

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anthony Samad

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Samad, Anthony Asadullah, 1957-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 16, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:59).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist and political science professor Anthony Samad (1957 - ) authored numerous political columns and scholarly publications, including '50 Years After Brown: The State of Black Equality in America.' He also founded the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles. Samad was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 16, 2013, in Altadena, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_294
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author, columnist and professor Anthony Asadullah Samad was born in 1957 in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from California State University in Los Angeles with his B.A. degree in communications in 1980. Samad went on to receive his M.P.A degree in public finance from the University of Southern California in 1983.

From 1980 until 1984, Samad worked as a branch manager of Beneficial Finance.

In 1984, he was hired as the vice president of Founders Savings, and, from 1985 to 1990, he served as president of Liberty Finance Management. Then, in 1991, Samad founded Samad and Associates, a strategic planning and urban affairs firm specializing in the assessment and management of public policy, economic development, urban, social and race issues. In 1996, he was hired by the Los Angeles Community College District, where he currently serves as a professor of political science and African American studies. From 1997 to 2007, he attended Claremont Graduate University, where he received his second M.A. degree in political economy, and then his Ph.D. degree in political science.

Samad has authored five books: *Souls for Sale: The Diary of an Ex-Colored Man* (2002); *50 Years After Brown: The State of Black Equality in America* (2005); *Saving The Race: Empowerment Through Wisdom* (2007); *REAL EYEZ: Race, Reality and Politics In 21st Century Popular Culture* (2012); and *March On, March On Ye Mighty Host: The Comprehensive History of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (1914-2013)* (2013). From 2007 until 2011, he served as the publisher of *Who's Who In Black Los Angeles*. Samad has also been a syndicated columnist, and an opinion leader, publishing articles in newspapers and websites nationwide. Samad has membership in the Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, and has served as a past master of Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliation. He has also been involved with the American Political Science Association and the National Association of Black Journalists. Samad was the Los Angeles NAACP branch president from 1988 to 1989, and, since 1999, he has served as the managing director and host of the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles, a monthly public affairs forum that discusses critical issues impacting urban communities. He also served as the president and chairman of the board of 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc. from 2007 to 2009.

Samad has received over 200 awards and citations for his community advocacy work, including elevation to the 33rd and last degree in 1994, the prestigious 2007 Drum Major Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, and 2008's Member of the Year from the 100 Black Men of Los Angeles.

Anthony Asadullah Samad was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 16, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Anthony Samad was conducted by Larry

Crowe on November 16, 2013, in Altadena, California, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and political science professor Anthony Samad (1957 - ) authored numerous political columns and scholarly publications, including '50 Years After Brown: The State of Black Equality in America.' He also founded the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles.

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## **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®.

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## **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.

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## **Controlled Access Terms**

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

### **Persons:**

Samad, Anthony Asadullah, 1957-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Samad, Anthony Asadullah, 1957---Interviews

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Journalist

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Political Science Professor

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MediaMakers|EducationMakers

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## **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 Anthony Samad, November 16, 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 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_001, TRT: 1:31:08 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad was born on March 11, 1957 in Brooklyn, New York to Margaret Davis and Charles Essex, Sr. Samad's maternal great-grandfather, Varnard Davis, moved from Ohio to West Virginia, where Samad's mother was later born to Thelma Davis Mosley. His mother attended Garnet High School in Charleston, West Virginia, where she met Samad's father. After graduating from high school, Samad's parents married and moved to Brooklyn, New York. His father enlisted in the U.S. Navy, while his mother settled in the housing projects of the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. There, Samad began his education at P.S. 124 Silas B. Dutcher School. When he reached the second grade, he moved with his family to Los Angeles, California, where he enrolled at the 24th Street Elementary School. Around 1965, Samad's maternal grandmother joined his family in Los Angeles,

