as a Proxy for U.S. Interests (Clippings, Correspondence, David DeVoss) 1984
Miskito Natives Fleeing to Honduras – Newspaper Articles 1985-1986
External Resources on the [State] of the Miskito Natives circa 1983-2005
Miskito in Nicaragua – an Information Packet 1984
Indigenous Peoples Issues and Resources – Miskitus Declare Independent Nation of Moskitia in Nicaragua 2009
Newspaper Articles 1985-1986
External Resources on the [State] of the Miskito Natives circa 1983-2005
Position Papers and Statements by Others 1979-1983, undated
Scope and Content Note
Includes primary and secondary source materials. There are documents from the MISURASTA, the Sandinistas, and the Moravian and Episcopal churches, including interviews, reports, articles, proposals, communiques and press releases, projects, conference papers, testimony, and speeches. Most materials are about Nicaragua but some are about Honduras.

Primary Source Documents/Writings and Statements by Others 1981-1983
Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos November 1983
Fuerza Democratica Nicaragüense (FDN) circa 1983
Indian Law Resource Center circa 1983
Press Releases, Communiques, Secondary Sources 1984-1985
Calendario Miskito 1985
El Movimiento Indigena en la Costa Atlantica de la Nicaragua en la Decade del 70 y Su Contexto July 1985
Ninth Inter-American Indian Conference October-November 1985
Primary Source Documents 1986-1988, undated
Newspaper Clippings 1985-1988
“El Nuevo Diario” 1982-1985
“Indigenous World” 1982-1984

Scope and Content Note
Includes primary and secondary source materials. There are documents from the MISURASTA, the Sandinistas, and the Moravian and Episcopal churches, including interviews, reports, articles, proposals, communiques and press releases, projects, conference papers, testimony, and speeches. Most materials are about Nicaragua but some are about Honduras.

Series 4. Subject Files 1969-2014
Physical Description: Carton 3, folder 26; Carton 9, folders 8-45; Box 3
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Scope and Content Note
Includes professional activities and teaching materials.
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<th>Carton 9, Folder 10</th>
<th>Anarchists 1998-1999</th>
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<td>Conferences - Native American and Indigenous Studies Association</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 13</td>
<td>Meeting/International Indian Treaty Council 2014</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 14</td>
<td>Ethnic Studies 3800 - The Peoples of Central America, California State University, Hayward 1990-2005</td>
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<td>box 3, Folder 1-3</td>
<td>Gulf War 1998</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 15-16</td>
<td>Gutiérrez, Ramón, &quot;When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away&quot; 1984-1993</td>
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<td>Conditions Governing Access</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes restricted readers' reports and drafts and is closed to researchers until 2054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 17</td>
<td>Imperialism (U.S.) circa 2004-2006</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 18</td>
<td>International Workers of the World (IWW)/Wobblies 1997-1998</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 20</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 22</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 24</td>
<td>Ms./Alpert 1991-1992</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 25</td>
<td>Murray, James 1998</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 26-30</td>
<td>Occupy Oakland 2011-2012</td>
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<td>Oklahoma, includes Photographs 1997-1999</td>
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<td>Oklahoma - Socialists/Charles H. Kerr circa 2008</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 33</td>
<td>Radical Women, Music, White Privilege, San Francisco History 1999, undated</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 34-35</td>
<td>SDS/Helen Garvey/BDRG/Mike Foley 1993, undated</td>
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<td>Solanas, Valerie/&quot;Up Your Ass&quot; 1993-2000</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 37</td>
<td>United States History/History of Indigenous Peoples 2010-2012</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 38</td>
<td>Upside Down Culture Collective circa 2003</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 39-40</td>
<td>Veteran Feminists of America (VFA), Jacqui Cebellos 1997</td>
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<td>Carton 9, Folder 41-45</td>
<td>White Supremacy New Wave Movie, Don Kalish, Indonesia Coup, James Agee - Miscellaneous Info 2000</td>
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<td>Women's Liberation and Women's Rights - Clippings and Articles circa 1969-1993</td>
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<td>Writings by Others 1998-2016</td>
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Series 5. Personalia and Biographical Information 1976-2018

Physical Description: Carton 9, folders 46-47; Box 4, folders 1-7; Oversize Box 1, folder 6

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Career Documents circa 1976-1995

Biographical Information circa 1981-1984

International Institute of Human Rights/International Training Centre for University Human Rights Teaching - Certificates, Diploma 1983

Billy Budd – Student Paper/MFA, Mills College 1992-1994

Central High School 1992-1994

True Oklahoma 2011

Miscellaneous Personalia 2013, undated

Heyday History Award 2018


Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Access to audio-visual materials may be restricted due to technical limitations.

Scope and Content Note

Analog audiovisual material consists of 7 microcassettes and 4 compact cassettes (audiotapes). Six of the microcassettes appear to be interviews for Dunbar-Ortiz's 1998 San Diego Reader article, “Finding Family: Smoking Out Okies in San Diego County.” Names on the tapes include Doug, Paula, [Jim French], Christian, Darryl, and Jim Heck. One tape has no label. The audiotapes are labeled Miskitu; Beethoven/[Niea Wasson] home audio/film; CUNY; and Hazel Lou.

Digital audiovisual material consists of 13 DVDs and seven CDs. The DVDs are labeled as follows: Cointelpro 101, final cut (2005); Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz Book Shop Talk (2006); Near & Far with Richard Kemp: Author Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2006); Roxanne's Hometown Tour (2007); Roxanne & Fred's Red Dirt Tour (2007); Remembering Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel: Poet & Oklahoma Dust Bowl Emigrant (2007); Left Forum Videos (2010); She's Beautiful When She's Angry, Festival Cut (2013); KPFA Lecture (2014); An Interview with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Spotlight on Oklahoma Oral History Project (2015); Outlaw Woman (undated); Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Blood on the Border: A Memoir of the Contra War (undated); and Young Patriots (undated).

CDs are labeled as follows: Judi Part 2, Ward and Roxanne (1988); Write on 4 Corners (2008); Interview with Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2010); KPFA presents Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, An Indigenous People's History of the U.S. (2014); Roxanne interview at KPOO (2014); and Dunbar-Ortiz and Ward on Nicaragua (undated). One CD is not labeled.

Separated Materials

Digital audiovisual materials transferred to the Digital Collections Unit of The Bancroft Library.