Barry M. Dank Papers, 1971-1977 Coll2011.032*

Finding aid prepared by Marc LaRocque
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Abstract: Articles, correspondence, syllabi, and clippings documenting sociologist Barry M. Dank's professional involvement with the issue of social and personal acceptance of gay identity. In 1971, Dank, a professor at California State University, Long Beach, published an article in the journal Psychiatry that argued notions of homosexual deviance would wane in the face of increasing acceptance of same-sex sexuality as a legitimate way of life.
creator: Dank, Barry M.
Biographical Note
Barry M. Dank was a sociologist at California State University, Long Beach whose 1971 article in the journal Psychiatry, "Coming Out in the Gay World," forecast the growing acceptance of same-sex sexuality as a legitimate mode of life, as opposed to deviance from a norm.
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Scope and Content
Articles, clippings, correspondence, and syllabi documenting sociologist Barry M. Dank's early work exploring "coming out and issues of gay identity." In 1971, Dank, a professor of sociology at California State University, Long Beach, published an article in the journal Psychiatry arguing that steadily increasing acceptance of homosexuality as a way of life would result in waning notions of same-sex sexuality as deviance. The collection documents exchanges of correspondence with academic colleagues; correspondence with Jim Kepner and other gay activists in Los Angeles; and Dank's sociology courses focusing on homosexuality.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Homosexuality--Psychological aspects
Lesbian and gay experience
Sociology