

Department of Psychology fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (1994)

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Department of Psychology fonds. – 1948-1990; (predominant 1982-1990).

56 cm of textual records.

15 photographs : b&w prints and negatives ; 20 x 25 cm or smaller.

6 audio reels.

Administrative History

A course in psychology was first offered by the University in 1915, through the Department of Philosophy. Prof. James Henderson was the sole member of the Department until 1920, when Dr. H.T.J. Coleman was appointed Head (as well as Dean of Arts). Only one course in psychology was taught until 1926, but by 1936 enough courses had been added to the curriculum for the Department's name to be changed to Philosophy and Psychology. Dr. Coleman was replaced as Head by J.A. Irving in 1940, followed by S.N.F. Chant in 1945. When Prof. Chant became Dean of Arts and Sciences in 1948, he remained Department Head, but Dr. Barnet Savery acted as Chairman in his absence; starting that year, separate staff meetings were held for faculty in the philosophy and psychology programs. Beginning in the 1940's the Department expanded rapidly, and during this period moved from rooms scattered around the campus into a number of Army-surplus huts. In 1951 the Department was authorized to grant a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, although the first such degree was not actually awarded until 1968. The Department of Psychology was established as a completely separate unit in 1958, with Professor Chant as its Head, and Prof. Edro Signori as Chairman and, after 1961, Acting Head. Dr. Douglas T. Kenny was appointed Department Head in 1965. That same year the Department moved from its old huts to new facilities in the Angus Building, sharing the building with the Faculty of Commerce. Under Dr. Kenny's leadership the Department continued to grow in terms of faculty, students, and course offerings; also, its programs became less eclectic, and more focused on experimental psychology and research. When he resigned in 1969, Prof. Signori served again as Acting Head until Dr. Peter Suedfeld was appointed in 1972; he, in turn, was replaced by Dr. Richard C. Tees in 1984. In 1984, the Department moved again, to the new Kenny Building. Over the years the Department of Psychology has grown to become one of the largest in the Faculty of Arts.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of correspondence, reports, and minutes of meetings relating to the activities and programs of the Department of Psychology, and photographs of Department Heads and prominent faculty members. Some records date from before the formation of the Department, when the psychology program was still part of the Department of Philosophy and Psychology. Also included are audio recordings of

interviews (with typed transcripts) documenting the Department's historical development.

The material is arranged in six series: Administration, Departmental Committees, Departmental Programs, External Correspondence, Historical Files, and Oral History Project. The Historical Files series consists of textual records which document the Department's formative years, and photographs; they had been placed in a box and stored separately from the Department's other records until transferred to the Archives.

Notes

File List available. Audio recordings are listed separately.

The audiotaped interviews with former staff, along with typed summaries, were produced through an oral history project undertaken in 1982-83, and copied by the Archives in 1983 for its audio-visual holdings.

Photographs included in UBC Archives' Historical Photograph Database ([UBC 6.1](#)).

Series Descriptions

Administrative series. - 1973-1990.

16 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of annual reports, correspondence, and memoranda pertaining to the general administration of the Department of Psychology.

Departmental Committees series. - 1980-1989.

17 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of minutes of meetings pertaining to various committees within the Department.

Departmental Programs. - 1977-1986.

4 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence pertaining to various departmental programs.

External Correspondence series. - 1977-1990.

12 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence pertaining to the Department's relations with other University departments, the University President, and external bodies.

Historical Files series. - 1948-1983.

7 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of annual reports, minutes of meetings, programs, and oral history projects pertaining to the documentation of the Department's formative years.

Photographs series. - 1945-1987.

15 photographs : b&w prints and negatives : 20 x 25 cm or smaller.

Series consists of photographs portraying various Professors and Department Heads within the Department of Psychology.

Photographs are included in the UBC Historical Photograph Database ([UBC 6.1](#)).

Oral History Project series. - 1982-1983.

6 audio reels.

