



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Department of Sociology records 7831932

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
Series I. Administrative records and publications	6
Series II. Publications	7
Series III. Graduate student cards	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Department of Sociology
Title:	Department of Sociology records
ID:	7831932
ID:	UA#0162
Date [inclusive]:	1910s-1998
Physical Description:	2.58 linear feet 1 record carton and 2 index card boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Department of Sociology Records; Box and Folder (if known); University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

In 1894 Franklin H. Giddings became the first professor of sociology at Columbia University. The department grew in scope and depth in between World Wars with Robert S. Lynd (1931-1942) and Robert MacIver (1929-1950). In 1941 both Robert Merton and Paul Lazarsfeld joined the department and their collaboration extended into the 1970s. They helped the department play a leading role in the national growth of sociology and the other social sciences after World War II.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

This collection consists of the administrative records of the Department of Sociology such as departmental meeting minutes and correspondence. Included are a number of publications from Paul Felix Lazarsfeld's interest in quantifying methodologies for social research. There are also two boxes of index cards kept by department with information about former graduate students.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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

Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2019-02-17 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

All administrative records of the University are restricted for 25 years from the date of creation.

Restrictions on Access

The following box is located off-site: Box 1. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Accrual of Records

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios and Jessica Liston (CC 2020). Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in February 2019.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Bureau of Applied Social Research Records, 1944-1976 (MS#0166); Paul Felix Lazarsfeld Papers [ca. 1930]-1976. (MS#0753).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Sociology -- Study and teaching

- Merton, Robert King, 1910-2003
- Columbia University. Bureau of Applied Social Research
- Columbia University. Faculty of Political Science
- Columbia University. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Lazarsfeld, Paul F., 1901-1976

Collection Inventory

Series I. Administrative records and publications, 1945-1998

Scope and Contents

This series contains the minutes of the department's regular monthly (and sometimes luncheon) meetings. There is a selection of the Bureau of Applied Social Research (BASR) newsletters and other announcement sent to the department's main office for reference. The department was reviewed by the Committee on Instruction of the Graduate Faculty of Political Science and included in this series are copies of draft and final reports. Finally, there is a small selection of correspondence about graduate student progress and placement information from 1998.

Title/Description	Instances	
Department meeting minutes, 1945-1950	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents (Regular monthly meetings)		
Department meeting minutes, 1951-1960	box 1	folder 2
Department meeting minutes, 1961-1966	box 1	folder 3
The Bureau Reporter newsletters, 1962-1966	box 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents (Newsletter of the Bureau of Applied Social Research)		
The Bureau Reporter newsletters, 1967-1971	box 1	folder 5
Bureau of Applied Social Research announcements, 1963-1971	box 1	folder 6
Scope and Contents (Includes BASR project numbers, BASR library news, and list of unpublished reports.)		
Review of the Department of Sociology by the Committee on Instruction of the Graduate Faculty of Political Science,, 1974	box 1	folder 7
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences correspondence, 1998	box 1	folder 8

Scope and Contents

(Includes information about the 1960 graduate students, the placement for 1992-1997 graduates, and the other information about students)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II. Publications, 1952-1967

Scope and Contents

This series contains a number of dittoed publications that belonged to Paul Felix Lazarsfeld. The publications relate to the work on research methodology and qualitative and quantitative analysis of social research data.

Title/Description	Instances	
Planning Project for Advanced Training in Social Research publications		
Documentation Furnished to the Ford Center on Concepts and Indices in the Social Sciences,, 1953	box 1	folder 9-10
Scope and Contents		
(Documents for the Seminar on Concepts and Indices in the Social Sciences; 2 copies)		
Concepts and Indices in the Social Sciences: A Report on the Dartmouth Seminar,, 1953	box 1	folder 11
Organization, Plan of Work, and Present State of the Project, 1955	box 1	folder 12
Extracts from N. Rashevsky's "Mathematical Biology of Imitative Behavior" lecture,, 1952	box 1	folder 13
A System of Scales Derived from a Standard Traceline Model, notes by Paul F. Lazarsfeld and developed by David G. Hays,, 1952	box 1	folder 14
Memorandum re: New Mathematical Work on Latent Structure Theory since the RAND Memoranda Were Completed,, undated	box 1	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
(Memo from Paul F. Lazasfeld to Victor Hunt. Includes "Some Theories of Structor Algebra: Notes on Extensions of Matrix Algebra Necessary for Latent Structure Analysis.")		
The Present State of Latent Structure Analysis, undated	box 1	folder 16
Case Materials and Case Analysis in American Professional Training by Bernard Barber,, 1950s	box 1	folder 17

The Use of the Case Method of Instruction in Undergraduate History Courses by Elinor G. Barber,, 1953	box 1	folder 18
Case Materials: Some Comparative Analysis of their Use in Different Fields by Elinor G. Barber,, 1954	box 1	folder 19
A Survey of Activities in Urban and Minority Problems at Three American Universities by George Nash and Patricia Nash,, 1967	box 1	folder 20

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III. Graduate student cards, 1909-1979

Scope and Contents

Graduate students enrolled in sociology classes were asked to complete an information card, which was kept by the department. The information collected on the cards varies (the template changes over the years) but for the most part, the card includes information about the student's background, academic record, research interests, and future plans. The cards were updated by the office staff and include information about the students' lives after they left Columbia. The cards related to students from 1909 to 1916 and then after a gap, the cards resume with students in 1932. The cards from the 1940s and 1950s may include a copy of the student's registration photograph. Cards are organized alphabetically by the student's last name.

Title/Description	Instances
A-La	box 2
Le-Z	box 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)