and secured work as a cook for Nat King Cole. At this point in the interview, Samad talks about his surname, which he adopted upon converting to Islam in 1990.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:08 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad moved with his family to Los Angeles, California when he was around seven years old. They lived near West Adams Boulevard and South Western Avenue in the South Central section of the city, where his parents joined the NAACP Los Angeles Branch. One year after their arrival, riots broke out in the Watts neighborhood and spread into South Central, destroying many of the commercial buildings near Samad's home. During the 1960s, Samad was influenced by the appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the assassinations of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Malcom X. Samad excelled in his social studies classes at 24th Street Elementary School. He continued to pursue this interest at John Adams Middle School, where he was a student from 1969 to 1972. He was mentored by his gym teachers, Coach Green and Coach Biheller; and attended baseball games with his father, Charles Essex, Sr.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:58 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad played forward center on the basketball team at John Adams Middle School and Los Angeles High School. During his senior year in 1975, he received athletic recruitment offers from several colleges, including California State University, Los Angeles, where he decided to enroll. During his freshman year, Samad took a course in African American studies from Afrocentric scholar Anyim Palmer, who initiated his political awakening. He played on the basketball team for two years, until a racist coach was promoted to head the team. Influenced by television programs like 'Tony Brown's Journal,' Samad decided to major in broadcasting. He also joined the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, where he participated in social activism and service in the African American community. Under the mentorship of his fraternity brother Oscar Morgan, Samad became the

youngest regional director in the history of the fraternity. He received his bachelor's degree from California State University, Los Angeles in 1980.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_004, TRT: 4:34:21 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad joined the finance department of the Beneficial Corporation upon earning his bachelor's degree in 1980. After one year, he began a master's degree program at the University of Southern California, where he studied public administration and finance. Samad then served as the vice president of the Founders Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1984, and founded the Liberty Finance Management Group in 1985. Throughout this time, he was active at the NAACP Los Angeles Branch, where he was elected president in 1988. During his tenure, Samad began to advocate for a federal investigation of the Los Angeles Police Department, which was using discriminatory policing tactics against African Americans. To prevent his reelection, political operatives located a discrepancy in Samad's tax return, for which Judge William D. Keller sentenced him to five years in prison, although Samad served only three and a half months. At this point, Samad recalls his introduction to the Nation of Islam in the mid-1970s.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:12 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad was released from the Boron Federal Prison Camp in 1991. That year, he founded the Samad and Associates consulting firm in Los Angeles, California. He also began publishing columns in the Herald Dispatch, L.A. Watts Times, Los Angeles Sentinel, Our Weekly and Los Angeles Wave newspapers. Around 1989, Samad left the African Methodist Episcopal church and began his conversion to Islam. In 1992, riots broke out in Los Angeles in response to the acquittal of four police officers involved in the beating of Rodney King. At the request of state senator Diane E. Watson, Samad headed the South L.A. Emergency Relief Fund, which provided assistance to over 35,000 people displaced by the riots. Mayor Tom Bradley faced pressure from the black community to remove Chief Daryl Gates from the Los Angeles Police

Department, but was unable to do so without the support of the Los Angeles City Council. Samad remembers the process of rebuilding Los Angeles, and the trial of O.J. Simpson in 1995.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:55 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad became a political science professor in 1996. He taught at California State University, Northridge and in the Los Angeles Community College District, where he was eventually offered a full time position at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, California. Around this time, Samad proposed the idea for the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles to Los Angeles Sentinel editor Robert Farrell. From 1999, the forum presented quarterly breakfast lectures at venues like the Staples Center, the California African American Museum and the Regency West. The Urban Issues Forum hosted such renowned speakers as South African First Lady Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, talk show host Tavis Smiley, scholar Cornel West and President Barack Obama. In 2000, Samad decided to pursue a career as tenured professor. He wrote his dissertation on the implementation of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, and received his Ph.D. degree in 2007.

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony Samad, Section  
A2013\_294\_001\_007, TRT: 7:24:17 2013/11/16

Anthony Samad joined the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity while he was a student at California State University, Los Angeles. At the request of the organization's international president Jimmy Hammock, Samad authored a book on the history the fraternity, whose membership included union organizer A. Philip Randolph, philosopher Alain Locke and Nigerian President Nnamdi Azikiwe. Samad describes his current book projects, which included a history of the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles and an anthology of his newspaper columns titled 'A Thousand Times No to the Status Quo.' At this point in the interview, Samad reflects upon his life and legacy, as well as hopes and concerns for the African American community. He also talks about his four children: Kellie

Essex, Gabrielle Essex Fulse, DeShawn Samad and Anthony Essex, Jr. Samad concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.