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## Center for Economic and Social Rights Records11503368

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Summary .....	5
Arrangement .....	6
Administrative Information .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	8
Series I: Iraq .....	8
Subseries I.1: 1991-1992 research mission .....	8
Subseries I.2: 1995 Research mission .....	8
Subseries I.3: 1996 research mission .....	9
Subseries I.4: 1997 research mission .....	10
Subseries I.5: CESR Iraq publication material .....	10
Subseries I.6: External work on Iraq .....	11
Series II: CESR multi-country work .....	11
Subseries II.1: Ecuador .....	12
Subseries II.2: Palestine .....	12
Subseries II.3: Afghanistan .....	13
Subseries II.4: Cambodia .....	13
Subseries II.5: Haiti .....	13
Subseries II.6: Honduras .....	14
Subseries II.7: Nigeria .....	14
Subseries II.8: Texas-Mexico Border .....	14
Series III: General CESR Materials .....	15
Subseries III.1: Workshops and training .....	15
Subseries III.2: UN Materials .....	16
Subseries III.3: Correspondence .....	16
Subseries III.4: Sponsored programs .....	16
Subseries III.5: General human rights articles .....	17
Subseries III.6: US Human Rights Work .....	18

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Center for Economic and Social Rights
<b>Creator:</b>	Jochnick, Chris
<b>Creator:</b>	Normand, Roger, 1964-
<b>Creator:</b>	Zaidi, Sarah
<b>Title:</b>	Center for Economic and Social Rights Records
<b>ID:</b>	11503368
<b>ID:</b>	HR#0019
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1989-2003
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1991-2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.25 linear feet 8 record cartons
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English , Arabic , Spanish .
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The Center for Economic and Social Rights was established in 1993 by Roger Normand, Sarah Zaidi, and Chris Jochnick. In 1991, Normand, Zaidi and Jochnick were members of a Harvard interdisciplinary research team that traveled to Iraq to document and respond to the country's humanitarian crisis caused by the Gulf War and sanctions placed upon the country. The team focused on issues related to malnutrition, sanitation, childhood mortality and morbidity, and health. Since its 1993 founding, CESR has continued to focus on economic and social human rights violations, representing a shift in the way human rights work is conceived as a field. The records of CESR reflect an important evolution in the human rights movement; a shift in focus that began to recognize economic, social and health rights in addition to the political and civil rights that were championed by earlier human rights organizations. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s CESR continued to work in Iraq, actively dissenting to the 2003 American invasion and occupation. During this time they also began work in Ecuador, Palestine, Haiti, Afghanistan, and along the Texas-Mexico border. In 2004 the original founders stepped down, and the organization's headquarters were moved to Spain. They have since returned to New York. This collection focuses on early</p>

material from CESR's thirty year history. Notably, this collection features much of the Harvard Research Team and CESR's original survey material on childhood health and nutrition in Iraq. The files include blank and completed surveys, CESR and affiliate reports, external analysis on human rights and information about countries of interest. Most of these surveys are paper, but there is one floppy disk located in subseries II.4 in the folder "CESR Mission Proposal Afghanistan."

#### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Center for Economic and Social Rights, 1989-2003; Box and Folder; Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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In 1991 an interdisciplinary research team from Harvard University traveled to Iraq to record how the Gulf War and economic sanctions had adversely affected the Iraqi population. In their exploration of the humanitarian crisis, the group focused on childhood health and malnutrition. The team interviewed mothers and other female caretakers to assess childhood mortality and morbidity. Their initial report, which found a substantial link between Gulf War era sanctions and early childhood malnutrition and death, made international headlines.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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Two years later, Roger Normand, Sarah Zaidi, and Chris Jochnick (three members of the Harvard research team), founded the Center for Economic and Social Rights. The organization's founding coincided with another important development in Human Rights. In June of 1993, at the World Conference on Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted. The declaration affirmed that all human rights – be they civil, political, economic, social or cultural – were indivisible and interrelated, and as such they should be protected equally. In turn, CESR sought to identify the relationship between socioeconomic policies and people's rights. Throughout the 1990s and the early 2000s, CESR continued to research Iraq, partaking in a series of five research missions. In 1997, they expanded their scope of study to include adult health, as well as food security. In 2001, CESR founded the "Iraq Sanctions

