



Ford Foundation records, Education, Media, Arts and Culture (EMAC) - Education, Knowledge, and Religion Unit (EKR), Office Files of Toby Alice Volkman

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English

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Creator - aut:	Volkman, Toby Alice
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Education, Media, Arts and Culture (EMAC) - Education, Knowledge, and Religion Unit (EKR), Office Files of Toby Alice Volkman
ID:	FA712
Date [inclusive]:	1982-2001
Physical Description:	10.8 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Office Files of Toby Alice Volkman, Program Officer in the Ford Foundation's Education, Knowledge and Religion unit from 1995-2001, document her oversight of grants to support teaching, scholarship and publications in the field of international and area studies. The collection spans 1982-2001 and consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, grant proposals, meeting materials and publications. Of particular interest are records pertaining to the Crossing Borders initiative, launched in 1997 under Volkman's leadership, and files from the Foundation's African Studies initiative. The files were transferred to the Ford Foundation Archives in September 2005. The arrangement of the collection follows the original order established by Volkman, though a few unfolded and stray items have been interfiled by the processing archivist. A significant number of duplicate reports and memos were removed and discarded.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical note

Toby Alice Volkman joined the Ford Foundation in 1994 as a consultant to the Education and Culture division. She was appointed Program Officer in the same area in 1995, and under a 1996 reorganization was assigned to the Education, Knowledge and Religion unit of the Education, Media, Arts and Culture program. Volkman was responsible for grantmaking to support teaching, scholarship and publications in the field of international and area studies.

In 1997, the Ford Foundation launched a major initiative under Volkman's leadership. "Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies" provided \$25 million over six years to enhance research and teaching about particular regions of the world and global processes that impact them. In the first phase of this initiative, Volkman oversaw 30 grants to U.S. academic institutions. In addition, a new Worldwide Fund for Area Studies supported collaborations between American colleges, universities, and institutional counterparts in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia.

Volkman also worked extensively on a Ford Foundation African Studies initiative, which supported scholarship and research in this field during the late 1990s. Her grantmaking also included support for numerous academic programs related to Southeast Asia studies. Volkman completed her assignment at the Ford Foundation in 2001. She was later a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Anthropology at New York University, and became deputy provost of New School University in 2004.

Volkman holds a B.A. degree from the University of Chicago (1969) and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University (1980). Her dissertation focused on the cultural anthropology of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. From 1980-1985, Volkman was Staff Anthropologist at Documentary Educational Resources. Her book *Feasts of Honor: Ritual and Change in Tana Toraja* was published by the University of Illinois in 1985. She was Director, South and Southeast Asia Programs of the Social Science Research Council from 1986-1994.

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Organizational history

Ford Foundation grants to academic and research institutions working to broaden and organize knowledge about specific world regions dates from the 1950s. The Foundation was a primary force behind the establishment of area studies programs in the United States, and granted hundreds of millions of dollars to support graduate scholarship through its International Training and Research Program. In later years, the Ford Foundation maintained its commitment to the field by funding the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, which in turn supported area studies scholars and programs.

"Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies" was a special initiative launched by the Ford Foundation in 1997. Drawing upon the Foundation's deep experience with support of scholarship focused on

world regions, this initiative sought to reinvigorate the field, to stimulate a critical rethinking of its parameters, and to encourage broader funding by government, universities and philanthropies. This effort was, in part, a response to intellectual critiques of area studies motivated by demographic shifts, the internationalization of scholarship and the popularity of multiculturalism and post-colonial theory. At the same time, dwindling institutional support for language study, travel and other components of area studies weakened programs and underscored the need for fresh philanthropic commitment to the field.

Crossing Borders began with thirty grants of \$50,000 each to support area studies programs in a wide range of institutions. Eventually, more than fifty Crossing Borders grants were made, running through 2005. Funded projects included Duke University's "Oceans Connect," which fostered research on cultural and economic linkages across maritime basins, a faculty-student research group at Colby College charged with restructuring the institution's junior year abroad program, and research collaborations between Hunter College students and faculty and the staff of several New York-based human rights NGOs. From 1997-2001, Crossing Borders was headed by Ford Foundation Program Officer Toby Alice Volkman. It was a special initiative of the Education, Knowledge and Religion unit of the Foundation's Education, Media, Arts and Culture division.