Series is described in the **Sound and Moving Images database**.

File List

Box 1

ADMINISTRATION

- 1-1 Annual Report [1975-81]
- 1-2 Correspondence to members of Psychology Department - 1982
- 1-3 Memo To All Faculty - 1984-1986
- 1-4 Memo to All Faculty - 1987
- 1-5 Memo to All Faculty - 1988
- 1-6 Memo To All Faculty - 1989
- 1-7 Memo to/from All Faculty - 1990
- 1-8 Animal Care - 1982-89
- 1-9 Area Coordinators - 1982, 84
- 1-10 Small group lab [1973-80]
- 1-11 History of UBC Psychology Dept [1975-80]

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

- 1-12 Departmental Meeting - 1980-81
- 1-13 Departmental Meeting - 1982 [-84]
- 1-14 Coloquia [sic] [Committee]- 1982-1983-1986

Box 2

- 2-1 Dept. - Colloquium [Committee] - 1987-[88]
- 2-2 Colloquium Com. - 1989
- 2-3 Graduate Policy Committee - 1986-1988
- 2-4 Dept. - Graduate Student Comm. (John Pinel) - 84/85
- 2-5 Registration & Undergraduate Committee - 1984-1988
- 2-6 Space Committee - 1984-88
- 2-7 Student Awards and Scholarship Committee - 1989
- 2-8 Dept. Teaching Committee - 1986, 1987, 1988
- 2-9 Teaching Committee - 1989
- 2-10 Dept. Teaching Evaluation Committee - 1985-1988
- 2-11 Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Load - Dr. Rod Wong - [1981]-1982

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

- 2-12 Clinical Program In Psych. Misc. Correspondence [1977-86]
- 2-13 Independent Study Program (Audrey Campbell 1981) - 1979-81
- 2-14 Neurosciences Program (Ph.D. Proposal) [1982-83]
- 2-15 Psychology Graduate Program - 1980-81

EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

- 2-16 President's Office - 1985-86

Box 3

- 3-1 President's Office - 1986-1987
- 3-2 President's Office - 1988
- 3-3 President's Office - 1989
- 3-4 President's Office - 1990
- 3-5 Dean of Arts (Misc.) [1979-81]
- 3-6 Assistant Dean of Arts [1977-81]
- 3-7 Extra Sessional Studies - 1988
- 3-8 Guided Independent Study - 1982-88
- 3-9 Yukon - 1980-81[-82]

HISTORICAL FILES

- 3-10 Dept. of Psychology - Annual Reports (1957-8-1974-5)
- 3-11 Dept. of Psychology - Faculty Meeting Minutes (1948-50)
- 3-12 Dept. of Psychology - Undergraduate Program (1949-1959)
- 3-13 Dept. of Psychology - Graduate Programs (n.d.)
- 3-14 Dept. of Psychology - History of (c. 1950-1979)
- 3-15 Dept. of Psychology - Oral History Project (1982-83)
- 3-16 Log of Archival Oral History Project - 1982-83
- 3-17 Chant, Dean S.N.F. [1982-87]

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6.1/1p Prof. Edwin S.W. Belyea - 1946- - Picture taken about 1954
- 6.1/2p Dr. W. Black

6.1/3p/sn Dr. Dean Chant / Prof. S.N.F. Chant - Head, 1945-1961
6.1/4p Dr. H.T.J. Coleman - 1920-
6.1/5p Professor James Henderson M.A. - 1915-
6.1/6p/sn Prof. J.A. Irving - 1937- / Head, 1940-1945
6.1/7p Dr. Donald C.G. MacKay - 1947-
6.1/8p Dr. Joseph Morsh - 1935-
6.1/9p/sn Dr. Edro Signori - Acting Head, 1961-1965, 1969-1972
6.1/10p/sn Dr. Peter Suedfeld - Head, 1972-1984
6.1/11sn [Dr. Douglas T. Kenny]