

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Harry Edwards

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Edwards, Harry, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards,
Dates:	March 6, 2011, November 6, 2013 and November 9, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2011, 2012 and 2013
Physical Description:	18 uncompressed MOV digital video files (9:04:14).
Abstract:	Civic activist and sociology professor Harry Edwards (1942 -) is known for his contributions to the study of the sociology of sport, his role as a consultant for professional sports teams, and his involvement in the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute in Mexico City. Edwards was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 6, 2011, November 6, 2013 and November 9, 2012, in San Francisco, California and Santa Clara, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2011_008
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Sociology professor and civic activist Harry Edwards was born in 1942 in East St. Louis, Illinois to Harry and Adelaide Edwards. Edwards grew up in East St. Louis, Illinois as the second child in a family of eight children. He attended the newly integrated East St. Louis Senior High School where he excelled in sports. After graduating from high school in 1960, Edwards moved to California where he attended Fresno City College. Edwards then transferred to San Jose State University where he majored in sociology and graduated summa cum laude with his B.A. degree in sociology in 1964. In 1966, Edwards went on to receive his M.A. degree in sociology from Cornell University where he was awarded the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. In 1970, he received his Ph.D. degree in sociology from Cornell University where he helped to found United Black Students for Action and the Olympic Project for Human Rights.

Due to his negative experiences as a student athlete on predominately white university campuses, Edwards became heavily involved in exposing the relationship between race and sports in society. By the late 1960s, Edwards began actively organizing protests and demonstrations like the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute at Mexico City involving John Carlos, Peter Norman and Tommie Smith. In 1970, Edwards was hired at the University of California, Berkeley where he taught courses on race relations, the sociology of sport and the family. In 1985, he was hired as a consultant for the San Francisco 49ers and developed the Minority Coaches Internship and Outreach Program with Coach Bill Walsh. Two years later, Edwards became special assistant to the Commissioner of Major League Baseball to help increase representation of minorities and women in baseball. From 1987 through 1995, Edwards worked with the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association, specializing in player personnel counseling and programs. The programs and methods he developed for dealing with challenges facing professional football players were adopted by the entire National Football League in 1992 and in 2000, he retired from the University of California, Berkeley.

Edwards has written extensively on the connections between race, sport and society. He is the author of "The Struggle That Must Be: An Autobiography," "The Sociology of Sports," "The Revolt of the Black Athlete," and countless articles on race, sports, and the sociology of sport in books, academic and popular press. Considered a leading authority on the sociology of sports and diversity, Edwards has appeared on nationally syndicated television shows and documentaries while traveling extensively to perform public engagements. He has been the recipient of several awards and honorary doctorate degrees.

Harry Edwards was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 6, 2011.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Harry Edwards was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 6, 2011, November 6, 2013 and November 9, 2012, in San Francisco, California and Santa Clara, California, and was recorded on 18 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic activist and sociology professor Harry Edwards (1942 -) is known for his contributions to the study of the sociology of sport, his role as a consultant for professional sports teams, and his involvement in the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute in Mexico City.

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:

Edwards, Harry, 1942-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Edwards, Harry, 1942- --Interviews

African American sociologists--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Olympic Project for Human Rights

Occupations:

Civic Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

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 Harry Edwards, March 6, 2011, November 6, 2013 and November 9, 2012. 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 Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_001, TRT: 0:30:04 ?

Harry Edwards was born on November 22, 1942 in St. Louis, Missouri at the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital. His mother, Adelaide Cruise, moved from Mississippi at age four to Fireworks, Illinois with her parents, Gertrude and Hiram Cruise, and siblings. Fireworks, Illinois is near East Saint Louis, Illinois. Edwards' father, Harry Edwards, was born in Arkansas to a teenage mother who sent him to live in Chicago, Illinois with his grandmother when he was twelve. His father had hung out with the wrong crowd and ended up in state prison Joliet, Illinois. Prison was where Edwards' father learned to read, write, and type. His father was a voracious reader. Edwards remembers his father as one of the angriest people he has ever been around but also as the brightest individual he ever been around. Edwards discusses understanding his father's anger and developing their relationship.

African American families--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Prisons--United States.

Edwards, Harry, 1942-.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_002, TRT: 0:34:55 ?

Harry Edwards remembers how his parents met. Upon his release from state prison, his father moved to East St. Louis, Illinois where he changed his last name from Barksdale to Edwards. The change was easy to accomplish, and because identification was not considered important for African Americans. The name change gave Edwards' father a clean slate. His father met his mother at a dance in East St. Louis when she was sixteen and he was around twenty-eight years old, marrying shortly thereafter. Edwards and his seven siblings lived with their parents in a tightly knit community on the south side of East St. Louis. Edwards attended elementary and junior high school in his community and after the Brown v. Board of Education decision, Edwards was a member of the first mass integration of East St. Louis High School.

