

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Florence Ladd

PERSON

Ladd, Florence

Alternative Names: Florence Ladd;

Life Dates: June 16, 1932-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Occupations: Fiction Writer;

Biographical Note

Florence Ladd was born June 16, 1932, in Washington, D.C., to parents who were educators. Ladd attended public schools in Washington, D.C., before earning a B.S. in psychology in 1953 from Howard University and a Ph.D. in social psychology in 1958 from the University of Rochester in New York.

Ladd first taught at Simmons College. She then traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, where she taught until 1964. In 1965, she returned to Boston and began teaching at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, as well as at the Graduate School of Design. Teaching at both schools allowed her to simultaneously pursue her interest in psychology and environmental studies. In 1977, Ladd left Harvard University and the classroom and teaching for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and administration, rising at M.I.T. to associate dean.

In 1979, Ladd was hired by Wellesley College, where she worked as dean of students at Wellesley College until 1984. She was then hired as a research consultant with the Institute of International Education's South African Education Program. A year later, she went to Oxfam America and served as a liaison to the United Nations. In 1989, Ladd returned to academia as to a unique multi-disciplinary center of advanced studies for women, the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College. Ladd retired from the Bunting Institute in 1997.

Ladd is active in other fields as well. In 1996, she published her first novel, Sarah's Psalm, to critical acclaim. Currently, she is the overseer of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of Hampshire College. Previously, she served on the board of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Related Entries

Slater-Langston School [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Shaw Junior High School [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

John F. Cook Elementary School [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

B.S.

University of Rochester [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Simmons College [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Instructor

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to 1979]

Instructor

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1974 to 1989]

Associate Dean

Wellesley College [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1994 to 1998]

Dean of Students

Institute of International Education [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1984 to 1985]

Research Consultant

Oxfam America [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1985 to 1989]

Liaison to the United Nations

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1989 to 1997]

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

