
UCLA University Archives. Collected materials about Angela Davis. 1969-1982.

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Title: UCLA University Archives. Collected materials about Angela Davis.

UCLA University ARchives Record Series: 815

Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.6 linear ft.(2 boxes)

Date: 1969-1982

Abstract: Record Series 815 contains records and clippings collected by UCLA University Archives on the subject of Angela Davis, her dismissal from UCLA, and criminal trial.

Physical Location: Stored off-site. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Conditions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], UCLA University Archives. Collected materials about Angela Davis (University Archives Record Series 815). UCLA Library Special Collections, University Archives.

Catalog Record ID

UCLA Catalog Record ID: [8014080](#)

Historical note

Angela Yvonne Davis was born in 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama. She earned her B.A. at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1965 and her M.A. at the University of California, San Diego in 1968. During this period of her education, Davis became interested in, and joined, the civil rights movement, leading to her involvement with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Black Panther Party, and the American Communist Party.

In 1969, Davis was hired by the University of California, Los Angeles, as an acting assistant professor in the philosophy department. Under pressure from California Governor Ronald Reagan, the University of California Board of Regents fired Davis for her membership in the American Communist Party. Protests followed this act, which was deemed illegal by the Los Angeles Superior Court in October 1969. Davis was again dismissed in June 1970 for use of "inflammatory language" in speeches.

In August 1970 Jonathan Jackson, an African-American high school student, took control of a courtroom in Marin County, California, in which the Soledad Brothers were on trial for the alleged murder of a prison guard at Soledad Prison. The defendants and judge were killed during the armed conflict that followed. The firearms used in the conflict had been purchased two days prior by Davis, who had been corresponding with one of the defendants. Davis was charged with "aggravated kidnapping and first degree murder in the death of Judge Harold Haley" for her alleged contribution to the event. Hours after a warrant for her arrest was issued in Marin County, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover added Davis to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List, making her the third woman to make the list. Soon after, Davis fled California. She was arrested in New York in October 1970, and extradited to California in December 1970.

In January 1971, Davis declared her innocence in a California court, and was held in solitary confinement. Support for Davis inspired protests at UCLA and elsewhere in California. Many questioned the ability of Davis to receive a fair trial, due to her involvement with the Black Panther Party and American Communist Party. Davis was released on bail in February 1972, and ultimately found not guilty by an all-white jury in June 1972.

Following her acquittal, Davis traveled in Cuba and the Soviet Union. She later returned to California to resume her academic career as a lecturer in women's and ethnic studies at San Francisco State. Davis also ran unsuccessfully in 1980 and 1984 for vice president of the United States on the Communist Party ticket. She continues to work as an activist, author, and lecturer.

Scope and Content

Record Series 815 contains records and clippings collected by UCLA University Archives on the subject of Angela Davis, her dismissal from UCLA, and criminal trial. Materials include correspondence and official statements from Davis, UC and UCLA administration, faculty, and students, as well as protest materials, meeting notes, resolutions, petitions, transcribed talks,

photographs, and clippings.

This is an inactive record series; no additional University records are expected to be added.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Davis, Angela Y. (Angela Yvonne), 1944-

University of California, Los Angeles. University Archives.--Archives.

Box 1, Folders 1-2
Box 1, Folder 3

Correspondence, statements, and other records regarding dismissal from UCLA. 1969. Correspondence, statements, and other records regarding dismissal from UCLA and criminal trial. 1970.

Box 1, Folders 4-5
Box 1, Folder 6

Correspondence, statements, and other records regarding criminal trial. 1971-1972. Images of Angela Davis. 1972-1974, undated.

Language of Material: English

Box 1,
Folders 7-10

Clippings (various publications). 1969-1972, 1974, 1982, undated.

Scope and Content

Publications from 1969 include the Christian Science Monitor, Daily Bruin, Fort-Worth Star-Telegram, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, New York Times, Sacramento Bee, Santa Cruz Sentinel, San Diego Evening Tribune, San Francisco Examiner, Santa Monica Evening Outlook, SOUL, UC Riverside Highlander, and the Valley News.

Publications from 1970 include the Chicago Daily Defender, Citizen News, Daily Bruin, Essence Magazine, Life Magazine, Los Angeles Free Press, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Newsweek, NOMMO, San Diego Evening Tribune, San Diego Union, Santa Monica Evening Outlook, and the UCLA Alumni Association – Benchmarks.

Publications from 1971 include the American Association of University Professors Bulletin and Los Angeles Times WEST Magazine.

Publications from 1972 include the Daily Bruin and The Militant.

Publications from 1974 include Newsweek.

Publications from 1982 include the Daily Bruin.

Box 2, Folders 1-5

Clippings (Los Angeles Times). 1969-1973.