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Scope and Contents

The Office Files of Toby Alice Volkman document grantmaking to support international and area studies programs at academic and research institutions during the period 1982-2001. A substantial portion of the collection relates to the Crossing Borders initiative, 1997-2001. Also included are records pertaining to a Foundation initiative to support African Studies, and files on dozens of additional grants for international and area studies. Several files include documents created by Sheila Biddle, a Program Officer in Education and Culture from 1982-1996. The files contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, grant proposals and related documentation, meeting materials and publications. The collection measures 9 linear feet and is contained in 9 record cartons.

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Arrangement

The Office Files of Toby Alice Volkman are arranged in three series:

I. Crossing Borders Initiative, 1997-2000 II. African Studies Initiative, 1995-1998 III. Other Grants and Subjects, 1982-2001

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Conditions Governing Use

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details.

Ford Foundation holds title, copyright and literary rights in the collection, in so far as it holds them.

The Rockefeller Archive Center has authority to grant permission to cite and publish material from the collection for scholarly purposes. Permission to publish extensive excerpts, or material in its entirety, will be referred to the Ford Foundation.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

Conditions Governing Access

Records more than 10 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

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Collection Inventory

Crossing Borders Initiative, 1997-2000

Scope and Contents

Series I includes grant proposals, applicant and grantee correspondence, proposal review notes, recommendations for grant action (RGAs), grantee narrative reports and internal memoranda. Two rounds of funding are documented: Round 1 grants made in 1997, and Round 2 grants from 1999. For a list of individual institutions/proposals contained in the "Rejected Proposals" folders (box 1, folders 41-44 and box 2, folders 24-26) see the grant RGAs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Assessment, 1997-2000	box 1	folder 1
Conference, 1998	box 1	folder 2
Conference transcripts, 1998	box 1	folder 3-4
Initiative Announcement, 1997	box 1	folder 5
Lists of Proposals, 1997	box 1	folder 6
Memoranda, 1997-1999	box 1	folder 7
Publicity, 1997-2000	box 1	folder 8
Round 1 – Grants – California State University, Dominguez Hills	box 1	folder 9
Round 1 – Grants – California State University, Los Angeles	box 1	folder 10
Round 1 – Grants – Colby College	box 1	folder 11
Round 1 – Grants – Dartmouth College	box 1	folder 12
Round 1 – Grants – Duke University	box 1	folder 13
Round 1 – Grants – Emory University	box 1	folder 14
Round 1 – Grants – Five Colleges, Inc.	box 1	folder 15
Round 1 – Grants – Hamline University	box 1	folder 16
Round 1 – Grants – Hunter College	box 1	folder 17
Round 1 – Grants – Lewis & Clark College	box 1	folder 18
Round 1 – Grants – Middlebury College	box 1	folder 19
Round 1 – Grants – New Mexico State University	box 1	folder 20
Round 1 – Grants – New York University	box 1	folder 21
Round 1 – Grants – Northern Arizona University	box 1	folder 22
Round 1 – Grants – Oberlin College	box 1	folder 23
Round 1 – Grants – St. Lawrence University	box 1	folder 24

Round 1 – Grants – Trinity College	box 1	folder 25
Round 1 – Grants – University of California, Berkeley	box 1	folder 26
Round 1 – Grants – University of California, Humanities Research Institute	box 1	folder 27
Round 1 – Grants – University of California, Santa Cruz	box 1	folder 28
Round 1 – Grants – University of Hawaii, Manoa	box 1	folder 29
Round 1 – Grants – University of Illinois	box 1	folder 30
Round 1 – Grants – University of Iowa	box 1	folder 31
Round 1 – Grants – University of Michigan	box 1	folder 32
Round 1 – Grants – University of Nebraska, Lincoln	box 1	folder 33
Round 1 – Grants – University of Pennsylvania	box 1	folder 34
Round 1 – Grants – University of Texas, El Paso	box 1	folder 35
Round 1 – Grants – University of Virginia	box 1	folder 36
Round 1 – Grants – University of Washington	box 1	folder 37
Round 1 – Grants – University of Wisconsin, Madison	box 1	folder 38
Round 1 – Grants – Yale University	box 1	folder 39
Round 1 – Recommendation for Grant Action, 1997	box 1	folder 40
Round 1 – Rejected Proposals, A-C	box 1	folder 41
Round 1 – Rejected Proposals, E-K	box 1	folder 42
Round 1 – Rejected Proposals, L-N	box 1	folder 43
Round 1 – Rejected Proposals, O-S	box 1	folder 44
Round 1 – Rejected Proposals, T-W	box 2	folder 1
Round 1 – Request for Proposals, 1997	box 2	folder 2
Round 1 – Reviews, 1997	box 2	folder 3
Round 2 – Grants – California State University, Dominguez Hills	box 2	folder 4
Round 2 – Grants – Duke University	box 2	folder 5
Round 2 – Grants – Emory University	box 2	folder 6
Round 2 – Grants – Five Colleges, Inc.	box 2	folder 7
Round 2 – Grants – Hamline University	box 2	folder 8
Round 2 – Grants – Middlebury College	box 2	folder 9
Round 2 – Grants – New York University	box 2	folder 10
Round 2 – Grants – St. Lawrence University	box 2	folder 11
Round 2 – Grants – University of California, Berkeley		

