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John Manfredi Papers

1938-1985

2 boxes (1.0 linear feet)

Call no.: FS 148

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One of four young sociologists who joined the faculty at UMass Amherst in the years after the Second World War, John Manfredi carried the entire load of teaching theory from 1948 to 1967. A native of Philadelphia and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BA 1942), Manfredi came to Amherst after completing his MA at Harvard in 1948, teaching while simultaneously completing a dissertation on "The Relationship of Class-Structured Pathologies to the Contents of Popular Periodical Fiction, 1936-1940" (Harvard, 1951). A specialist in social theory and cultural systems, he taught anthropology for several years and both his research and teaching revolved around the sociology of religion and art. His best known work, *The Social Limits of Art*, appeared in 1982, three years before his retirement. Manfredi died in February 1993.

The John Manfredi collection contains a suite of articles and class essays from his days as a graduate student in sociology at Harvard and his early years on faculty at UMass Amherst. Reflecting his training in theory and his developing interest in the sociology of art, the collection also includes a handful of unpublished works and a particularly interesting set of notes on classes taken by Manfredi in the mid-1940s under eminent figures such as Talcott Parsons, Carle C. Zimmerman, and P.A. Sorokin.

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Background on John Manfredi

One of four young sociologists who joined the faculty at UMass Amherst in the years after the Second World War, John Manfredi carried the entire load of teaching theory from 1948 to 1967. A native of Philadelphia and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BA 1942), Manfredi came to Amherst after completing his MA at Harvard in 1948, teaching while simultaneously completing a dissertation on "The Relationship of Class-Structured Pathologies to the Contents of Popular Periodical Fiction, 1936-1940" (Harvard, 1951).

A specialist in social theory and cultural systems, Manfredi taught both sociology and anthropology for several years as his interests evolved from a focus on class and social pathology to Italian sociological theory to the sociology of religion and art. A valued mentor and inspiring teacher, he wrote two monographs: *Periodical Resources in Italian Sociology* (1977) and his best known work, *The Social Limits of Art* (1982). Manfredi retired from teaching in 1985 and died in February 1993.

Scope of collection

The John Manfredi collection contains a suite of articles and class essays from his days as a graduate student in sociology at Harvard and his early years on faculty at UMass Amherst. Reflecting his training in theory and his developing interest in the sociology of art, the collection also includes a handful of unpublished works and a particularly interesting set of notes on classes taken by Manfredi in the mid-1940s under eminent figures such as Talcott Parsons, Carle C. Zimmerman, and P.A. Sorokin.

Inventory

Course Paper: "Heaven and earth: China and India" (submitted to P.A. Sorokin and Talcott Parsons)
1944 May 26

Box 1: 1

Course Paper: "Medieval economic institutions and the problem of security" (submitted to Talcott Parsons and Carle C. Zimmerman)
1945 Feb. 9

Box 1: 2

Course Paper: "Work, place, and people: A study in the mechanics of Italian-American maladjustments in the American milieu with special reference to the criteria of the Le Play School" (submitted to P.A. Sorokin)
1944 May 26

Box 1: 3

"The Crisis of the church in the mid-century" (talk at St. Anselm's)
ca.1958

Box 1: 4

Diplomas
1938-1952

Box 1: 5, :

Manfredi's diplomas from University of Pennsylvania (BA 1942) and Harvard (PhD., 1951) are housed with oversized materials

"A discussion of method in social science" (Honors thesis in Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania)
1942 May

Box 1: 6

Dissertation precis: "The relationship of class-structured pathologies to the contents of popular periodical fiction, 1936-1940"
1950 Sept.

Box 1: 7

Junior Annals, Class of 1942 (University of Pennsylvania)
1941

Box 1: 8

Korson, Henry J. (letter recommending Manfredi for a job)
1952

Box 1: 9

Miscellaneous

1946-1974

Box 1: 10

Notes and drafts of papers

ca.1945-1950

Box 1: 11

Notes on urban sociology

ca.1951

Box 1: 12

Request for research help to the Faculty Research Council: "Relationship of demographic instability to the incidence of sectarianism"

1959 Mar. 11

Box 1: 13

Retirement

1985

Box 1: 14

"The Riesman characterology: a close look" (paper rejected by *American Sociological Review*)

1958-1959

Box 1: 15

Saturday Evening Post article (draft)

ca.1958

Box 1: 16

"The Social and Cultural Matrix of Art"

1980

Box 1: 17

The Social Limits of Art: Correspondence

1981-1983

Box 1: 18

"Societal complexity and limited alternatives"

1954

Box 1: 19

"Toward a sociology of aesthetics"

Undated

Box 1: 20

"The treatment of upward mobility in the *Saturday Evening Post*" (article rejected by the *American Journal of Sociology*)

1938-1952

Box 1: 21

"An urban lower white-collar group: a case study in social pathology and non-economic orientations of behavior"

1948 July

Box 1: 22

Vita and letters of support

1974-1980

Box 1: 23

Course notes

1944-1947

Sociology 13 -- Sociology of the Family: course taught by Carle C. Zimmerman

1944

Box 2: 1

Sociology IVC -- Economics and the Social Structure: course taught by Talcott Parsons

1944-1945

Box 2: 2

Sociology III -- Social change and social progress: course taught by Carle C. Zimmerman

1944-1945

Box 2: 3

Social Pathology: course taught by Robert Freed Bales

1946

Box 2: 4

Sociology I 3: course taught by Carle C. Zimmerman

1946

Box 2: 5

Sociology 9 -- Regional Sociology of the U.S.: course taught by Carle C. Zimmerman
1946

Box 2: 6

Social relations 1h: course taught by George C. Homans
1947

Box 2: 7

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Lewis Manfredi, 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, April 2011.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: John Manfredi Papers (FS 148). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Sociology--Study and teaching.

University of Massachusetts Amherst--Faculty.

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Department of Sociology.

Contributors

Manfredi, John, 1920- . **[main entry]**

Parsons, Talcott, 1902-1979.

Sorokin, Pitirim Aleksandrovich, 1889-1968.

Zimmerman, Carle Clark, 1897-1983.

Genres and formats

Lecture notes.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275
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