Project" and over the next several years they would continue to publish material against US sanctions against, and later the invasion and occupation of, Iraq.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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While CESR's early work focused on Iraq, over the course of their thirty year history the organization has turned its attention to a number of regions and human rights violations. These injustices range from the mining of gold in Honduras to the mistreatment of taxi drivers in New York City. One of their early large scale projects took place in Ecuador and focused on the environment and health. Their sponsored programs include Right to Water, the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, and the Women's Economic Equality Project (which was also founded by Sarah Zaidi). Their sister organization, Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CDES) [Center for Economic and Social Rights], was originally based in Brooklyn alongside CESR offices, but is now an independent organization based in Ecuador and operating across Latin America.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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In 2004, the original founders stepped down, although they remain on the advisory council. From 2004-2008 Eitan Felner took over as Executive Director, and Ignacio Saiz took on this role from 2009-2021. During this time, the CESR offices moved to Madrid, although they have since returned to New York. Kate Donald is presently the acting Executive Director. CESR continues to conduct projects and research globally. In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CESR has heightened its focus on the connection between the environment and human rights.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Summary

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The material includes publications written and published by The Center for Economic and Social Rights, individual employees, or partner organizations; press articles published in

newspapers, magazines, and websites; surveys and research materials from three trips to Iraq; and statistics.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection contains files related to the 1991 Harvard research mission, as well as the early years of CESR (from its inception in 1991-2003). The bulk of this collection corresponds to four research missions to Iraq from 1991-1997, and CESR's subsequent work related to the country. 5 boxes, 5.5 linear feet of material, belong to this first series on Iraq. There is a smaller second series of multi-country work and one additional series on general CESR material. This final series includes information on sponsored programs, correspondence, and workshops. These files range in date from 1991-2003, covering the tenure of the original founders. The files include the work of the Harvard research team, published CESR material and drafts, research articles and clippings, correspondence, notebooks, and UN documents.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in 3 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three (3) business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

The Center for Economic and Social Rights Files were the gift of Ignacio Saiz, Executive Director of CESR, to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Columbia University in 2015.

### **Processing Information**

Collection-level record describing unprocessed material made public in fall 2018 as part of the Hidden Collections initiative.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Evelyn MacPherson, GSAS 2025. Finding aid written by Evelyn MacPherson in June, 2022.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Human rights
- Iraq
- Economic rights
- Persian Gulf War, 1991
- Economic sanctions -- Iraq
- Malnutrition
- Right to Water

- Social rights
- CDES (Center)
- United Nations. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Iraq

Physical Description: 5.5 linear feet

#### Scope and Contents

Files relate to CESR work in Iraq. This series begins with the 1991-1992 work of the Harvard research team and their study of childhood malnutrition in Iraq. This study was replicated in 1995 and 1996 by CESR, which was founded by three members of the Harvard research team. In 1997 the research shifted to include adults and food security. The series includes original survey materials (primarily in Arabic), drafts and published versions of the team's reports, correspondence, and pertinent research articles.

### Subseries I.1: 1991-1992 research mission

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet

#### Scope and Contents

Material from the 1991-1992 Harvard research mission to Iraq. Largely consists of the original surveys on childhood health (in Arabic). Also features material related to the surveys (such as a translation of the Arabic), data analysis, copies of the published 1991 report, Sarah Zaidi's notebook, and a graduate thesis for the University of Baghdad entitled "Assessment of Nutritional Status of Children Under Five Year Old in Baghdad City."

