

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

- 1 Letter from the Director
- 2 Research
- 4. Biographical Interview
- 5 Education and Outreach
- 8 Rule of Law Oral History Project Public Website
- 9 Telling Lives: Community-Based Oral History
- 10 Oral History Public Workshop Series, 2012–2013
- 12 Contact Us

ccohr@columbia.edu

About the cover images:

Alessandro Portelli, 2013 Summer Institute Scroll painting about the events of 9/11/2001 by Patachitra artists in Medinapur, West Bengal, India Summer Institute 2013, fellows' presentation Sam Robson, Oral History Master of Arts student videographer

Letter from the Director



Oral History in Our Times

The past year has been remarkably busy and productive, with two large oral history projects coming to a fruitful end and new initiatives and new directions being undertaken.

We have completed a third substantial oral history of Carnegie Corporation, documenting the tenure of Vartan Gregorian, who was inaugurated as president in 1997 following his long and successful tenure as president at Brown University. Our project coincided with Carnegie's celebration of its centennial, and we compiled 150 hours of audio and videotaped conversation, tracing Carnegie's achievements in education, electoral reform, and peace building, as well as new initiatives on Islam and global centers of teaching and learning excellence. I had the great pleasure of interviewing Dr. Gregorian over 10 videorecorded sessions, tracing his extraordinary life and career from his birth and earliest days in Iran to his long career in America.

We have also nearly completed our three-year core-support grant, "Oral History in Our Times," generously funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies, given to support the creation of a more highly visible oral history center focused on contemporary history and human rights locally, nationally, and globally. During this time we changed our name from the Oral History Research Office to the Columbia Center for Oral History, established a new system for making our oral histories accessible through a dedicated oral history portal, and created new guides for teaching and learning oral history.

This year we completed our *Rule of Law Project* on the death penalty, Guantánamo, and U.S. detention and rendition policies. We interviewed lawyer advocates, judges, psychologists who protested the use of torture, former state department officials, former prisoners, and journalists and artists who documented the story of Guantánamo and other black sites. We collected stories that would complement one another. We interviewed Justice John Paul Stevens on the strategies he used to argue for the right of all human beings, despite their nationality, to habeas corpus. We also traveled to France to conduct a life history of Lakhdar Boumediene, who was released from Guantánamo after a decision by the Supreme Court found his detention unconstitutional.

We launched a new project on jazz history focusing on New York City's "downtown" scene, led by Professor Brent Edwards at Columbia University. We collaborated with the Barnard Center for Research on Women to undertake an oral history program, "Listening with the Whole Body in Mind," in which women with disabilities interview each other to explore shared life experiences and the relational potential of oral history.

Our 2013 Summer Institute, *Telling the World: Indigenous Memories, Rights, and Narratives*, brought together students, scholars, and activists from native and indigenous communities around the world. We were especially pleased to have as faculty two old friends: the first graduate of our oral history M.A. program, China Ching, now program officer at the Christensen Fund in San Francisco, and our former summer institute fellow and former faculty member Winona Wheeler, professional oral historian and professor at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

As we reflect on the work we have been so fortunate to do, we look to the future with excitement. Over the last three years, our research projects have expanded and our master's program has grown in size and stature. To better align our research and educational mission, and to focus more intensively on preservation and access in the Libraries, we have developed a new organizational structure with two units and a shared name. The Center for Oral History Archives (CCOHA) will remain in the Libraries as the permanent home for our existing archive and new interviewing projects and individual interviews. The Center for Oral History Research (CCOHR), which I will direct, will move to INCITE (Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics), led by our longterm colleague Peter Bearman, the Cole Professor for Social Science in Arts and Sciences, where our MA program is housed. In exciting staff news, Sarah Dziedzic, who has so successfully managed our Carnegie Corporation Oral History Project, is moving with us to INCITE, where she will focus on two new projects: An Oral History of Robert Rauschenberg and His Times, and a history of the 25-year-old feminist institute at Columbia, The Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWAG). David Briand, our project coordinator for the Rule of Law Oral History Project, will coordinate a new grant updating our oral history of the Atlantic Philanthropies.

