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Kurt Wolff papers03.MWalB00214A

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brandeis University

415 South St.

Waltham, MA

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brandeis University
Creator:	Wolff, Kurt H. , 1912-2003
Creator:	Fellman, Gordon
Creator:	Marcuse, Herbert, 1898-1979
Creator:	Miliband, Ralph
Creator:	Schwartz, Morris S.
Title:	Kurt Wolff papers
ID:	03.MWalB00214A
Date [inclusive]:	1952- circa 2003, undated
Physical Description:	1.00 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	1 record center box other_unmapped
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Arranged in five series: 1. Sociology Department Files, 1959-1997; 2. University Files, 1952-1993; 3. Professional Activities, 1959-1992, undated; 4. Personal Files, 1972-1988, circa 2003; 5. Course Materials, 1959-1993, undated. Within series 1, 2, and 4, the materials have been organized alphabetically. Within series 3, the materials have been organized chronologically. Within series 5, the materials have been organized by course number. For more information about each series, please consult the series descriptions in the box and folder listing.

Preferred Citation

Kurt Wolff Papers, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department,
Brandeis University

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Biographical or Historical Information

Kurt Wolff was a member of the Brandeis Sociology faculty from 1959 until his retirement in 1982. Upon retirement, Professor Wolff remained active as emeritus faculty until 1992, during which time he continued to publish and teach undergraduate and graduate level courses in sociology.

Professor Wolff studied under Karl Mannheim at the University of Frankfurt in Germany during the early 1930s. His studies in Germany were interrupted by the Nazis' rise to power, which compelled him to move to Italy. He obtained his Ph.D. in the sociology of knowledge from the University of Florence in 1935. Four years later, anti-Semitic laws forced Professor Wolff to leave Italy. In 1939 he relocated to the United States where he began his lifelong commitment to teaching and research in sociology.

Prior to his appointment at Brandeis, Professor Wolff was an Associate Professor at Ohio State University for fourteen years. He left Ohio State in 1959 to join the Brandeis sociology faculty as professor and department chair. He was instrumental in organizing the doctoral program in sociology which was established at Brandeis in 1961. His areas of expertise include the sociology of knowledge and phenomenological sociology. Professor Wolff taught numerous courses while at Brandeis, including *The Sociology of Knowledge*, *Phenomenology and Sociology*, *Surrender and Catch: Experience and Inquiry Today*, and *Themes in Sociological Theory*.

During his tenure at Brandeis, Professor Wolff served on the Faculty Senate and was appointed the Manuel Yellen Professor of Social Relations in 1977. He was also elected as President of the International Society for the Sociology of Knowledge in 1972 and President of the American Sociological Association in 1977. He was awarded two Fulbright Senior Lectureships to Italy and Australia in 1963 and 1980, respectively. He lectured at universities throughout the United States and Europe, helping to make Brandeis better known and appreciated by colleagues and students worldwide.

A prolific writer, Professor Wolff authored, edited and translated numerous articles, books and reviews in professional publications. Many of his works were published in French, German and Italian. His publications include *Survival and Sociology: Vindicating the Human Subject* (1991) (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers), *Beyond the Sociology of Knowledge: An Introduction and a Development* (1983) (Lanham: MD: University Press of America), *Surrender and Catch: Experience and Inquiry Today* (1976) (Reidel Press), and *O Loma! Constituting a Self 1977-1984* (1989) (Northampton, MA: Hermes House Press) which includes pencil drawings by Professor Wolff.

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Scope and Contents

The files in this collection were created from 1959 through 1997. They include correspondence, memos, newspaper clippings, departmental newsletters, faculty biographies, course materials, typescripts, bibliographies, and publication lists. There is considerable amount of correspondence, including letters

between Professor Wolff and Professor Morrie Schwartz, Dean Peter Diamandopoulos, Dean Lawrence Fuchs, and President Abram Sachar. This correspondence provides some insight into the mission and development of the Sociology Department from 1958 to 1997.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Some material is restricted [R]; please consult the University Archivist.