Title/Description	Instances	
Children's Health forms, etc, 1991	box 1	folder 1
Children's Health Surveys, 1991 <u>Physical Description</u> : 12 folders	box 1	folder 2-13
Children's Health Data Analysis, 1991	box 1	folder 14
Children's Health Data Analysis, 1992	box 1	folder 15
Report, 1991	box 1	folder 16
Child mortality report and executive summary, 1991	box 1	folder 17
Sarah Zaidi Journals, 1991	box 1	folder 18
Special article, 1992	box 1	folder 19
Thesis on child nutrition in Baghdad, 1993	box 1	folder 20

### Subseries I.2: 1995 Research mission

Physical Description: 0.625 linear feet



**Scope and Contents**

Material from the 1995 CESR research mission to Iraq. Contains mission trip materials and, primarily, children's health surveys in Arabic.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Child health survey methods, 1995	box 2	folder 1
1995 mission trip materials, 1995	box 2	folder 2
Children's health surveys, 1995 <u>Physical Description</u> : 5 folders	box 2	folder 3-7
Children's health data analysis, 1995	box 2	folder 8

**Subseries I.3: 1996 research mission**

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet

**Scope and Contents**

Material from the 1996 CESR research mission to Iraq. Includes survey and mission materials, maps of survey clusters, many children's health surveys, data analysis, an education study, another prospective CESR study, internal CESR material, personal notebooks, contact information, and a Food and Agriculture Association evaluation of Iraq. There is also a copy of the Ba'athist paper Ath-Thawra [The Revolution] (since disbanded during the 2003 invasion). This subseries also includes correspondence, specifically between CESR representatives and the UN and correspondence related to verbal autopsies.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Survey information and background, 1996	box 3	folder 1
Cluster maps, 1995-1996	box 3	folder 2
Mission information, 1996	box 3	folder 3
Children's health surveys, 1996 <u>Physical Description</u> : 10 folders	box 3	folder 4-13
Data guidelines and tables, 1996	box 3	folder 14
Demographic and data analysis, 1996	box 3	folder 15
Data analysis, 1996	box 3	folder 16
Education study, 1996	box 3	folder 17
CESR prospective study, 1996	box 3	folder 18
Internal CESR material, 1996	box 3	folder 19
CESR personal notebooks, 1996	box 3	folder 20
Contact information, 1996	box 3	folder 21
Unicef/uniscale correspondence, 1996	box 3	folder 22
Verbal autopsy correspondence, 1996	box 3	folder 23
UN Correspondence, 1996	box 3	folder 24

FAO Evaluation of Iraq, 1995	box 3	folder 25
Ath-Thawra Physical Copy, 1996	box 3	folder 26

#### Subseries I.4: 1997 research mission

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet

##### Scope and Contents

Material from the 1997 CESR research mission to Iraq. Primarily includes original adult and children's health surveys and data analysis. Also features food consumption surveys and food security questionnaires. Contains hospital information as well.

Title/Description	Instances	
1997 surveys and instructions, 1997	box 4	folder 1
Adults and children health surveys, 1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	box 4	folder 2-7
Data analysis, 1997	box 4	folder 8
Food consumption/ security survey material, 1997	box 4	folder 9
Food consumptions surveys, 1997	box 4	folder 10
Food security questionnaire, 1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 4	folder 11-12
Hospital information, 1997	box 4	folder 13

#### Subseries I.5: CESR Iraq publication material

Physical Description: 1 linear feet

##### Scope and Contents

Published paper by CESR and its affiliate members. This is organized by year and includes the 1991 Harvard mission reports and publications. Publications range from 1991-2003 and include fact sheets, reports, and articles.