African American families--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

School integration--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

African American prisoners--Social conditions.

East Saint Louis (Ill.).

East Saint Louis (Ill.).

Edwards, Harry, 1942-.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_003, TRT: 0:31:47 ?

Harry Edwards discusses politics in East St. Louis during the 1950s. At that time, voting black residents were well paid for their votes. Edwards' father was a precinct committeeman for the Democratic Party, and was given money to help persuade voters in local and state elections. His father was always discussing books. Edwards remembers reading as the primary source of entertainment in his home during the winter. While reading was a major influence in Edwards' life, his mother did not share his father's love of books. A

lack of access to many basic needs and poverty eventually led to his parent's separating and the splitting of his family. Edwards remained with his father and was mentored by attorney Frank Summers, who acted as a moral compass and guide for him.

Politics--Illinois--East Saint. Louis.

United States--Voting Rights.

Democratic Party (U.S.).

Elections--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

African American parents--Divorce--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Reading and books.

Edwards, Harry, 1942-.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_004, TRT: 0:31:03 ?

Harry Edwards discusses school segregation and how his education began at the all black Dunbar Elementary School and later Hughes-Quinn Junior High School in his neighborhood. However, after the Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas Supreme Court decision to desegregate schools, Edwards was a member of the first mass integration of East. St. Louis High School. Edwards discusses how prior high school, he was unaware of whites and the broader world outside of his community. During high school, Edwards had a hard time interacting with white students because they would not interact with him at all, not even to say hello. This changed over time when he developed relationships with white teammates on his sports teams. Edwards was also forced to come to terms with his father's limitations after seeing a photo of Emmett Till in his coffin and cites this as the beginning of his break from his father.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

School integration--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Segregation in education.

African Americans--Education.

Till, Emmett, 1941-1955.

Education, Secondary--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Edwards, Harry, 1942-.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_005, TRT: 0:31:49 ?

Harry Edwards discusses being a student athlete. He describes the lack of academic rigor required of athletes and African American students at the newly integrated East St. Louis High School. Edwards remembers tensions that often arose at the integrated school. In 1960, Edwards' mentor Frank Summers encouraged him to go to the University of Southern California to explore college options. Arrangements were made for Edwards to attend Fresno City College for a year, allowing for a transfer into a four year institution upon successful completion of basic courses. After competing in junior college sports for a semester, Edwards decided to contact San Jose State University, who offered him admission with a basketball scholarship.

High school athletes--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

African American students.

School integration--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

Racism--Education (Secondary).

Interracial dating--Illinois--East Saint Louis.

San Jose State University.

Fresno City College.

Edwards, Harry, 1942-.

- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_001_006, TRT: 0:32:42 ?
Harry Edwards entered San Jose State University in 1960, when student athletes had three options for study: probation and parole, social welfare or physical education. Edwards petitioned the university to major in sociology, noting that he was the only African American student and athlete in the sociology department. Upon graduating with honors from San Jose State University, Edwards was approached by the National Football League as a prospect for the NFL Draft. However, Edwards decided to pursue a graduate degree in sociology rather than enter the draft. To the dismay of his father, Edwards attended Cornell University for both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. He published two books, *The Revolt of the Black Athlete*, and *Black Students*, twenty-eight articles, and his dissertation titled, *The Sociology of Sport*. Later, Edwards joined the NFL and won four Super Bowl rings during his professional career.
San Jose State University.
Athletes--Education--United States.
Cornell University. Graduate School.
National Football League Championship Game.
African American sociologists.
Edwards, Harry, 1942-.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_007, TRT: 1:29:51 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_008, TRT: 2:33:00 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_009, TRT: 9:32:32 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_010, TRT: 10:28:20 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_011, TRT: 11:37:42 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_002_012, TRT: 12:29:19 ?
The second session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2012.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_013, TRT: 13:28:49 ?
The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_014, TRT: 14:31:39 ?
The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.
- Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_015, TRT: 15:28:30 ?
The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented

or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_016, TRT: 16:29:11 ?

The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_017, TRT: 17:31:18 ?

The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.

Video Oral History Interview with Harry Edwards, Section A2011_008_003_018, TRT: 18:11:43 ?

The third session of Edwards' interview has been transcribed, but not segmented or published to THMDA. The session was conducted in 2013.