



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Elizabeth Bishop Davis papers

1964-1979

Sc MG 121

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Davis, Elizabeth Bishop, 1920-

Title: Elizabeth Bishop Davis papers

Date: 1964-1979

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: African American psychiatrist Elizabeth Bishop Davis began her career in the late 1940s with the Lafargue Clinic, the first mental health facility that primarily served African Americans in Harlem. Her father, the Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop, rector of St. Philips' Church, helped to establish the clinic, which was housed in the church. In 1962, she accepted the position of director of Harlem Hospital's newly established Department of Psychiatry, serving in that position until 1978. During this period she became an authority on providing psychiatric care in inner-city settings. Davis began teaching in 1957 at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, where she received her medical degree (1949). In 1971 she was promoted to clinical professor of psychiatry, and retired in 1978. The Elizabeth Bishop Davis papers include papers given by Davis at professional psychiatric conferences from 1964 to 1982 as well as published articles, 1964-1979. While the topics are varied, many deal with mental illness among black people, psychiatric health care in an inner-city setting, and the role of psychoanalysis in the treatment of the mentally ill. Other themes deal with the consequences of poverty and racial discrimination on mental health, particularly in Harlem, community psychiatry and black psychiatrists. There are also papers presented by other Harlem Hospital psychiatrists and women staff, including Gladys Engri.

Preferred citation: [Item], Elizabeth Bishop Davis papers, Sc MG 121, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

Also located at Columbia University Health Science Library

Creator History

African American psychiatrist Elizabeth Bishop Davis began her career in the late 1940s with the Lafargue Clinic, the first mental health facility that primarily served African Americans in Harlem. Her father, the Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop, rector of St. Philips' Church, helped to establish the clinic, which was housed in the church. In 1962, she accepted the position of director of Harlem Hospital's newly established Department of Psychiatry, serving in that position until 1978. During this period she became an authority on providing psychiatric care in inner-city settings. Davis began teaching in 1957 at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, where she received her medical degree (1949). In 1971 she was promoted to clinical professor of psychiatry, and retired in 1978.

Scope and Content Note

The Elizabeth Bishop Davis Papers include papers given by Davis at professional psychiatric conferences from 1964 to 1982 as well as published articles, 1964-1979. While the topics are varied, many deal with mental illness among black people, psychiatric health care in an inner-city setting, and the role of psychoanalysis in the treatment of the mentally ill. Other themes deal with the consequences of poverty and racial discrimination on mental health, particularly in Harlem, community psychiatry and black psychiatrists. There are also papers presented by other Harlem Hospital psychiatrists and women staff, including Gladys Engri.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American psychiatrists
African Americans -- Mental health
African Americans in medicine -- New York (State) -- New York
Mental health counseling -- New York (State) -- New York
Mental health facilities -- New York (State) -- New York
Mentally ill -- New York (State) -- New York
Psychiatry -- African Americans
Psychotherapy -- Social aspects -- New York (State) -- New York

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Social conditions

Occupations

Women physicians

Names

Davis, Elizabeth Bishop, 1920-
Engri, Gladys
Harlem Hospital Center (New York, N.Y.). Dept. of Psychiatry

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Conference Papers 1965-1982
- b. 1 f. 3 Published Articles 1964-1979
- b. 1 f. 4 Other Authors 1964-1977