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Sylvia Forman Collection

1983-1987

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

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Shortly after receiving her doctorate from the University of California Berkeley in 1972, the anthropologist Sylvia Helen Forman joined the faculty at UMass Amherst. A staunch feminist and activist, Forman was known for her commitment to her students and to the political life at the university, and for her engagement in the community. She died of cancer in 1992, just 48 years old.

The nine papers in this collection were the products of studies by students enrolled in Forman's Anthropology 497 class at UMass Amherst. All are intensive analyses of issues of race, gender, and social justice in local communities, including disability, teenage pregnancy, child care, Cambodian refugees, and attitudes toward community living and community change.

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Background on Sylvia Forman

The anthropologist Sylvia Helen Forman (1943-1994) received her doctorate from the University of California Berkeley in 1972 for a her study of law and conflict in rural highland Ecuador and the following year she joined the faculty at UMass Amherst. From early in her career, she stood out as an advocate for her students and was instrumental in building cross-connections among anthropologists in the Five Colleges to expand opportunities for study, and she forged strong connections as well with the developing programs in women's studies.

A feminist and activist, deeply involved in campus politics, Forman was known around the UMass campus for her passion for social justice and her commitment to challenging the image of her field as a white men. In the profession, she was known as one of the founders of the Association for Feminist Anthropology in 1998. When Forman died of lung cancer in 1992, she bequeathed \$100,000 of her estate to endow a fund to support a scholarship fund for Third World students wishing to study anthropology at UMass.

Scope of collection

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Inventory

Barnaba, Pier and Tryna Hope: The right of return: perspectives on community living

1985 Aug.

Box 1

Blanchard, Eliza; David Chevalier; and Maritza Guzman: Teenage pregnancy: a needs assessment of young women's perceptions about and access to family planning services and prenatal care in Holyoke

1987 June

Box 1

Deliso, Peter and Michelle Patterson: Crossing lines: a community relations project: Amherst-Hadley-the University of Massachusetts

1984 Aug. 2

Box 1

Fabel, Elizabeth; Lisa Sammet; and Joan White: Community growth: planning for the future of Leverett

1985 Dec.

Box 1

Frick, Gregory D. and Hans A. Helgerson: Knowing Deerfield: A survey of perceptions, information transfer, and citizen involvement in Deerfield, Ma.

1983 June

Box 1

Groves, Alison: Pelham and change: a study in citizen perception with regard to growth in Pelham, Massachusetts

1987

Box 1

Halverson, Sheril and Cheryl Tausky-Hollocher: Availability of child care to lower-income parents in Amherst : A needs assessment

1984 May 31

Box 1

Lopez, Felice and Joyce Conlon: Reaching out: a report in cultural diversity

1987 June 15

Box 1

Schneider, Cathy and Suellen Loyd: An informational study of a select group of Cambodian refugees and their sponsors

1986 Feb.

Box 1

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Sylvia Forman, 1989.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2017.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Sylvia Forman Collection (MS 341). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

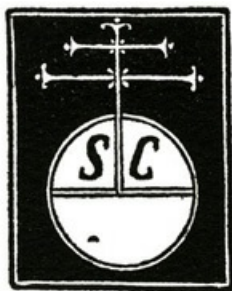
Amherst (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Anthropology--Massachusetts
Cambodians--Massachusetts
Child care--Massachusetts
Community and college--Massachusetts--Amherst
Deerfield (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Hadley (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Holyoke (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Leverett (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Pelham (Mass.)--Social conditions--20th century
Teenage pregnancy--Massachusetts--Holyoke
University of Massachusetts Amherst--Students

Contributors

Forman, Sylvia Helen, 1944 or 1945-1992 [main entry]

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