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Brandeis University -- Faculty
- Sociology
- Department of Sociology, Faculty Papers
- Faculty, Sociology
- Wolff, Kurt H. , 1912-2003
- Brandeis University. Department of Sociology

Other Descriptive Information

Addenda to this collection may not be listed in the finding aid, but may be available for research use. Please contact us for more information.

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Collection Inventory

Box 1

Box 1

Sociology Department Files, 1959-1997

Box 1

Creator: Fellman, Gordon

Creator: Marcuse, Herbert, 1898-1979

Creator: Miliband, Ralph

Creator: Schwartz, Morris S.

Date: 1959-1997

Scope and Contents

The series contains correspondence, memos, departmental newsletters, faculty biographies, teaching schedules, faculty committee and other professional activity reports. The correspondence give some indication of the mission and development of the sociology department from 1959 through 1997. The series contains a substantial number of correspondence about departmental activities and university budgetary constraints that impacted the department over the years. Correspondence also includes memos and letters written by Professors Wolff, Herbert Marcuse, Lewis Coser, Everett Hughs, Maurie Stein, Gordon Fellman and Irving Zola. A substantial amount of material on Brandeis sociology Professor Morrie Schwartz exists, including letters about early departmental activities and newspaper clippings about Professor Schwartz and his battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease. Other correspondence include letters written by British sociologist Ralph Miliband, a Brandeis sociology faculty member until 1986.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Sociology
- Department of Sociology, Faculty Papers

- Faculty, Sociology

Title/Description	Instances
General files [5 folders], 1959-1997 <u>Date:</u> 1959-1997	Box 1
General files [R], 1960-1997 <u>Date:</u> 1960-1997	Box 1
Miliband, Ralph, 1981-1995 <u>Creator:</u> Miliband, Ralph <u>Date:</u> 1981-1995	Box 1
Schwartz, Morrie, 1962-1996 <u>Creator:</u> Schwartz, Morris S. <u>Date:</u> 1962-1996 <u>Controlled Access Headings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology • Department of Sociology, Faculty Papers • Faculty, Sociology 	Box 1
Schwartz, Morrie [R], 1962-1996 <u>Creator:</u> Schwartz, Morris S. <u>Date:</u> 1962-1996 <u>Controlled Access Headings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology • Department of Sociology, Faculty Papers • Faculty, Sociology 	Box 1
Student correspondence [R], 1971-1991 <u>Date:</u> 1971-1991	Box 1
Student materials, 1976, 1979 <u>Date:</u> 1976, 1979	Box 1

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University Files, 1952-1993

Box 1

Date: 1952-1993

Scope and Contents

The series contains Brandeis Administration correspondence, memos, academic/instructional activity reports, faculty senate reports, newsletters and newspaper clippings about Brandeis. Administration correspondence include employment package and salary negotiation letters, sabbatical leave requests, requests for travel and research funds, faculty budget and salary adjustment memos,

Brandeis newsletters, commencement ceremony programs and minutes. A substantial amount of correspondence exists between Professor Wolff and Dean Peter Diamandopoulos, Dean Lawrence Fuchs and President Abram Sachar regarding salary and employment matters. Other material pertains to his move from Ohio State University to Brandeis. The series also contains newspaper clippings on the student occupation of Ford Hall in 1969 and correspondence, newspaper clippings, faculty senate reports and recommendations on Brandeis anthropology Professor Kathleen Gough Aberle who resigned in 1963 over academic freedom issues.

