



Ford Foundation records, Behavioral Sciences Division, Office Files of Bernard Berelson

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English

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Berelson, Bernard, 1912-1979
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Behavioral Sciences Division, Office Files of Bernard Berelson
ID:	FA1508
Date [inclusive]:	1951-1966
Physical Description:	1 Cubic Feet 3 boxes (2 letter document containers and 1 half-letter document containers)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations>

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Biographical / Historical

Bernard Berelson (1912-1979) was a social scientist and foundation executive who specialized in many fields, including library science, population studies, mass communication, and education. Berelson earned a bachelor's degree from Whitman College in 1934, and he went on to study library science at the University of Washington. In 1941, Berelson earned his doctorate at the University of Chicago. During World War II, he worked in Washington as an analyst of German opinion at the Office of War Information (OWI). After the War, Berelson was the research director of the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University from 1944 to 1946. He left this position for the University of Chicago, where he was a professor of library science and social sciences, and later, dean of the Graduate Library School and chairman of the Committee on Communication.

In 1951, Berelson joined the staff of the Ford Foundation in Pasadena, California, to lead what would become the Behavioral Sciences Division. Two overarching goals of the program were "to increase scientific knowledge of human behavior, and to facilitate the application of such knowledge to human affairs." Berelson was involved in projects that analyzed the study and scholarship of behavioral science,

a term he is credited with popularizing. He studied the number of graduate degrees awarded to students in anthropology, sociology, psychology, and political science. He also analyzed recent publications in these fields. The Behavioral Sciences Division allocated fellowship funding for behavioral scientists, established the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, surveyed graduate programs in behavioral science, and granted \$1,725,000 to 30 university presses over a period of five years to increase book publication in the humanities and social sciences. In 1957, Berelson left the Foundation to return to the University of Chicago to become a professor of behavioral sciences and director of the Study of Graduate Education. The Behavioral Sciences Division terminated in 1957. During its six-year existence, the Division distributed 218 grants totaling nearly \$24 million to eighty-five institutions in the United States and abroad.

In 1962, Berelson joined the Population Council and served as its president from 1968-1974. Upon his retirement, he remained an active senior fellow with the Council until his death in 1979.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains the office files of Bernard Berelson who served as Director of the Behavioral Sciences Division at the Ford Foundation from 1951-1957 as well as materials related to programs that extended beyond Berelson's time at the Foundation. Materials within the collection include correspondence, reports, notes, and data tables that analyze the behavioral sciences as an academic discipline. There are also grant proposals, fellowship information, and notes and correspondence regarding the university presses program, a program that allocated \$1,725,000 to 30 university presses over a period of five years to increase book publication in the humanities and social sciences.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series: Behavioral Sciences Office Files.

The material is arranged as it was received from the Ford Foundation.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by the RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary. This material was transferred to the RAC in 2019 by the Ford Foundation and was ingested by the RAC as Accession 2019:014.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research.

Processing Information

Standard processing by Katie Martin, March 2019.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Anthropology
- Behavioral sciences
- Education (Graduate)
- Political science

- Psychology
- Sociology
- University presses

Collection Inventory

Behavioral Sciences Office Files, 1951-1966

Title/Description	Instances	
Behavioral Sciences - Administrative Processes - Bibliography - Papers of Bernard Berelson, 1956-1957	box 1	folder 1

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, surveys of contributions in the fields of anthropology, political science, psychology, and sociology, surveys of doctorates issued by universities, guide to card file on behavioral science contributors/contributions, Memorial Policy in Social Science (Extracts from various memoranda and docket), notecards related to subjects taught at various universities

Behavioral Sciences - Basic Research (Background Information), 1962-1966	box 1	folder 2
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Scope and Contents

General description, Report - Grants for Behavioral Sciences, 1952-1962, handwritten notes related to grants in behavioral sciences, list of graduate fellowships 1953-1954

Cross reference grants lists - Research in the Behavioral Sciences:

PA57-380 - University of Washington

PA57-381, PA59-442, PA60-466 - Chicago University

PA57-380 - Columbia University

PA57-383 - University of Geneva

PA57-384 - Harvard University

PA57-385 - University of California (Berkeley)

