Finding Aid to the Norma Alarcón papers BANC MSS 2017/189

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The Bancroft Library

2019
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Finding Aid to the Norma Alarcón papers

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Norma Alarcón papers
Source: Alarcón, Norma
Creator: Alarcón, Norma
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 2017/189
Physical Description: 12.6 Linear Feet (9 cartons, 1 oversize box, 2 oversize folders)
Date (inclusive): 1966-2013
Abstract: The Norma Alarcón papers document her contributions to Chicana feminist literature, scholarship, pedagogy, and publishing, as well as her interdisciplinary work in Ethnic and Women’s Studies. The collection includes biographical information and personalia; correspondence; materials related to the Third Woman Press; writings; course materials; administrative files; materials related to Alarcón’s professional activities; artwork and posters; and audiovisual materials.

Language of Material: Collection materials are in English and Spanish.

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.

Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open for research.

Accruals
No future additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Norma Alarcón papers were given to The Bancroft Library in 2017 by Norma Alarcón.

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

Biography
Celebrated Chicana feminist scholar and publisher Norma Alarcón was born in Villa Frontera, Coahuila Mexico on November 30, 1943. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1955, lived briefly in San Antonio, Texas, and then settled in Chicago. Alarcón received her B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Indiana, specializing in Spanish literature. The topic of her 1983 dissertation was “Ninfomancia: El Discurso Feminista en la Obra de Rosario Castellanos.” Alarcón was the founder and publisher of the influential Third Woman Press, which began as the journal “Third Woman” in 1979. The Press published major texts and important writers in Chicana and Latina Studies, including Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo, Cherríe Moraga, and Gloria Anzaldúa. Its more than 30 books and anthologies between 1984 and 2004 include the third edition of “This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color.” Alarcón taught at Purdue University from 1983 to 1987 and at the University of California, Berkeley from 1987 until her retirement in 2004. Alarcón taught courses in the Chicano, Ethnic Studies, Spanish, and Women’s Studies departments at Berkeley.

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

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Norma Alarcón papers, BANC MSS 2017/189, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Lauren Lassleben and Marjorie Bryer in 2019.

Related Collections
Norma Alarcón papers, University of California, Santa Barbara (CEMA 110)

Scope and Content Note
The Norma Alarcón papers document her contributions to Chicana feminist literature, scholarship, pedagogy, and publishing, as well as her interdisciplinary work in Ethnic and Women’s Studies. The collection includes biographical and personal materials; professional correspondence; materials related to the Third Woman Press, including the republication of “This Bridge Called My Back”; drafts of many of Alarcón’s publications and conference presentations; course readers and records from the departments of Chicano, Ethnic, and Women’s Studies at UC Berkeley; conference materials that
demonstrate Alarcón’s impact on those fields; art and posters; and audio and videotapes, including interviews with Ethnic Studies faculty members.

The collection is divided into nine series: Biographical Information and Personalia; Correspondence; Third Woman Press; Writings; Course Materials; Administrative Materials; Professional Activities; Posters, Broadsides, and Artwork; and Audiovisual Materials.

Publication Rights

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Faculty papers.
American literature -- Mexican American women authors.
American literature -- Mexican American authors -- History and criticism.
Third Woman Press.
Mexican American women -- Intellectual life.
Mexican American women in literature.
Mexican American lesbians.
Women of color.
Feminist theory.
Queer theory.
Postcolonialism.
Radicalism
Alarcón, Norma


Physical Description: Carton 1; Carton 8, folders 27-28
Scope and Content Note
Includes curriculum vitaeas, bio-bibliographies, an interview, photographs, address books, engagement calendars, notebooks, and postcards. Please note that the notebooks and academic planners contain both personal and professional information.

