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Guide to the

Edmund W. Gordon papers

1957-1990

Sc MG 316

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Gordon, Edmund W.

Title: Edmund W. Gordon papers

Date: 1957-1990

Size: 36.69 linear feet (86 boxes, 1 volume); 3.2 kb (1 computer files)

Source: Donated by Edmund W. Gordon, 1990.

Abstract: Edmund W. Gordon (born 1921) is an African-American psychologist and an expert in child development who has worked throughout his career on the issues and challenges of underprivileged and minority students in American education. The Edmund W. Gordon papers, dating from 1957 to 1990, document Gordon's career in government and academia, mostly from the mid-1960s to 1990 at Project Head Start (federal office), Columbia University Teachers College, and Yale University. The papers contain correspondence and subject files holding published and unpublished papers by Gordon and others; drafts and manuscripts of book chapters; files of the Head Start program; lectures and speeches; academic departmental correspondence; government, non-profit, and academic reports; and research-in-progress.

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2017.

Creator History

Edmund W. Gordon (born 1921) is an African-American psychologist and an expert in child development who has worked throughout his career on the issues and challenges of underprivileged and minority students in American education. As a clinician and researcher, he explored divergent learning styles and advocated for supplemental education long before most scholars had recognized the existence and importance of those ideas. In addition, he was the chief of the Head Start Research Office under President Lyndon Johnson.

Born in North Carolina, Gordon received his bachelor's degrees in zoology and social ethics from Howard University; his masters in social psychology at American University; and a doctorate in child development and guidance from Teachers College, Columbia University. He spent his early career as a clinical psychologist and minister before earning his doctorate, after which he held professorial and departmental chair positions in the Psychology, Education, and/or Afro-American Studies departments of Yeshiva University, Teachers College/Columbia University, and Yale University. He is currently the John M. Musser Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at Yale University; Richard March Hoe Professor, Emeritus, of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University; and director emeritus of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) at Teachers College. Gordon also served (from 2012) as chairman of the Gordon Commission on the Future of Assessment in Education.

In addition to his pedagogical work, and authoring or editing 15 books and 175 articles, Gordon was a consultant for the Educational Testing Service, several public school boards around the country, and the College Entrance Examination Board, where he developed and co-chaired the Taskforce on Minority High Achievement.

Scope and Content Note

The Edmund W. Gordon papers, dating from 1957 to 1990, document Gordon's career in government and academia, mostly from the mid-1960s to 1990 at Project Head Start (federal office), Columbia University Teachers College, and Yale University. The papers contain correspondence and subject files holding published and unpublished papers by Gordon and others; drafts and manuscripts of book chapters; files of the Head Start program; lectures and speeches; academic departmental correspondence; government, non-profit, and academic reports; and research-in-progress. The collection does not contain personal or family papers.

The papers are in two divisions: Correspondence and Subject Files. The Correspondence, dating from 1958 to 1986, is with researchers, educators, academics, organizations, students, and other colleagues. Many of the correspondents can also be found in the Subject Files. Some of the correspondence is arranged chronologically (1968 to 1986), but most is in alphabetical files. The collection holds no sustained correspondence between Gordon and any person or organization.

Gordon's drafts and final copies of published and unpublished papers, as well as speeches and lectures delivered at meetings and conferences, can be found throughout the collection.

The Subject Files, dating from 1957 to 1990, are arranged either alphabetically or chronologically. They hold correspondence; published and unpublished papers; book chapters and papers-in-progress; grant applications and reports; government, non-profit, and academic project reports; raw research data; transcripts and notes for speeches and lectures; and proceedings of conferences and retreats.

Subject Files with the most documentation include the Program of Research Concerned with the Improvement of Minority Education (PRIME); Yale University; Head Start; the National Institute of Education; the Academy for Educational Development; the American Orthopsychiatric Association; the American Personnel and Guidance Association; Compensatory Education; Exemplary Projects and Programs; the Educational Testing Service; Gordon's book *Human Diversity and Pedagogy*; the Institute for Urban and Minority Education; *Review of Research in Education* (a journal Gordon edited in the 1980s); and Teachers College/Columbia University.

The Program of Research Concerned with the Improvement of Minority Education (PRIME), funded in

part by the Josiah Macy Junior Foundation, consisted of pilot projects at several New York City high schools with underprivileged and minority populations. The files include researcher correspondence; raw research results and teacher/student interview transcripts (which do not hold personally-identifiable information); Macy Foundation correspondence and reports; and letters from school administrators and teachers.

The Yale University files include documentation of the Program for Curriculum Materials Research; correspondence among the Psychology and Afro-American Studies department students and faculty, as well as course syllabi; correspondence with university administration; and letters and literature regarding the Bush Center for Child Development and Social Policy.

The Head Start files date from 1965 to 1971. They contain inter-office correspondence; progress reports; evaluations; survey results and other research data; and minutes and transcripts of meetings.

Files regarding the American Orthopsychiatric Association hold correspondence pertaining to the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, which Gordon edited in the early 1980s.

Files documenting Gordon's work with the National Institute of Education appear under the Institute's parent entity, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Teachers College files include a copy of Gordon's doctoral dissertation; course descriptions; files on the Counseling and Guidance Training Institute; committee and sub-committee reports; and site visit reports.