CCOHA will focus intensively on the work of preservation and access, bringing our historically unique collections into greater visibility. The Libraries will continue to ingest and give access to the new interviewing projects that CCOHR creates.

We are very grateful to the Libraries, and the University, for supporting this reorganization to continue to build oral history at Columbia as Allan Nevins, our founder, imagined it—as an academic discipline and an archival resource of inestimable value.

Mary Marshall Clark

Mougharshall Clarke

Research

Projects Supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies

David Paul Briand, Project Coordinator

Over the past two years, the Columbia Center for Oral History initiated three projects under a generous grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies. The Rule of Law Oral History Project examines the post-9/11 national security paradigm with a focus on the detention center at Guantánamo Bay and uses oral history to bring the humanity of these stories to the front of the conversation. In the past year, interviewers completed 72 new hours of oral history interviews to add to our archive, which now includes 270 total hours from 68 unique narrators. These include federal judges, such as retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, who ruled on habeas corpus petitions brought by Guantánamo detainees challenging the legality of their imprisonment; journalists, whose work has brought to light startling revelations about the national security state and extrajudicial detention in the "war on terror"; activists, protesting the collaboration of American Psychological Association (APA)appointed psychologists in interrogations of detainees; military and civilian defense attorneys, who represent detainees; and former Guantánamo prisoners, held for years without being charged with a crime, who have been released and have gone on to rebuild their lives with their families and their communities.

The *Downtown Jazz Oral History Project* is a collaboration between CCOH and lead interviewers Brent Edwards, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia, and Ben Young, director of WKCR, Columbia's radio station. This project includes oral history interviews with such major figures from the New York jazz scene as Warren Smith, James Jabbo Ware, Karl Berger and Ingrid Sertso, Kalaparusha Maurice McIntyre, Andrew Cyrille, Ahmed Abdullah, and Juma Sultan. Totaling almost 44 hours of recordings, the interviews explore the lives and storied careers of these innovators in jazz music who helped build the eclectic downtown sound and continue to compose, perform, and teach in the New York area.

The Women Living with Disabilities: Listening with the Whole Body in Mind Oral History Project began as a joint venture between CCOH and the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW) and has been able to continue under the grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies. Original interviews contributed by BCRW include oral histories conducted with Barnard alumnae Chai Feldblum, commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, who wrote much of the legislation of the Americans with Disabilities Act; Dr. Sui Zee, director of Surgical Pathology at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine; and Simi Linton, a disability studies educator and public speaker. The latest interview in this project is with Christina Crosby, professor of English and of feminist, gender, and sexuality studies at Wesleyan University.

These three projects show how oral history can be applied across disciplines to more fully reveal the voices of diverse subjects in history and society. As the research under this grant draws to a close, our hope is that the public will access these oral histories through our online archive and use them as resources now and in the years to come.

Carnegie Corporation Oral History

Sarah Dziedzic, Project Coordinator

CCOH's project on the grant-making programs of the Carnegie Corporation of New York wrapped up this fall and collected 150 hours of interview with 55 people, including Carnegie Corporation staff and trustees, colleagues at partner foundations, program advisers, and grantees. We conducted 51 hours of interview on video, compiled into a three-volume DVD set by producers at Plowshares Media, which will be available for viewing at the CCOH office. Transcripts of project interviews will, as always, be held at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library alongside the other materials in the Carnegie Corporation archives, including grant files, program papers, and publications.

CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

The specific emphasis of the project was the trajectory of Carnegie Corporation's historic grant-making programs under the leadership of current Carnegie President

Vartan Gregorian, who has led the foundation since 1997. The foundation has continued its focus on education, libraries, and international security, though there have been nuanced developments. Grant making in education has focused more keenly on supporting systemic changes and increasing standards across the K-16 continuum and has expanded in scope to include increasing access to education and working on the forefront of the immigrants' rights movement. International security grant making, while continuing its focus on weapons nonproliferation, also includes support for developing the education infrastructure in Eurasia to train the next generation of leaders in post-conflict states. Carnegie Corporation's historic commitment to libraries expanded to African universities and included groundbreaking scholarships for African women to attend college at African universities and utilize innovative library facilities. Additionally, special initiatives added large-scale temporary programs on journalism education and public scholarship on Islam.