Title/Description	Instances	
Iraq 1991		
First report, 1991 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 5	folder 1-2
Harvard study report and article, 1991	box 5	folder 3
1991 Iraq Mission Publications, 1991	box 5	folder 4
CESR analysis of '91 report, 1997	box 5	folder 5
Iraq 1996-1997		
"Unsanctioned Violence" publication, 1996	box 5	folder 6
Lancet dispute, 1996	box 5	folder 7

CESR Report: Sanctions Against Iraq, 1997	box 5	folder 8
Iraq 2001-2002		
Iraq Sanctions Project, 2001	box 5	folder 9
Iraq Fact Sheets, 2002	box 5	folder 10
CESR Report: Iraq Sanctions Humanitarian Implications, 2002	box 5	folder 11
Legal notes for Iraq campaign, 2002	box 5	folder 12
Iraq 2003		
Iraq Mission materials, 2003	box 5	folder 13
Civilian targets and casualty questionnaire, 2003	box 5	folder 14
CESR Report The Humanitarian and Legal Implications of the War in Iraq, 2003	box 5	folder 15
CESR: The Human Cost of War in Iraq, 2003	box 5	folder 16
Roger Normand article drafts, 2003	box 5	folder 17
Internal CCSR Memos on 2003 Campaign, 2003	box 5	folder 18
Lancet article: "Humanitarian Cost of War", 2003	box 5	folder 19

### Subseries I.6: External work on Iraq

Physical Description: 5 folders

#### Scope and Contents

External research material on Iraq. These include UNICEF and UNDP reports on Iraq, external organizations such as USAID's plans for Iraq, and additional research from media outlets.

Title/Description	Instances	
External organization Iraq information, 2000-2003	box 5	folder 20
Multi-organization humanitarian plans for Iraq, 2001-2003	box 5	folder 21
Unicef/UNDP Iraq materials, 1999-2003	box 5	folder 22
External research Iraq, 2002-2003	box 5	folder 23-24
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II: CCSR multi-country work

**Scope and Contents**

Features work related to multiple countries and missions. Files are connected to CESR projects and publications on Ecuador, Palestine, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti, Honduras, Nigeria, and the Texas-Mexico border.

**Subseries II.1: Ecuador**

Physical Description: 10 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Features material related to CESR's early Ecuador project, including mission materials, the subsequent four CESR reports on oil pollution and human rights violations in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Also includes articles and drafts published by Sarah Zaidi and Chris Jochnick on oil and Texaco in Ecuador. Finally, includes a case study on Ecuador.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Ecuador mission materials, 1993	box 6	folder 1
CESR Report on a Rapid Assessment of Oil Pollution, 1993	box 6	folder 2
CESR Report: Rights Violations in the Ecuadorian Amazon, 1993	box 6	folder 3
Draft: Health, environment and human rights in the Ecuadorian Oriente and oil development, 1994	box 6	folder 4
Zaidi: Human Health Effects of Oil Development in the Ecuadorian Amazon, 1994	box 6	folder 5
Article in Hoy, 1994	box 6	folder 6
CESR: Oil in the Rainforest, 1996	box 6	folder 7
Chris Jochnick Texaco Articles, 1998-1999	box 6	folder 8
CESR Report: From Needs to Rights, 1999	box 6	folder 9
Ecuador Case Study, 1999	box 6	folder 10

**Subseries II.2: Palestine**

Physical Description: 6 folders

**Scope and Contents**

CESR publications related to Israeli jurisdiction in Palestine, the Oslo accords, Israeli occupation, the right to water, and Palestine fact sheets.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
CESR concerning Israeli Jurisdiction in Palestinian Territories to ESCR, 1998	box 6	folder 11
CESR Material on Oslo Accords, 2000	box 6	folder 12
CESR Report: Under Siege: Israeli Human Rights Violations in Palestine, 2001	box 6	folder 13

CESR Palestine Fact Sheets, 2002	box 6	folder 14
CESR Report: Thirsting for Justice, 2003	box 6	folder 15
Palestine Right to Water plans, 2003	box 6	folder 16

### Subseries II.3: Afghanistan

Physical Description: 7 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Material related to CESR mission to Afghanistan. Includes the mission proposal, materials, and interviews. Also includes external work and research on Afghanistan.

