



# **Ford Foundation records, Race and Ethnicity Task Force Files**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator:</b>	Ford Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Ford Foundation records, Race and Ethnicity Task Force Files
<b>ID:</b>	FA267
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1953-1974
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.56 Cubic Feet 12 LTR size Hollinger boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Ford Foundation was chartered by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 "to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare", and initially served the Ford family's charitable interests in the Detroit area. Following the deaths of Edsel Ford (1943) and Henry Ford (1947), the Foundation was propelled to the forefront of philanthropy as the largest American foundation in terms of both endowment and yearly expenditures, and with an international scope to its major program areas. During the Foundation's first twenty years its major programs were in international economic development, primary and higher education, educational and public broadcasting, behavioral sciences, civil liberties, urban development, fine arts and the humanities. The Ford Foundation also partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation in supporting agricultural development in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Since the 1970s, the Foundation has also pioneered programs in women's rights, energy policy, micro-financing in under-developed countries, establishing human rights groups, and improving international HIV/AIDS education.

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Ford Foundation's Race and Ethnicity Task Force originated from a discussion paper titled "Planning for the Foundation's Program in 1973 and Beyond" that Foundation President McGeorge Bundy

presented to the Foundation Board of Trustees in March 1972. Bundy placed race and ethnicity as the first of ten subjects the Foundation sought to investigate for the purpose of determining future programming priorities. Headed by Social Development Program Officer Basil Whiting, the Race and Ethnicity Task Force strived to assess the state of available research on the nature and role of race and ethnicity, especially in regards to the United States, and report its recommendations to the Trustees for a potential program on basic research on race and ethnicity. The task force was an internal team composed of Foundation staff members. Shirley Teper served as a consultant.

In its final report, the Race and Ethnicity Task Force recommended against the Ford Foundation initiating a program of basic research on race and ethnicity. Instead, it suggested that the Foundation develop an exploratory program on studies in racial, cultural, and political pluralism.

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## Scope and Contents

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Collection contains the files of the Ford Foundation's Race and Ethnicity Task Force. It consists of one series of subject files. Documents chiefly originate from between 1972 when the task force was first created as a result of Foundation President McGeorge Bundy advocating race and ethnicity as one of ten subjects for investigation in his "Planning for the Foundation's Program in 1973 and Beyond" discussion paper and 1974 when the task force submitted its final recommendations to the Foundation Board of Trustees. Reports, papers, and other types of materials originating from the 1950s and 1960s can also be found in the collection due to the task force's efforts to gather information on the state of research regarding the nature and role of race and ethnicity. The collection's contents appear to have been principally created and organized by the task force director Basil Whiting who served as a Program Officer for the Social Development Program in the National Affairs Division and by Shirley Teper, a consultant for the task force.

In addition to reports and papers, the collection contains materials such as correspondence, memos, agendas, schedules, participant lists, notes, expense reports, proposals, and an audio recording transcript of the February 1973 Race and Ethnicity Task Force retreat. These records document the task force's meetings and communications with scholars and institutions associated with race and ethnicity studies research as well discussions regarding the task force's final report. The task force engaged race and ethnicity related research from the fields of sociology, minority studies, anthropology, urban studies, cultural studies, and psychology and gathered information on topics such race relations, interethnic and interracial conflict, and cultural pluralism.

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## Arrangement

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Collection consists of one series.

Original order was maintained as much as possible during processing.

The collection arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Subject files, 1953-1974

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at the RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files, and officers' papers were transferred to and accessioned by the RAC beginning in 2011.

This material was transferred to the RAC in 2019 and was ingested by the RAC as part of Accession 2019:046 Ford Foundation records, Program Strategy records.

Accessions continue as necessary.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Ford Foundation
  - Cultural pluralism
  - Ethnology -- Study and teaching
  - Minorities -- Study and teaching
  - Race relations
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## Collection Inventory

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### Subject files, 1953-1974

Physical Description: 4.56 Cubic Feet 12 LTR size Hollinger boxes

#### Scope and Contents

Series contains the subject files created through the activities of the Ford Foundation's Race and Ethnicity Task Force. It documents the task force's efforts to assess the state of research on race and ethnicity through background reports and papers, internal memos and correspondence, external communications with scholars and institutions from diverse fields on the topic of race and ethnicity, and collected grant proposals for projects related to race and ethnicity studies. Materials appear to have been chiefly created and organized by Social Development Program Officer Basil Whiting who headed the task force and by Shirley Teper, a consultant on the task force.