President Vartan Gregorian, center right; Mary Marshall Clark, to his left, and Sarah Dziedzic to his right; with the Plowshares Media crew

Together with two previous oral history projects conducted by CCOH with Carnegie Corporation affiliates, first in the 1960s and again in the 1990s, our oral history archive provides a longitudinal account of the priorities and strategies of Carnegie Corporation grant making over time. By the same token, grantees interviewed for the project added an on-the-ground account of the impact of Carnegie Corporation funding, shared insight on Carnegie Corporation's influence within diverse fields, and greatly increased the latitude of perspectives on the role of philanthropy in effecting positive change.

Biographical Interview

Ruth Lubic

Ruth Lubic, whose innovation and advocacy has supported the establishment of free-standing birth centers nationwide, is a nurse-midwife and recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Her work in low-income neighborhoods in the South Bronx and Washington, D.C., has provided access to "high-touch, low-tech" approaches to family care before and after childbirth. In this oral history, Lubic recounts being drawn to medicine at a young age while working at her father's pharmacy and witnessing her mother making ends meet in order to provide prescriptions to those unable to afford health care. She speaks about her experiences in nursing school witnessing women in induced labor and the lasting impact of her own son's medical treatment as an infant. Lubic details the course of her career and activism, her commitment to community participation, and the relationship between nurse-midwives and the wider medical community through five audio interviews conducted in 2013, totaling eight hours. The interview was conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Hegeman, an anthropologist and psychologist in Manhattan.



Dr. Ruth Lubic

Education and Outreach

Summer Institute—2013

Erica Fugger, Organizer, Summer Institute

The 2013 Summer Institute, "Telling the World: Indigenous Memories, Rights, and Narratives," brought together international scholars from an assortment of disciplines to discuss the practice of recording oral history interviews in indigenous communities. Institute fellows shared presentations on their fieldwork experience, reinforced through panel talks by Ron Grele, Mary Marshall Clark, and Peter Bearman along with our core faculty, Linda Shopes, Doug Boyd, and Alessandro Portelli. Our 18 student fellows spoke of their work in the United States, Canada, Australia, Tibet, the Netherlands, Germany, and Guatemala.

Presentations by guest faculty Tania Ka'ai, Winona Wheeler, and Tyrone Tootoosis discussed the ways in which indigenous oral history projects are necessarily driven by community values and rituals. Further touched upon by Alessandro Portelli as well as China Ching, graduate of our MA program and lead faculty for the second week, was the process of gaining acceptance from within the communities, and particularly how nationality and family lineage can influence narrators' perceptions of an interviewer.

Guest faculty Indira Chowdury, of India, and Rachael Ka'ai Mahuta, of New Zealand, spoke about the melding of oral tradition and oral history through the interaction of ancestral language, art, songs, and stories with contemporary recorded interviews. Complementing these exchanges were talks by Doug

Boyd and Linda Shopes, whose expertise in publication and digital media technologies provided the tools required to explore innovative means of dissemination.

Additional sessions included a public interview by Dr. Elizabeth Hegeman with nurse-midwife and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Ruth Lubic. Oral History Master of Arts student Sara Sinclair also moderated an open event with Muriel Miguel of Spiderwoman Theater about her development of the Storyweaving methodology of storytelling and performance.

Dr. Winona Wheeler, professor at Saskatchewan University, led us in understanding the importance of "capacity building on the community level," with a focus on teaching indigenous groups how to record and share their stories. Further interest revolved around discussions of how oral history interviews may be used alongside archival documents to enhance rights to ancestral land claims and strengthen the authority of stories passed down through the generations.

Summing up, participants in the 2013 Summer Institute provided the grounds through which to explore how indigenous traditions may be maintained and preserved by way of interviewing, and reciprocally, how oral history may be enhanced by the practices of the world's indigenous communities.