Title/Description	Instances
Brandeis Center for the Humanities, 1987 <u>Date:</u> 1987	Box 1
Colleague File, 1959-1991 <u>Date:</u> 1959-1991	Box 1
Coming to Brandeis, 1952-1959 <u>Date:</u> 1952-1959	Box 1
Coming to Brandeis [R], 1952-1959 <u>Date:</u> 1952-1959	Box 1
Ford Hall, 1969 <u>Date:</u> 1969	Box 1
General files [3 folders], 1959-1979 <u>Date:</u> 1959-1979	Box 1
General files [R], 1960-1979 <u>Date:</u> 1960-1979	Box 1
General files [2 folders], 1980-1993 <u>Date:</u> 1980-1993	Box 1
General files [R], 1980-1993 <u>Date:</u> 1980-1993	Box 1
Gough, Kathleen, 1963 <u>Date:</u> 1963	Box 1
History of Ideas Department, 1971-1981 <u>Date:</u> 1971-1981	Box 1
News clippings about Brandeis, 1974-1983 <u>Date:</u> 1974-1983	Box 1
Parents Weekend Speech, 1960	Box 1

Date: 1960[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Professional Activities, 1959-1992, undated**

Box 1

Date: 1959-1992, undated**Scope and Contents**

The series contains correspondence, memos, publication lists, biographical sketches, bibliographies, acknowledgment letters for contributions to scholarship funds, charity and memorial funds. Substantial correspondence include professional activity submissions to the Brandeis public affairs office. Other materials include copies of journal articles and typescripts.

Title/Description	Instances
Brandeis Public Affairs Office Submissions, 1959-1992 <u>Date</u> : 1959-1992	Box 1
Publication Lists, Biographical Sketches, Abstract Titles, 1959-1990 <u>Date</u> : 1959-1990	Box 1
Surrender As A Response to Our Crisis, 1962 <u>Date</u> : 1962	Box 1
Contributions, 1965-1990 <u>Date</u> : 1965-1990	Box 1
Contributions [R], 1965-1990 <u>Date</u> : 1965-1990	Box 1
Correspondence to the Justice (Brandeis Student Newspaper), 1962, 1979 <u>Date</u> : 1962, 1979	Box 1
A Reading of Karl Mannheim, undated <u>Date</u> : undated	Box 1
Surrender and Catch, Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, Critical Theory, undated <u>Date</u> : undated	Box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Personal Files, 1972-1988, circa 2003**

Box 1

Date: 1972-1988, circa 2003

Scope and Contents

The series contains personal correspondence, thank-you cards, and two color photographs of Wolff as an older man. Some correspondence is written in German.

Title/Description	Instances
General Correspondence, 1968 <u>Date</u> : 1968	Box 1
Personal Correspondence, 1972-1988 <u>Date</u> : 1972-1988	Box 1
Photographs of Kurt Wolff [2 color photos], circa 2003 <u>Date</u> : circa 2003	Box 1

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Course Materials, 1959-1993, undated

Box 1

Date: 1959-1993, undated

Scope and Contents

The series contains materials relating to Brandeis courses that Professor Wolff taught on topics such as the sociology of knowledge, phenomenological sociology, and the history of ideas. Materials include correspondence with publishing companies, handwritten course outlines, bibliographies, and course exam questions. This series also includes correspondence with Talcott Parsons, a noted Harvard sociology professor.

Title/Description	Instances
Sociology 228a [6 folders], 1966-1991 <u>Date</u> : 1966-1991	Box 1
Sociology 228b, materials and minutes, 1966 <u>Date</u> : 1966	Box 1
Sociology 212a, undated <u>Date</u> : undated	Box 1
Sociology 2a, 1961, 1973 <u>Date</u> : 1961, 1973	Box 1
Sociology 202a, undated <u>Date</u> : undated	Box 1
Sociology 109b, undated	

<u>Date</u> : undated	Box 1
Sociology 216b, 1983 <u>Date</u> : 1983	Box 1
Sociology 110a, 1993 <u>Date</u> : 1993	Box 1
Sociology 133a, 1992 <u>Date</u> : 1992	Box 1
Sociology 218a, 1986 <u>Date</u> : 1986	Box 1
Sociology 110b [2 folders], 1959-1990 <u>Date</u> : 1959-1990	Box 1
Sociology 204 [2 folders], 1969-1976 <u>Date</u> : 1969-1976	Box 1
Sociology 218b, 1970-1978 <u>Date</u> : 1970-1978	Box 1

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