Subjects with medium amounts of documentation include the College Entrance Examination Board; the Educational Testing Service; Exemplary Projects and Programs; the Institute for Urban and Minority Education; and the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC). Smaller files hold letters from researchers, former students, organizations, and school systems consulting with Gordon, as well as grant applications, reports, and information on conferences, symposia, retreats, and other events.

The collection contains one electronic file in WordStar format holding the outline for a book titled "Defiers of Negative Predictions for Success."

The collection also contains a small set of audio and video recordings dating from 1971 to 1989. They document conferences, speeches, and academic retreats. Audio and video recordings are currently unavailable pending preservation transfer.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in two sections: Correspondence and Subject Files. Both have chronological and alphabetical subdivisions.

Key Terms

Occupations

Academics (people)

Psychologists

Subjects

African American psychologists

Children with social disabilities--Education

Compensatory education

Educational evaluation
Educational psychology

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Electronic records
Manuscripts
Papers (documents)
Proceedings
Reports
Speeches
Transcripts

Names

Columbia University. Teachers College
Project Head Start (U.S.)
Yale University. Department of Psychology

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- b. 3 f. 1-23 D - Hi 1962-1977
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- b. 4 f. 7-20 1967-1970
- b. 5 f. 1-15 1970-1972
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- b. 6 f. 1-21 1971
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- b. 16 f. 3-6 American Federation of Teachers - American Medical Association 1966-1990

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- b. 16 f. 7-14 1971-1980
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- b. 17 f. 3-10 1968, 1979-1984
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American Personnel and Guidance Association

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- b. 20 f. 6-12 American - Association 1966-1990

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- b. 21 f. 1-2 B - Ba 1979-1985
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- b. 21 f. 3-12 1983-1988
- b. 22 f. 1 1989
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- b. 24 f. 1-8 Chi - Col 1970-1985
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- b. 24 f. 9-14 1970-1971
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- b. 26 f. 1-2 Commission - Committee 1968-1972
- v. 1 A Comparative Study of Quality Integrated Education 1976
 Compensatory Education
 These files contain notes, correspondence, lectures, and manuscripts of papers.
- b. 26 f. 3-8 1970-1975
- b. 27 f. 1-7 1970-1979
- b. 28 f. 1 1979
- b. 28 f. 2-9 Com - Con 1968-1970, 1983-1984
 Connecticut State Board of Education Teacher Examination Development
 Panel
 Gordon acted as an independent consultant for the Board of Education.
- b. 28 f. 10-11 1982-1983
- b. 29 f. 1-7 1984-1988
- b. 29 f. 8-15 Con - Def 1967-1972, 1980-1985
- er. 1 "Defiers of Negative Predictions for Success" 1980s
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 A book outline.
 Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
- b. 29 f. 16-19 1967-1974
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- b. 30 f. 1-11 1970-1978
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- b. 34 f. 10-12 EI - Eq 1967-1968, 1974, 1985

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These files document evaluations of academic programs at various school systems around the United States.

- b. 34 f. 13-16 Correspondence and Final Reports
 - Projects
 - b. 35 f. 1-8 Atlanta - Hempstead
 - b. 36 f. 1-7 Mishawaka, Indiana - West Las Vegas, New Mexico
 - b. 36 f. 8-16 Ex - FI 1965-1989
 - b. 37 f. 1-21 Fo - Gh 1962-1988
 - b. 38 f. 1-12 Gi - Go 1963-1985
 - b. 39 f. 1-4 Gordon, Edmund 1970s-1980s
 - The files include academic papers and biographies in the form of typescripts and written drafts.
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 - b. 40 f. 1-9 Gr - H 1960-1985
 - b. 41 f. 1-17 Ha - Harvard University 1966-1986
 - b. 42 f. 1-3 Hay - Haz 1963-1980
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 - b. 42 f. 4-7 1965-1968
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 - b. 44 f. 1-3 1969-1971
 - b. 44 f. 4-8 He - Higher Education 1966-1971, 1978
 - Includes a file on Gordon's research project on Higher Education for the Disadvantaged.
 - b. 45 f. 1-7 Ho - Hu 1965-1980
 - Human Diversity and Pedagogy*
 - The files hold correspondence, notes, drafts, manuscripts, and one lecture.
 - b. 45 f. 8-16 1978-1983
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- Task Force on Ethno-Cultural Experience
- Originally called the Task Force on the Relevance of the Social Sciences to the Black Experience.
- b. 58 f. 4-17 1981-1983
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- These files include papers regarding the President's Task Force on Child Development.
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- b. 63 f. 7-8 1983-1985
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- A. Philip Randolph, Clara Barton, DeWitt Clinton, Hill House, Tuba City (Arizona).
- b. 64 f. 7 1983-1984
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- b. 69 f. 2-11 Pr - R 1965-1985
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- The files hold editorial correspondence, drafts, and commentary.
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 - b. 71 f. 1-15 Rel - Sem 1965-1990
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- Yeakey, Carol Camp
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 - b. 86 f. 3 Z 1981