May 1, 2013, Conference: Oral History and Our Times

On May 1, 2013, CCOH hosted the public conference "Oral History and Our Times," which featured narrators and interviewers from the Rule of Law Oral History Project in three panel discussions, each addressing major categories of inquiry in the research for the project.

The day began with the panel "Bearing Witness: the Detainee Experience," which was moderated by Liz Ševčenko, director of the Guantánamo Public Memory Project at the Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights. The featured project interviewee was Daniel Heyman, an artist whose *Abu Ghraib Detainee Interview Project* and *Portraits of Iraqis Project* incorporated the testimony of individuals abused and tortured by the U.S. military into engravings and prints. Mr. Heyman had accompanied human rights attorney Susan Burke on trips to Amman, Jordan, and Isanbul, Turkey, to record and illustrate the interviews with former prisoners of Abu Ghraib and other black sites. Also on the panel were Mr. Heyman's interviewer Gerry Albarelli of Columbia's Oral History Master of Arts program, videographer for the interview Louis



Dr. Stephen Soldz

Massiah of Scribe Video Center, and psychologist and anti-torture activist Dr. Steven Reisner of the Coalition for an Ethical Psychology and the International Trauma Studies Program at NYU. After this panel concluded, a short segment from the video interview with Feroz Abbasi from 2011 was screened for the audience to provide a personal story of detention to accompany the panel's conversation.

The second panel, "Outside the Rule of Law: Illuminating Struggles for Justice," addressed the efforts by detainee's lawyers to bring the habeas corpus petitions of their clients at Guantánamo and other military detention sites before U.S. courts and combat the extrajudicial nature of these sites as legal black holes. Moderated by David Briand, project coordinator of the Rule of Law Oral History Project, this panel featured Michael Ratner and Pardiss Kebriaei of the Center for Constitutional Rights, an advocacy organization and law firm that has been at the forefront of representation for detainees. Also featured were Zachary Katznelson, senior staff attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union, and Dr. Ronald Grele, director emeritus of CCOH. The attorneys recounted their one-on-one experiences with detainees both in and out of Guantánamo, and Dr. Grele spoke about conducting oral history interviews with former detainees Feroz Abbasi and Moazzam Begg.

The day's final panel, "Secrecy and the Right to Know: Oral History and Our Times," featured commentators whose research and reporting on Guantánamo and the abuse of detainees in the "war on terror" brought to light details of detainee deaths and human experimentation in the "enhanced interrogation" program. Featured panelists included Carol Rosenberg, a journalist who has been covering Guantánamo for the *Miami Herald* since its opening in 2002, and Scott Horton, who writes about legal affairs and national security for *Harper's*. Also providing commentary was CCOH Director Mary Marshall Clark, co-interviewer in the Nathaniel Raymond oral history, and Mr. Raymond himself of Physicians for Human Rights, who joined the

discussion via Google Hangout. The panel was moderated by Peter Bearman, the Jonathan Cole Professor of Sociology at Columbia.

Dr. Stephen Soldz, president of Psychologists for Social Responsibility and a professor at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, closed the day with a keynote speech, "Psychologists and Torture: Denial and the Corruption of Civil Society." Dr. Soldz foregrounded his discussion of torture by describing the hysteria and fear that followed 9/11 and the subsequent reaction of the U.S. government and military to use extreme methods to prevent another attack. The authorization for the use of these methods came not only from policy makers and lawyers within the Bush administration but also with the collaboration of APA-appointed psychologists in the interrogations of terrorism suspects. Using expertise in phobias and the effects of sleep deprivation, for example, psychologists played major roles in the physical and psychological abuse and torture of detainees. Dr. Soldz recalled his effort, along with other members of the Coalition for an Ethical APA, to bring this issue to the attention of the public and to ban the presence of psychologists, whose oath calls on them to "first, do no harm," in these interrogations. We must bear witness to these abuses, Dr. Soldz concluded, so we may recognize the lasting impact that distrust in professionals we call on to care for us has on our society.