	box 2	folder 12
Round 2 – Grants – University of California, Humanities Research Institute	box 2	folder 13
Round 2 – Grants – University of California, Santa Cruz	box 2	folder 14
Round 2 – Grants – University of Hawaii, Manoa	box 2	folder 15
Round 2 – Grants – University of Illinois	box 2	folder 16
Round 2 – Grants – University of Iowa	box 2	folder 17
Round 2 – Grants – University of Michigan	box 2	folder 18
Round 2 – Grants – University of Nebraska, Lincoln	box 2	folder 19
Round 2 – Grants – University of Texas, El Paso	box 2	folder 20
Round 2 – Grants – University of Wisconsin	box 2	folder 21
Round 2 – Grants – Yale University	box 2	folder 22
Round 2 – Recommendation for Grant Action, 1999	box 2	folder 23
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, C-H	box 2	folder 24
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, N-O	box 2	folder 25
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, T-U	box 2	folder 26
Round 2 – Request for Proposals, 1998	box 2	folder 27
Round 2 – Reviews, 1999	box 2	folder 28
Web Site, 2000	box 2	folder 29

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African Studies Initiative, 1995-1998

Scope and Contents

Series II includes grant proposals, applicant and grantee correspondence, proposal review notes, recommendations for grant action (RGAs), grantee narrative reports and internal memoranda. Two rounds of funding are documented: Round 1 grants made in 1995-1996, and Round 2 grants from 1998. For a list of individual institutions/proposals contained in the "Rejected Proposals" folders (box 3, folders 22-24) see the grant RGAs.

Title/Description	Instances	
African Studies Diversity Meeting, 1997	box 2	folder 30
African Studies In Africa, 1999	box 2	folder 31
Round 1 – Grant Review, 1997	box 2	folder 32
Round 1 – Grants - Boston University	box 2	folder 33
Round 1 – Grants - Columbia University	box 2	folder 34

Round 1 – Grants - Emory University	box 2	folder 35
Round 1 – Grants - Howard University	box 3	folder 1
Round 1 – Grants - Indiana University	box 3	folder 2
Round 1 – Grants - Ohio University	box 3	folder 3
Round 1 – Grants - University of California, Berkeley	box 3	folder 4
Round 1 – Grants - University of Illinois	box 3	folder 5
Round 1 – Grants - University of Iowa	box 3	folder 6
Round 1 – Grants - University of Michigan	box 3	folder 7
Round 1 – Grants - University of Wisconsin	box 3	folder 8
Round 1 – Memoranda and Correspondence, 1995-1996	box 3	folder 9
Round 1 – Recommendations for Grant Action, 1995-1996	box 3	folder 10
Round 1 – Request for Proposals, 1994	box 3	folder 11
Round 1 – Selection Panel, 1995	box 3	folder 12
Round 2 – Grants – Clark Atlanta/Columbia/Howard Consortium	box 3	folder 13
Round 2 – Grants – Indiana University	box 3	folder 14
Round 2 – Grants – Michigan State University	box 3	folder 15
Round 2 – Grants – University of California, Berkeley	box 3	folder 16
Round 2 – Grants – University of Illinois	box 3	folder 17
Round 2 – Grants – University of Michigan	box 3	folder 18
Round 2 – Grants – University of Pennsylvania	box 3	folder 19
Round 2 – Memoranda and Correspondence, 1997	box 3	folder 20
Round 2 – Recommendation for Grant Action, 1998	box 3	folder 21
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, C-E	box 3	folder 22
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, H-I	box 3	folder 23
Round 2 – Rejected Proposals, O-Y	box 3	folder 24
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Round 2 – Request for Proposals, 1997	box 3	folder 26
Round 2 – Review Panel, 1998	box 3	folder 27

