

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Harold Rogers

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Rogers, Harold, 1942- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Harold Rogers, |
| Dates: | April 7, 2003 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2003 |
| Physical Description: | 5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:08:16). |
| Abstract: | Social activist and african american studies professor Harold Rogers (1942 - 2019) teaches at City Colleges of Chicago and is the Chicago spokesperson to the African National Congress. Rogers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 7, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2003_067 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Distinguished professor and international activist Harold Rogers was born on December 25, 1942, in Cleveland. He attended John Adams High School in Cleveland before completing a B.A. at Kent State University in 1967. Rogers went on to study at the University of Chicago and earned his M.A. in 1973.

Rogers began his career in education at Antioch College, where he taught in the early 1970s. From 1972 to 1993, he was the Chicago spokesperson for the African National Congress of South Africa. In 1973, he joined the faculty of the City Colleges of Chicago, where he has served as the chairman of the African American Studies Department for Olive-Harvey College since 1980. Rogers served as a labor adviser for the state of Illinois for a number of years; and, from 1987 to 1992, he worked as the district administrator for Congressman Charles Hayes. He was also instrumental in bringing Nelson Mandela to Chicago in 1993 and helped raise funds for Mandela's election the following April. Rogers participated in the U.S. delegation to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. His areas of expertise included global trade and economics, multiculturalism in education, African history and African American history.

Rogers was an active member of the Black Panther Party, the NAACP and Operation PUSH. In 1975, he joined the board of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Recognized nationally for his gifts as an educator, Rogers has been president of Black Faculty in Higher Education since 1980, a member of President Bill Clinton's Committee on Higher Education, and a National Advisory Board member for the W.E.B. Du Bois Foundation since 1990. He presided over the African American Studies Program that conducts educational trips to Africa and Cuba since its inception in 1980. He has also served on numerous boards including the Jazz Institute of Chicago and The Vivian G. Harsh Collections. Rogers received an honorary degree from Oxford University in 2008.

Rogers passed away on November 25, 2019.

Harold Rogers was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 7, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Harold Rogers was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 7, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social activist and african american studies professor Harold Rogers (1942 - 2019) teaches at City Colleges of Chicago and is the Chicago spokesperson to the African National Congress.

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:

Rogers, Harold, 1942-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rogers, Harold, 1942---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Social Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Harold Rogers, April 7, 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 Harold Rogers, Section A2003_067_001_001, TRT: 0:28:55 ?

Harold Rogers was born on December 25, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio. His mother, Harriette Patricia Rogers, was born in Greenville, South Carolina and worked as a housewife and store demonstrator. Her father, John Warwick, lived in Kentucky and passed for white. Rogers' father, Harold Rogers, was born in Birmingham, Alabama and worked at a steel factory. Rogers attended Doan Elementary School and Glenville High School before graduating near the bottom of his class at John Adams High School in 1960. While in school, Rogers was

also involved in the Boy Scouts and in gangs. After graduation, Rogers received a draft notice to serve in the Vietnam War, which he dodged with the help of the American Friends Service Committee. On the advice of his mother, Rogers then traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to join the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In 1961, he became one of the first African Americans in the Peace Corps, where he taught English in Shiraz, Iran and roomed with a white racist from Georgia.

Video Oral History Interview with Harold Rogers, Section A2003_067_001_002, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Harold Rogers joined the Peace Corps in 1961 and was stationed in Shiraz, Iran, where he taught English and lived a spartan lifestyle. He returned to the United States on August 27, 1963 and enrolled at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. During the summers, Rogers visited his family in Birmingham and participated in demonstrations with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday in 1965, where he was hit in the forehead and received a scar. Rogers joined the Black Panther Party, and ran educational programs with the Party in Chicago, Illinois. He received his B.A. degree from Kent State University in 1967 and enrolled at the University of Chicago. He reflects on the relationship between the Panthers and Chicago gangs, and on his students Fred Hampton and Mark Clark. In 1971, Rogers left the Panthers and traveled to Tanzania, where he studied at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Video Oral History Interview with Harold Rogers, Section A2003_067_001_003, TRT: 0:28:16 ?

Harold Rogers taught at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio in the late 1960s, where he led the Institute for the Solution of Social Problems. In 1971, he studied at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and became involved with political groups like the African National Congress. In 1972, Rogers left Tanzania to study at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he met David DuBois and organized HistoryMaker Angela Davis' trip to Africa following her release. In 1973, Rogers returned to the United States, where he remained a spokesman for the ANC. Rogers was one of the founding members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, where he served on the national executive board and as head of the international affairs department. Starting in 1973, Rogers taught at Kennedy-King College and, in 1980, he became chairman of the Department of African American Studies at Olive-Harvey College. He was also president of Black Faculty in Higher Education and part of the African American Studies Program.

Video Oral History Interview with Harold Rogers, Section A2003_067_001_004, TRT: 0:28:45 ?

Harold Rogers describes his experience in Chicago, Illinois as liaison to labor under Governor Dan Walker, district administrator for HistoryMaker and Congressman Charles Hayes, and an active member of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's campaign. With the African National Congress, Rogers was active in the anti-apartheid movement and was co-chair of fundraising for the Nelson Mandela Freedom Committee. Rogers remembers Mandela's eleven-city tour of the United States in 1990 and Mandela's 1993 fundraising trip to Chicago, which included meetings with HistoryMakers Reverend Addie Wyatt, Minister Louis Farrakhan, and Reverend Jesse Jackson. He also organized Chris Hani's tour of the U.S. before his assassination in 1993. Rogers reflects on the progress South Africa has made since apartheid and its president, Thabo Mbeki, as well as on his experience in Mali, Timbuktu, Brazil, and Cuba. In Cuba, Rogers has been active in the movement to increase tourism and lift the trade embargo.

Video Oral History Interview with Harold Rogers, Section A2003_067_001_005, TRT: 0:13:10 ?

Harold Rogers describes his hopes and concerns for the future of political

activism in the African American community. He reflects on his legacy with the African National Congress and as someone who questioned what the government and media told him. Rogers ends the interview by narrating his photographs.