From left to right: Liz Ševčenko, Dr. Steven Reisner, Louis Massiah, Gerry Albarelli, Daniel Heyman

Rule of Law Oral History Project Public Website

Part of the mission of the Center for Oral History, supported by our three-year grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies, is to develop public awareness of the collections we have created and the issues they reveal for historians, human rights workers, and others.

http://library.columbia.edu/ locations/ccoh/new_projects/ rule_of_law.html

CCOH has significantly expanded the website for the Rule of Law Project. The home page now features photos and links to the full oral histories of 34 project narrators in PDF format. Each interviewee has their own individual page offering brief summaries of the interviews, which are accompanied by links to the Columbia University Library record. This is part of CCOH's continuing effort to bring the oral histories in the Rule of Law Project into the public eye so they may be used as teaching tools, in human rights research, or as resources for those who wish to learn more about the state of the rule of law in the post-9/11 context. Also featured on the website are profiles of the project staff and interviewers, as well as select video interviews. These video interviews not only offer moving full-length oral histories from former Guantánamo detainees Moazzam Begg and Feroz Abbasi, among others, but also demonstrate a wide variety of oral history interviewing methods.









Gareth Pierce



Michael Ratner



Feroz Abbasi

Telling Lives: Community-Based Oral History

In 2011 and 2012, CCOH staff and volunteers from our Oral History Master of Arts program offered free bimonthly workshops for activists and activist organizations in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area to teach the principles of oral history to document and advocate for the communities they represent. We were inspired to conduct this workshop series by the work of MacArthur awardee Louis Massiah, who directs Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia. Mr. Massiah teaches the principles of documentary filmmaking, including video training, to community leaders in Philadelphia who use video as an advocacy tool for themselves and their communities. We have worked with community leaders in New York from Picture the Homeless, Gender at Work, One Flushing, and UN Women—as well as professionals interested in issues of immigration, poverty, and other social issues. Terrell Frazier and Mary Marshall Clark led and organized this series, and the outcomes of that work are highlighted by the video interviews now available on this site with CCOH staff and community leaders who participated in the series.

One of the most fruitful outcomes of this university-community collaboration is that students enrolled in our Master of Arts program will volunteer with these and other community advocacy programs annually, enriching their knowledge of the city and their fieldwork experiences.

http://library.columbia.edu/ locations/ccoh/communityworkshop-series.html



Oral History Public Workshop Series, 2012–2013

Amy Starecheski Associate Director, Oral History MA Program

In 2012–2013, OHMA and CCOH presented 12 public events, showcasing a strikingly broad array of work in and around oral history.

This workshop series represents a crucial point of intersection between the Center for Oral History and the Oral History MA Program, as well as between CCOH, OHMA, and the wider campus and city communities. To produce and promote these events, we partnered with 16 different groups on campus, from the Columbia Queer Alliance to the Department of Anthropology. In 2013–2014, we are developing several of these cosponsorships into deeper collaborations with the Museum Anthropology MA Program, the Digital Humanities Center, and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. All of our 2012–2013 events were well attended, with diverse audiences ranging from 30 to 80 people; for the 2013–2014 series we have moved to a larger room, which has also filled up for every event so far. Each event convened a different audience, bringing OHMA students and CCOH into conversation with journalists, social workers, and human rights activists, among others.

Two of our most popular events presented new books in the Voice of Witness series, using oral history to expose human rights issues in the United States and abroad: one was a groundbreaking photography and oral history book on the experiences of refugees in the United States; the other shared narratives of Colombians displaced by violence. In partnership with the Digital Humanities Center, we were particularly excited to host Doug Boyd, an international leader pioneering open source solutions for making oral history audio, video, and transcripts available and searchable online. We welcomed Michael Frisch, author of *A Shared Authority*, a seminal work in oral history, to discuss oral history and folk music. Reflecting and supporting a growing interest among our OHMA students in using oral history for advocacy, we sponsored speakers discussing the use of oral history in shaping policy in social work, criminal justice, and public health, and in housing activism.

