

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Brent Staples

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Staples, Brent A., 1951-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples,
Dates:	October 19, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:31:07).
Abstract:	Author and editorial writer Brent Staples (1951 -) , author of <i>Parallel Time: Growing Up in Black and White</i> , has served on the New York Times editorial board for over twenty years. Staples was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 19, 2013, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_274
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and author Brent Staples was born on September 13, 1951, in Chester, Pennsylvania. His father, Melvin Staples, was a truck driver; his mother, Geneva, a homemaker. The oldest son of nine children, Staples grew up in Chester, but, due to his family's financial problems, moved seven times before finishing junior high school. After being approached by the only African American professor at Widener University, then the Pennsylvania Military College, Staples was accepted into Widener through a program called Project Prepare. He graduated from there in 1973 with his B.A. degree in behavioral science. Staples was awarded two doctoral fellowships; one from the Danforth Foundation and another from the Ford Foundation. He went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in psychology from the University of Chicago in 1982.

From 1977 until 1981, Staples taught psychology at various colleges in Pennsylvania and Chicago. Then, in 1983, he was hired at the *Chicago Sun-Times* as a science writer. In 1985, Staples moved to *The New York Times*, where he was hired as an editor of *The New York Times* Book Review. Staples also frequently contributed to the Times Magazine and the Book Review. In 1986, he published the essay, "Just Walk on By" in *Ms.* magazine, a piece that would eventually be required reading for college courses throughout the country. Staples became an assistant editor for metropolitan news at *The New York Times* in 1987, and was appointed a member of *The New York Times* Editorial Board in 1990.

In 1994, Staples' autobiography *Parallel Time: Growing Up in Black and White*, was published. *Parallel Time* was awarded the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in 1995, and was also a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. In 2000, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Mount St. Mary College. In 2006, Staples was awarded a Fletcher Foundation Fellowship for his book-in-progress, *Neither White Nor Black: The Secret History of Mixed-Race America*. He has also served as a visiting fellow for multiple organizations including the Hoover Institution, the University of Chicago and Yale University.

Brent Staples was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 18, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Brent Staples was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 19, 2013, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Author and editorial writer Brent Staples (1951 -), author of *Parallel Time: Growing Up in Black and White*, has served on the New York Times editorial board for over twenty years.

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:

Staples, Brent A., 1951-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Staples, Brent A., 1951- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

New York Times

Occupations:

Editorial Writer

Author

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Brent Staples, October 19, 2013. 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 Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_001, TRT: 1:31:07 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_002, TRT: 2:32:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_003, TRT: 3:29:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_004, TRT: 4:30:51 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_005, TRT: 5:33:16 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_006, TRT: 6:32:16 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_007, TRT: 7:31:21 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_008, TRT: 8:31:00 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_009, TRT: 9:30:36 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_010, TRT: 10:28:28 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Brent Staples, Section A2013_274_001_011, TRT: 11:20:14 ?