Curriculum Vitae, Bio-Bibliographies, Data for CVs and Bio-Bibs circa 1981-2006

Newspaper Clippings 1984-1999
Journal Excerpts 1992
Interview with Alarcón, Ramón Saldívar, Alicia Schmidt Camacho 1994
Name Change 1972
Photographs 1987-2004, undated

Address Books/Academic Planners/Engagement Calendars circa 1983-2004

Notebooks, including Spain, and Notes for Gender and Globalization circa 1983-2011, undated
Postcards, Note Cards, Bookmarks, and Liner Notes circa 1970s-2005
Series 2. **Correspondence 1969-2013**

**Physical Description:** Carton 2, folders 1-23; Carton 8, folders 29-32

**Scope and Content Note**

There is a small amount of personal mail, and outgoing letters, but the bulk is incoming professional correspondence, including related materials. Correspondence can also be found in other series.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton, Folder</th>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 1</td>
<td>Anatole, Anton, and Steve Martinot</td>
<td>1997-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 2</td>
<td>Anzaldúa, Gloria</td>
<td>1989-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 3-4</td>
<td>Cisneros, Sandra, includes Vitae, Writings</td>
<td>1985-1994, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 29-32</td>
<td>Cisneros, Sandra - Binder</td>
<td>circa 1991-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 5</td>
<td>Duke University Press/Ken Wissoker - &quot;T(r)opographies of Hunger&quot;</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 6</td>
<td>González, Manuel</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 7</td>
<td>Joysmith, Claire</td>
<td>1994-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 8</td>
<td>Leante, César</td>
<td>1988-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 9-10</td>
<td>Martinot, Steve, includes Article</td>
<td>1996-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 11</td>
<td>Mesilla Valley Tumblewords Project (MVTP)</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 12</td>
<td>Moraga, Cherrie</td>
<td>circa 1984-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 13</td>
<td>“Signs” Discussion Group (Email)</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 14</td>
<td>Umpierre, Luz María</td>
<td>circa 1987-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 15-17</td>
<td>Personal Correspondence and Cards</td>
<td>circa 1979-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 18-22</td>
<td>Professional Correspondence 1969-2013, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 23</td>
<td>Professional Email</td>
<td>1997-2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 3. **Third Woman Press circa 1980-2013**

**Physical Description:** Carton 2, folders 24-53; Carton 3, folder 1-29

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes administrative materials, correspondence, and materials related to Third Woman Press publications.

**Correspondence and Administrative Records**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton, Folder</th>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 24</td>
<td>Agosín, Marjorie</td>
<td>circa 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 25</td>
<td>Bergholz, Susan</td>
<td>1990-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 26</td>
<td>Chicana Feminist Theory/Carla Trujillo</td>
<td>1993-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 27</td>
<td>Curiel, Barbara Brinso</td>
<td>1988-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 28</td>
<td>“Este Puente”</td>
<td>1988-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 29</td>
<td>Fichter, Estrella</td>
<td>1996-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 30</td>
<td>Latinas on Stage</td>
<td>circa 1994-1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 3. Third Woman Press circa 1980-2013

Scope and Content Note
These records are primarily from Third Woman Press, but there may be materials related to other aspects of Alarcón's professional career in these files.

Series 4. Writings circa 1966-2012

Scope and Content Note
Consists of articles, book chapters, book reviews, conference presentations, Alarcón’s dissertation and related materials (correspondence and transcripts of tapes), interviews conducted by Alarcón, notes, poetry, reprints, and talks. There are many drafts and varied versions of the same works (sometimes with different titles). The notes in this series may also be for course lectures. Interviewees include Ana Castillo, Barbara Brinson-Pineda, Pat Mora, Cherrie Moraga, Lorna D. Cervantes, Gloria Anzaldúa, M.A., M.G., and I.Z.
Series 4. Writings circa 1966-2012

Notes 1985-1999, undated

Scope and Content Note
Notes re: writing, teaching, seminars, projects, and readings. Topics include "from Chiapas to Califas" (in Carton 4); Mary Wollstonecraft; net discourse on women; Cortazar and Unamuno; Minority Discourse seminar; Chicana subjection; resistance; Coyolxauhqui-Anzaldúa; environment - reinventing nature; Gayatri Spivak; academic and theoretical; and Chulas Fronteras (in Carton 5). Most folders of notes were unlabeled, but when they were there, original titles were retained.

Notes circa 1989-2001, undated


Physical Description: Carton 5, folders 27-68; Carton 6, folders 1-17
Scope and Content Note
Includes background materials, email, lectures, notes, readers, and syllabi for UC Berkeley classes in Chicano Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, Spanish, and Women's Studies. Topics include Chulas; Chicana women writers; seminars on Mexico and Latin America; race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality; Third World/Third Text/Third Space; modernity and postmodernity; and cultural representations of gender.

