

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald Walters

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Walters, Ronald W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters,
Dates:	July 16, 2003 and June 5, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:41:45).
Abstract:	Political science professor Ronald Walters (1938 - 2010) is a leading scholar on issues of black leadership and politics, and is a frequent political commentator. Walters was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 16, 2003 and June 5, 2003, in College Park, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_121
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor Ronald Walters, internationally renowned expert on African American leadership and politics, was born in Wichita, Kansas, on July 20, 1938. After attending Fisk University as an undergraduate, Walters earned his graduate degrees from American University. Walters went on to teach at Georgetown and Syracuse Universities; chair the African and Afro-American Studies Department at Brandeis University and the Political Science Department at Howard University; and work as professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland. Walters served as director of the African American Leadership Institute and Scholar Practitioner Program, and was a distinguished leadership scholar at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership.

Walters served as a campaign manager and consultant for the Reverend Jesse Jackson during his two presidential bids and was a policy adviser for Congressmen Charles Diggs and William Gray. During the 2000 election season, Walters worked as a senior correspondent for the National Newspaper Publishers Association and as a political analyst for Black Entertainment Television's *Lead Story*. Walters was also a regular guest and commentator for several political talk shows on radio and television.

As a scholar, Walters penned six books and wrote over one hundred articles; his monographs won several awards for best book. Walters was also honored for his contributions to the study of African American politics and leadership. Walters was noted for his scholarship on African politics, and visited Africa on several occasions.

Walters and his wife, Patricia Ann, were longtime residents of Silver Spring, Maryland. Walters passed away on September 10, 2010.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ronald Walters was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 16, 2003 and June 5,

2003, in College Park, Maryland, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. Political science professor Ronald Walters (1938 - 2010) is a leading scholar on issues of black leadership and politics, and is a frequent political commentator.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Walters, Ronald W.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Walters, Ronald W.--Interviews

African American scholars--Interviews

Universities and colleges--Faculty--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

African American authors--Interviews

Student movements

African American families

African Americans--Genealogy

Wichita (Kan.)

African-American studies

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Fisk University

Courtship

American University (Washington, D.C.)

Washington (D.C.)

Marriage

Howard University

Syracuse University

Brandeis University

African Americans--Politics and government

Africa--Foreign relations--United States

World politics

United States--Politics and government

Africa--Politics and government

Pan African Movement

African Americans--Reparations

Jackson, Jesse, 1941-

Middle East

South Africa

Million Man March (1995 : Washington, D.C.)

Farrakhan, Louis

Black nationalism

African diaspora

Slavery--Economic aspects--Southern States

Slavery--United States

Civil rights movement

Civil war

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

University of Maryland, College Park

Occupations:

Political Advisor

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview

release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, July 16, 2003 and June 5, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_001_001, TRT: 0:30:14 ?

African American scholar and activist Ronald W. Walters talks about his family's migration from Texas to Kansas. He remembers his own childhood and youth in Wichita, Kansas, including his leadership role in the 1958 Wichita sit-in movement. He describes his college experiences at Fisk and his decision to study African history.

African American scholars--Interviews.

Universities and colleges--Faculty--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

African American authors--Interviews.

Student movements.

African American families.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Wichita (Kan.).

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Fisk University.

Courtship.

American University (Washington, D.C.).

Washington (D.C.).

Marriage.

Howard University.

Syracuse University.

Brandeis University.

African Americans--Politics and government.
Africa--Foreign relations--United States.
World politics.
United States--Politics and government.
Africa--Politics and government.
Pan African Movement.
African Americans--Reparations.
Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
Middle East.
South Africa.
Million Man March (1995 : Washington, D.C.).
Farrakhan, Louis.
Black nationalism.
African diaspora.
Slavery--Economic aspects--Southern States.
Slavery--United States.
Civil rights movements.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_001_002, TRT: 0:29:08 ?

Ronald W. Walters talks about his role, as the head of the Wichita, Kansas, NAACP youth group, leading of the 1958 sit-in movement in Wichita and discusses the students' differences with the adult local branch and the national organization. He fondly describes his experience at at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he was excited to be able to immerse himself in African American culture and the school's venerated scholarly tradition. He also recalls his first meeting with his wife at a civil rights event in Illinois, and their marriage and relocation in 1963 to Washington, D.C., where he studied at American University.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_001_003, TRT: 0:29:35 ?

Ronald W. Walters talks about his professors in African Studies at Howard University and his own early teaching career at Syracuse and Brandeis Universities in the late 1960s. He also discusses his work to increase African American political participation and about his involvement in the African Liberation Support Committee in the early 1970s.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_001_004, TRT: 0:30:43 ?

Ronald W. Walters talks about issues related to his work and interest in foreign and domestic politics during the 1970s and 1980s, mostly focusing on Africa. He cites ideological conflicts within the Pan-African movement and how this played out at the 1974 6th Pan-African Congress. He tells of his disagreement with United States foreign policy toward African independence movements and African Americans' formation of TransAfrica as a lobbying group to influence U.S. Africa policy. Walters also covers Jesse Jackson's 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns and praises Jackson's raising the issues of Middle East and South Africa. He also comments on his early role in the reparations movement.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_002_005, TRT: 0:29:25 ?

Ronald W. Walters talks about the Million Man March called by Louis Farrakhan and held in Washington, D.C., in 1995; he discusses various aspects

of the planning, media coverage, statements by black leaders at the event, and the importance of the March to the African American community. He also briefly touches on the Million Woman March of 1997 and the Million Youth March and Million Youth Movement demonstrations in 1998.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_002_006, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Ronald W. Walters traces the rise of Black Nationalism and discusses ideas of African American identity. He talks at length on the growing movement in Africa and the diaspora calling for reparations for slavery and colonialism, mentioning his involvement with reparations organizations and international conferences in Nigeria (1993) and in South Africa (2001). He points out that slavery in the Confederacy did not "stop on a dime" with the end of the Civil War in 1865, and argues that African Americans in some parts of the South lived in slavery-like conditions up until the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_002_007, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Ronald W. Walters discusses legal cases and proposed legislation related to reparations for slavery and points out the vast differences in economic and societal power African Americans would have if they had had a level playing field since 1865. He talks about how poverty fuels civil wars in Africa and the difficulties in achieving unity among the African diaspora. Examining the future of the African American community, he urges that we need social movements as well as an emphasis on the political and corporate success of individuals.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Walters, Section A2003_121_002_008, TRT: 0:14:00 ?

Ronald W. Walters responds to the criticism of Pan-Africanism and Black Nationalism that any idea of unity based on race is in itself racist. He then considers his own legacy and how he would like to be remembered. Walters comments on a series of photographs of himself and others, showing his involvement with various organizations and events.