PA57-386 - Yale University

PA57-387 - University of Minnesota

PA57-388 - Institute of Living

PA57-389 - Stanford University

PA57-390 - Swarthmore College

PA57-392 - University of Michigan

PA57-371 - Columbia University

PA57-372 - University of Michigan

PA57-377 - Harvard University

PA57-391 - University of California (Berkeley)

PA57-393 - Cornell University

PA57-394 - Chicago University

PA57-415 - Yale University

Cross Reference - Research in Individual Behavior and
Human Relations:

PA50-5 - University of California (Berkeley)

PA50-123 - University of Chicago

PA50-132 - Columbia University

PA50-239 - Cornell University

PA50-248 - Harvard College

PA50-251 - University of Illinois

PA50-255 - University of Michigan

PA50-259 - University of Minnesota

PA50-266 - University of North Carolina

PA50-268 - University of Pennsylvania

PA50-269 - Princeton University

PA50-275 - Social Science Research Council

PA50-284 - Yale University

Behavioral Sciences - As Applied to the Humanities -
Correspondence with/Reports Written by W. McNeil Lowry, 1958

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, summary of meeting with Dr. Robert
Merton, Economic and Social Positions of the Artist and

His Institutions - Phase I: Descriptive and Statistical and
Phase II: Analytical and Evaluative, Report of Exploratory
Session with Dean Manheimer over Outline for Phase I of
Study, Report by McNeil Lowry - The Visual Arts, Music,
Creative Writing Other Than Dramatic, The Theatre, The
Visual Arts, Music, The Theatre

Behavioral Sciences - Reports and Notes, 1957-1960

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Includes:

Editorial - The Ford Foundation and the Behavioral Sciences
- Reprinted from Human Organization, Volume 19, No. 2,
Summer 1960

Query: What should The Ford Foundation do about the
behavioral sciences? A. Terminate Support, B. Continue
Support

Five Year Report on Program V

Grants to Institutions

The Present Situation

Behavioral Sciences - Development of Program Area V (2
folders), 1951-1954

box 1

folder 5-6

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - Correspondence,
1956-1958

box 1

folder 7

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - Reports and Drafts,
1956-1958

box 1

folder 8

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - Interoffice Memos,
Interviews, and Inter-foundation Reports, 1955-1966

box 2

folder 9

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - Drafts, Notes, Graphs,
Miscellaneous Brochures, and Clippings, circa 1955-1960

box 2

folder 10

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - William McPeak
Memo and Correspondence, 1960-1962

box 2

folder 11

Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Education - "Committee
of Fifteen" (The Fund for the Advancement of Education),
1954-1956

box 2

folder 12

Scope and Contents

Notes, comments, and reports on graduate education

Includes the final publication - The Graduate School
Today and Tomorrow: Reflections for the Profession's
Consideration, Committee of Fifteen, Jacques Barzun,
Harvie Branscomb, Paul Buck, Philip Davidson, William
DeVane, John Dodds, Clarence Faust, Frederick Hard,

Charles Johnson, Roger McCutcheon, Donald Morrison,
Whitney Oates, Philip Rice, F. W. Strothmann, C. Vann
Woodward, December 1955

Behavioral Sciences - Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 1955-1957	box 2	folder 13
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Scope and Contents

Study committee notes and correspondence

Behavioral Sciences - Ford Faculty Apprenticeship Program Proposal and A Proposal for the Study of the Behavioral Sciences, undated	box 2	folder 14
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Behavioral Sciences - Foundation Fellowships, 1955-1956	box 2	folder 15
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Behavioral Sciences - Program Director Job Description, 1956 April 26	box 2	folder 16
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Behavioral Sciences - University Presses Program - Notes and Correspondence, 1960-1961	box 2	folder 17
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Scope and Contents

Correspondence with Edward D'Arms

Behavioral Sciences - University Presses Program - W. McNeil Lowry's Correspondence with University Presses, 1956-1960	box 2	folder 18
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Behavioral Sciences - University Presses Program - Notes, undated	box 3	folder 19
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Behavioral Sciences - American University Publishing, 1955: A Supplement to the "Report on American University Presses" by Chester Kerr, The Association of American University Presses, 1956	box 3	folder 20
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Behavioral Sciences - University Presses Program - Evaluation and Review, undated	box 3	folder 21
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