Title/Description	Instances	
CESR mission proposal Afghanistan, 2001	box 6	folder 17
CESR Afghanistan fact sheet, 2001	box 6	folder 18
Afghanistan Mission Interviews, 2002	box 6	folder 19
External organizations on Afghanistan, 2001	box 6	folder 20
External analysis on Afghanistan, 2001	box 6	folder 21-22
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		

### Subseries II.4: Cambodia

Physical Description: 1 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Primarily consists of a copy of the August 27-September 3, 1990 edition of The Nation featuring Roger Normand article "At the Khmer Rouge School: The Teachings of Chairman Pot."

Title/Description	Instances	
Cambodia, 1990	box 6	folder 23

### Subseries II.5: Haiti

Physical Description: 7 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Documents related to a 1996 research trip to Haiti. Consists of case studies and background material, trip notes and interviews, a final report with notes, and an IPS report on restoring democracy in Haiti.

Title/Description	Instances	
Haiti case study, 1995	box 6	folder 24
Sarah Zaidi Haiti trip notes, 1996	box 6	folder 25
Haiti trip interview notes, 1996	box 6	folder 26
Haiti paper and notes, 1996	box 6	folder 27
Background information on Haiti, 1996	box 6	folder 28

IPS Report: Restoring Democracy to Haiti, 1994	box 6	folder 29
Correspondence w/ Brown University on Haiti Case study, 1996	box 6	folder 30

### Subseries II.6: Honduras

Physical Description: 6 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Material related to gold mining in Honduras. Features a variety of background information– on both mining and Honduras, as well as legal precedent– and a series of CCSR reports. There is also a UN report on Honduras in this subseries.

Title/Description	Instances	
CESR Report: The Price of Gold, 2001	box 6	folder 31
CESR Report: A Human Rights Critique (on mining), 2003	box 6	folder 32
Mining background information, 1995-2003	box 6	folder 33
Background for Honduras report, 2001	box 6	folder 34
Legal background for Honduras report, 2001	box 6	folder 35
UN Honduras report, 1999	box 6	folder 36

### Subseries II.7: Nigeria

Physical Description: 2 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Subseries includes external analysis collected by CCSR on Nigeria.

Title/Description	Instances	
External analysis on Nigeria, 1995	box 6	folder 37-38
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		

### Subseries II.8: Texas-Mexico Border

Physical Description: 2 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Holds an outline of the Texas-Mexico border project and a draft of CCSR report on economic and social rights along the border.

Title/Description	Instances	
Texas-Mexico Border Project, 1996	box 6	folder 39
Draft of Promoting Economic and Social Rights on the US-Mexican Border, 1996	box 6	folder 40

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series III: General CESR Materials

Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet

#### Scope and Contents

The series begins with a variety of documents related to CESR's general work. These include published descriptions of CESR from the organization and the publication Portavoz [Spokesman], meeting agendas and minutes, drafts of articles, and internal materials such as media lists and press releases. There is also a folder containing information and correspondence surrounding the Iraq Sanctions Project. Subseries in this series include materials from workshops, UN documents, correspondence, sponsored programs such as the Right to Water and the Women's Economic Equality Project, and documents related to their US based work.

Title/Description	Instances	
About CESR, 2003	box 7	folder 1
Portavoz Article, 1995	box 7	folder 2
Ad Hoc Committee on Children's Health in Iraq, 1996	box 7	folder 3
African Commission Event, 1997	box 7	folder 4
Honduras Mining Meeting, 2001	box 7	folder 5
Iraq Sanctions Project, 2001	box 7	folder 6
Working draft: Children at Risk, 2000	box 7	folder 7
Fawzi + Zaidi Lancet Article, 1995	box 7	folder 8
Internal how to resources, 2003	box 7	folder 9
Media lists and press release, 2000	box 7	folder 10

### Subseries III.1: Workshops and training

Physical Description: 4 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Consists of material from CESR workshops and human rights training programs, an important component of the organization's early human rights work. There are two human rights workshops, one from 1995 and one from 2001. There is an additional workshop on mining in Honduras. Some of the material is in Spanish.