Materials generally originate from between 1972 and 1974 when the Race and Ethnicity Task Force was active. Nevertheless, some of the reports and grant proposals collected by and submitted to the task force originate from as early as 1953. Race and Ethnicity Task Force and larger Ford Foundation memos and correspondence outline the purpose of the project and its relationship to the other Planning Agenda Task Forces, document administrative and operational activities, and discuss the preparation of the final report which the task force submitted to the Foundation Board of Trustees. The series of meetings convened by the task force to discuss different topics related to race and ethnicity are documented by meeting agendas and schedules, expense reports, correspondence with scholars who participated in the meetings, and papers from those scholars. The task force would ask meeting participants to prepare written statements on basic research in race and ethnicity, and participants would often later write about their reactions to the meetings to Whiting and Teper. Some of the grant proposals collected within the series were submitted directly to the task force, while others were forwarded from different programs at the foundation. Funding projects related to race and ethnicity studies was not actually within the scope of the task force's responsibilities. Nevertheless, there are some materials pertaining to earlier grants made by the Ford Foundation.

The series also includes an audio recording transcript of the Race and Ethnicity Task Force February 1973 retreat.

Title/Description	Instances
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Background to Task Force Study - Reports by Ford Foundation personnel/consultants, M-Z, 1967-1973	box 1	folder 1-4
Background to Task Force Study - Reports by Non-Ford Foundation personnel/consultants, 1968-1974	box 2	folder 5-9
Conferences on race and ethnicity - Academy of Arts and Sciences seminar, 1972	box 3	folder 10
Conferences on race and ethnicity - The Center, 1974	box 3	folder 11
Conferences on race and ethnicity - Miscellaneous, 1971-1973	box 3	folder 12
Conferences on race and ethnicity - Indiana University Office of Economic Opportunity Conference on Racial Discrimination, 1973	box 3	folder 13
Conferences on race and ethnicity - Miscellaneous, circa 1972-1974	box 3	folder 14
Background reading materials - Bibliographies and directories, 1972-1973	box 3	folder 15-17
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Task Force April 1973 meetings - North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, 1973	box 8	folder 55
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Task Force March 1973 meetings - Paul Wrobel, 1973	box 8	folder 58
Task Force March 1973 meetings - National Opinion Research Center, 1973	box 9	folder 59
Task Force March 1973 meetings - National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)/National Science Foundation (NSF), 1972-1973	box 9	folder 60
Task Force December 1972 meeting - Ethnic Conference, Chicago, 1972-1973	box 9	folder 61
Grant proposals, A-E - Allegheny Academy, Peter Sustar, 1973	box 9	folder 62
Grant proposals, A-E - Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Kenyon Burke, 1971-1972	box 9	folder 63
Grant proposals, A-E - Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Oscar Cohen, 1973	box 9	folder 64
Grant proposals, A-E - Brandeis University, Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence, John Spiegel, 1964-1973	box 9	folder 65
Grant proposals, A-E - University of California Los Angeles, Judith Caditz, 1973	box 9	folder 66
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Grant proposals, A-E - Cornell University, Leonard Reissman, 1973	box 9	folder 70
Grant proposals, A-E - Curtis, Lynn A., 1973	box 9	folder 71
Grant proposals, A-E - Ethnic Heritage Affairs Institute, Inc., 1973	box 9	folder 72



Grant proposals, A-E - The Ethnic Foundation, Paul Deac, 1970	box 9	folder 73
Grant proposals, H-K - Harvard University, Geoffrey Bock, 1973	box 10	folder 74
Grant proposals, H-K - Harvard University, 1973	box 10	folder 75
Grant proposals, H-K - Hillcrest Children's Center, Reginald S. Lourie, 1972-1973	box 10	folder 76
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Grant proposals, H-K - Institute of Comparative Ethnic Studies, 1974	box 10	folder 78-79

## Scope and Contents

The still image in the file is a photograph taken of the January 14, 1973 Project Interviewers' meeting of the Topeka Intercultural Research Project.

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Grant proposals, H-K - Janowsky, Oscar I., 1973	box 10	folder 82
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Grant proposals, M-O - University of Minnesota, Paul Pedersen, 1973	box 10	folder 85
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