Chicano Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, Spanish, and Women's Studies 1986-2006

Course Readers in Chicano Studies and Ethnic Studies 1987-1994

Course Readers in Ethnic Studies, Spanish, Women's Studies, and Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies (UGIS) 1990-2003, undated


Physical Description: Carton 6, folders 18-20; Carton 7, folders 1-29
Scope and Contents
Includes departmental files from Chicano Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Women's Studies, and files related to Alarcón's academic career.

Chicano Studies, Departmental Files circa 1990-2003

Ethnic Studies, Departmental Files circa 1992-2003

Scope and Content Note
Includes colloquia; curricula; definitions; a Faculty Interview Project; materials related to meetings, the Ethnic Studies Research Center, and strategic planning. Some materials are also related to Chicano, Chicana, and Latina Studies.

Women's Studies, Departmental Files/Beatrice Bain Research Center 1991-2003

Personnel Correspondence - Purdue and University of California, Berkeley 1985-1988

Promotion/Retention, Academic Review/Promotion 1990-2005

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Series 7. Professional Activities 1984-2013

Physical Description: Carton 7, folders 30-43; Carton 8, folders 1-26

Arrangement
Arranged (roughly) chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Includes materials related to conferences Alarcón was invited to speak at and to professional work she did outside the University of California, Berkeley. Please note there is some overlap with Series 3, Writings.

Carton 7, Folder 30-32
Conference Programs (for Conferences where Alarcón Presented) 1984-2011, undated

Carton 7, Folder 33-34
Invited Papers 1986-2008, undated

Carton 7, Folder 35
National Institute of Chicana Writers 1986-1987

Carton 7, Folder 36
Different Voices Summer Institute 1987-1988

Carton 7, Folder 37-39
Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS), including Conference 1988-2006

Carton 7, Folder 40
University of California Chicano/Latino Consortium (UCCLC) 1989

Carton 7, Folder 41-43
University of California Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) – Irvine 1989-1998

Scope and Content Note
Includes materials re: Minority Discourse Seminar, Administering the Humanities/Disciplinary Forum, and the conferences "The Chicano Writes: On Word and Film" and "Private Culture, Public Policy." (In Cartons 7 and 8)

Carton 8, Folder 1-3

Carton 8, Folder 4-5
Modern Language Association (MLA) Panel/Asilomar Conference 1990, 1993

Carton 8, Folder 6
Latina Feminist Comparative Research, West Coast Group 1994

Carton 8, Folder 7-8

Carton 8, Folder 9-11
Ford Foundation Curriculum Grant 1996-1998

Scope and Content Note
Includes materials re: conferences on Gender and Globalization, International Studies, and the Center for the Study of Gender and Globalization (Organized Research Units).

Carton 8, Folder 12
Grants, including Ford Foundation 1997-1999

Carton 8, Folder 13
Feminisms in Latin America 1996

Carton 8, Folder 14
Traces (Journal) circa 1996-1997

Carton 8, Folder 15
Organized Research Units (ORU) 1997-1999

Carton 8, Folder 16-25
Conference Materials 1997-2002

Scope and Content Note
Conferences include: Making and Unmaking of Whiteness; Empowering Women of Color; Crossing Over: Third World Liberation Front Strike; Performing Unnatural Acts – Critically Queering Racial Cultural Studies; Barcelona; The Color of Violence; Future of Women’s Studies; Police and Prisons; and The Routes of Culture.

Carton 8, Folder 26
El Mundo Zurdo – Conference Honoring the Life and Work of Gloria Anzaldúa 2010-2013
Series 8. **Posters, Broadsides and Artwork 1984-2003, undated**

**Physical Description:** Oversize folders 1A, and 2B; oversize box 1

**Scope and Content Note**


Oversize Box 1 contains "The Blue Ladies," a reproduction of a fresco from Crete (original dates from approximately 1500 B.C.)

**Carton 9**


**Physical Description:** Carton 9

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**

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

**Scope and Content Note**