Title/Description	Instances	
CESR Workshop, 1995	box 7	folder 11
CESR Workshop/ training materials, 2001	box 7	folder 12
Humans Rights Training and open discussion, 2001	box 7	folder 13
Honduras Mining Workshop, 2001	box 7	folder 14

**Subseries III.2: UN Materials**

Physical Description: 4 folders

**Scope and Contents**

UN documents, beginning with UN human right's work from 1969. The subseries then moves to material from the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1997. These materials include short articles and speeches.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
UN Documents, 1969	box 7	folder 15
UN ESCR, 1997	box 7	folder 16
ESCR Speeches and Shorts, 1997	box 7	folder 17

**Subseries III.3: Correspondence**

Physical Description: 10 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence between members of CESR and other individuals/organizations. Much correspondence relates to a dispute with the Lancet surrounding inaccurate data found in a 1995 article. There is a sizable amount of correspondence from Anna Cody, the coordinator for programming at Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales while it was located in Brooklyn, New York.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Correspondence over excess death calculation, 1995	box 7	folder 18
Correspondence w/ the Lancet, 1995-1996	box 7	folder 19
Correspondence b/w Jean Lennox and Richard Garfield w/ article, 1996	box 7	folder 20
Correspondence about oil, 1996	box 7	folder 21
Correspondence b/w Chris, Phoebe, and Michael about Tex-Mex Project, 1997	box 7	folder 22
Alex Taylor Correspondence, 2001	box 7	folder 23
Correspondence b/w Ayliz Baskin and Mahdis Keshavarz, 2002	box 7	folder 24
Anna Cody correspondence in Spanish, 2002	box 7	folder 25
Jacob Park Correspondence, 2003	box 7	folder 26
Miscellaneous correspondence	box 7	folder 27

**Subseries III.4: Sponsored programs**

Physical Description: 0.625 linear feet



**Scope and Contents**

Material related to four sponsored programs: Right to Water, the Women's Economic Equality Project (WEEP), the US Poor People's Campaign, and Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CDES). Material on Right to Water features fact sheets, the program's agenda, the Right to Water declaration and convention, contact information, and information on the program and gender. There is also substantial material from CDES including newsletters, publications, workshops and an alternative proposal for debt relief in Ecuador. CDES branched off from CESR and is now independent.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Right to Water, 2002	box 8	folder 1
Right to Water Fact Sheets, 2002	box 8	folder 2
Right to Water Agenda on Water, 2002	box 8	folder 3
Right to Water Gender, 2001	box 8	folder 4
Right to Water General Comments, 2002	box 8	folder 5
Right to Water Ghana Mission, 2002	box 8	folder 6
Right to Water Declaration and Convention, 2002	box 8	folder 7
Right to Water Contacts and Groups, 2002	box 8	folder 8
Women's Economic Equality Project (WEEP), 2001	box 8	folder 9-11
US Poor People Campaign, 2002	box 8	folder 12
CDES Petition to IACHR, 2000	box 8	folder 13
CDES: An Alternative Proposal for Debt Relief in Ecuador, 2000	box 8	folder 14
CDES Newsletters, 2000	box 8	folder 15
CDES Publications, 2000	box 8	folder 16
CDES Workshops, 2000	box 8	folder 17

**Subseries III.5: General human rights articles**

Physical Description: 6 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Articles and materials related to shifting perspectives in human rights and the need to reform the field. Also includes documents on the right to education and legal dicta.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Human rights reforms articles, 1996	box 8	folder 18
Human rights law dicta/articles, 1994	box 8	folder 19
Right to education, 2002	box 8	folder 20
ESCR documents, 2003	box 8	folder 21
New Schemas for Human Rights Articles, 1997	box 8	folder 22