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Other Grants and Subjects, 1982-2001

Scope and Contents

Series III includes files on individual grants to support international and area studies programs that were not exclusively connected with the Crossing Borders or African Studies initiatives. Many are focused on Southeast Asian studies, a field of particular interest to Volkman. Also included are files on conferences, workshops and planning meetings where Volkman and her colleagues formulated their agenda to reinvigorate area studies. This material is complemented by copies of several of Volkman's "Reflection Memos."

Title/Description	Instances	
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Ambrica Productions – "China Emerges", 1995	box 3	folder 29
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American Council of Learned Societies, 1982-2000	box 3	folder 31-34
American Council on Education, 1999	box 3	folder 35
American Forum for Global Education, 1999-2000	box 3	folder 36
American Historical Association, 1998-2000	box 3	folder 37-38
American Museum of Natural History – Constructing Cultures, 1996	box 3	folder 39
American Museum of Natural History – National Center for Science Literacy, Education and Technology, 1996	box 4	folder 1
American Studies Research Centre, 1997	box 4	folder 2
Archives, Editing, Public History and Curriculum Development, 1996-1998	box 4	folder 3
Area Studies Librarianship, 1996-1998	box 4	folder 4
Asia Fellows Program, 1999	box 4	folder 5
Asia Society, 1993-1998	box 4	folder 6
Asia Studies in Asia, 1998	box 4	folder 7
Asia Studies, miscellaneous, 1996-1999	box 4	folder 8
Asian and Western States Initiative, 1999	box 4	folder 9
Asianetwork, 1995-1999	box 4	folder 10
Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, 1995-1997	box 4	folder 11
Association for Asian Studies, 1998-1999	box 4	folder 12
Barnard College, 1998	box 4	folder 13
Bernstein, Alison R. – correspondence, 1997	box 4	folder 14
Board of Trustees – Education, Media, Arts and Culture Committee, 1996	box 4	folder 15
Board of Trustees – Meeting, 1997	box 4	folder 16

Brown University, 1994-1999	box 4	folder 17
Center for Arabic Study Abroad, 1999	box 4	folder 18
Center for Research Libraries, 1997	box 4	folder 19
Center for Transcultural Studies, 2000-2001	box 4	folder 20
City College – Latin American Studies, 1999	box 4	folder 21
City University of New York Graduate Center – Center for Place, Culture and Politics, 2000	box 4	folder 22
City University of New York Middle East Studies, 1999-2000	box 4	folder 23
Columbia University – Center for Comparative Literature and Society, 1999-2001	box 4	folder 24
Columbia University – Center for United States-China Arts Exchange, 1992-1999	box 4	folder 25-26
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Columbia University – Institute of African Studies, 1999	box 4	folder 28
Columbia University – Oral History Research Institute, 1998	box 4	folder 29
Columbia University – Restructuring International Programs, 1998	box 4	folder 30
Community College Humanities Review, 1994-1997	box 4	folder 31
Cornell University, 1996	box 4	folder 32
Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) – Northwestern University – Transcending Boundaries, 1991-2000	box 4	folder 33-35
Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) – Yale University – African Agrarian Studies, 1999	box 5	folder 1
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Culture and Natural Resource Management – University of California, Berkeley, 1996-1998	box 5	folder 9
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Culture and Resources – Recommendations for Grant Action, 1988-1995	box 5	folder 11-12
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New York University – Asian/Pacific/American Studies Institute, 1998	box 6	folder 27
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New York University – School of Education, 2000	box 7	folder 5
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Northwestern University – Melville J. Herskovits Library, 1998-1999	box 7	folder 8
Nyae Nyae Development Foundation, 1988-1993	box 7	folder 9
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Rutgers University – Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, 1996	box 7	folder 26
Rutgers University – Latin American Studies – Writers at the Border, 1997-1999	box 7	folder 27
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Yayasan Asosiasi Tradisi Lisan, 1999

box 9

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