A selection of our workshops this past year includes:

Doug Boyd, Director, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries

Search, Explore, Connect: Enhancing Access to Oral History

Andrea Dixon, OHMA, 2011 PhD candidate, Columbia School of Journalism Interviewing Interviewers about Interviewing: The Epistemology of Oral History

Avner Gvaryahu of Breaking the Silence

Our Harsh Logic: Israeli Soldiers' Testimonies from the Occupied Territories, 2000–2010, cosponsored by the Columbia University Middle East Institute and Cultural Memory Seminar

Lillian Jiménez, Filmmaker

Uncovering Hidden Histories: The Making of "Antonia Pantoja: ¡Presente!"

Darija Marić of Documenta—Center for Dealing with the Past Personal Memories of War and Detention in Croatia from 1941 until Today: Making Private Experiences Public as a Means of Mobilizing Support and Developing Understanding

Sarah Mountz, Assistant Professor of Social Work, California State Northridge Both Our Voices: A Feminist Relational Approach to Life History Narratives of Previously Juvenile Justice Involved LGBTQ Young Adults

Jennifer Scott, Director of Research, Weeksville Heritage Society

Movement Creates Museum: The Activist Beginnings of Weeksville Heritage Center

Suzanne Snider, Writer; Activist; and Professor, New School for Social Research
The Newtown Creek Community Health and Harms Narrative Project: Oral History
and Public Health

Amy Starecheski, Associate Director, OHMA Learning from the Old School: Oral History and Historical Production in New York City's Squatting Communities

Alisa del Tufo, Founder, Threshhold Collaborative; Ashoka Fellow Surfacing Solutions: Using Oral History to Find New Solutions to Intimate Violence

Publications

The Center's archive continues to serve not only as a resource but as important source material for scholars and authors for articles and books on a myriad of topics, bringing the voices in our collections to readers around the globe. We are proud to support these important works. Here are a few examples of the publications that have drawn substantially on our collections during the past year:

Bailey, Blake. Farther and Wilder: The Lost Weekends and Literary Dreams of Charles Jackson. New York: Knopf, 2013.

Cooley, Lauren. *Upton Sinclair: California Socialist, Celebrity Intellectual.* Lincoln, NE: Bison Books, 2013.

Kachka, Boris. *Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America's Most Celebrated Publishing House, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

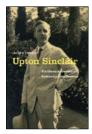
McPherson, Elizabeth. *The Bennington School of the Dance: A History in Writings and Interviews.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2013.

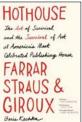
Rumbough, Stanley M., Jr. *Citizens for Eisenhower: The 1952 Presidential Campaign: Lessons for the Future?* McLean, VA: International Publishers, 2013.

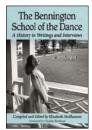
Tobin, James. *The Man He Became: How FDR Defied Polio to Win the Presidency.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 2013.

Wilson, Victoria. *A Life of Barbara Stanwick: Steel-True, 1907–1940.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

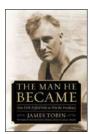














Contact Us

We invite you to be a part of Columbia University Center for Oral History's work. Whether you are a student or a scholar looking to enrich your research, an educator who wants guidance on incorporating oral history into your teaching, or a community-based advocate who wants to learn more about oral history or the contents of our archive, please contact us.

If you are looking for guidance about research, teaching, or educational outreach, please contact the Center for Oral History Research: ccohr@columbia.edu.

If you want to learn more about our archival holdings, or have specific requests to use interviews in our collections, please contact the Center for Oral History Archives: oralhist@libraries.cul.columbia.edu.

Columbia Center for Oral History Archives 801 Butler Library, Box 20
The Columbia University Libraries 535 West 114th Street, MC 1129
New York, NY 10027
212-854-7083 telephone 212-854-5378 fax oralhist@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/ccoh.html

Columbia Center for Oral History Research
INCITE: Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics
Knox Hall, Room 514, MC 9649
606 West 122nd Street
New York, NY 10027
212-854-2273 telephone
646-786-3904 fax
http://incite.columbia.edu/ccohr