

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nathan Hare

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hare, Nathan
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nathan Hare,
Dates:	April 5, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:24).
Abstract:	Psychologist and african american studies professor Nathan Hare (1933 -) became the coordinator of the nation's first Black Studies Program at San Francisco State College, worked as a clinical psychologist in community health programs, hospitals, and private practice, and established The Black Think Tank, which focuses on issues affecting the black family. He is the author of many books and articles and is the recipient of numerous awards. Hare was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 5, 2004, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_039
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

African American studies professor and psychologist Nathan Hare was born on April 9, 1933 in Slick, Oklahoma. As a young age he experienced segregation and tense race relations in Oklahoma. Hare planned on becoming a professional boxer until one of his high school teachers suggested he attend college, where he took sociology classes and switched his major from English to sociology. In 1954, he received his A.B. degree from Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. In 1957, he earned his M.A. degree from University of Chicago. In that same year, he married his wife, Julia Hare, also a noted psychologist and sociologist. Five years later, in 1962, he earned the first of two Ph.D. degrees. The first Ph.D. degree in sociology was from the University of Chicago and the second Ph.D. degree, awarded from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1975, was in clinical psychology.

In 1961, he became an instructor and assistant professor in sociology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Some of his students included Stokely Carmichael and Claude Brown. Later, in September 1966, he wrote a letter to the editor of the *The Hilltop*, Howard University's student newspaper speaking out against then Howard University president James Nabrit's plan to turn the university's student body sixty percent white by 1970. As a result Hare was fired in 1967. In 1968, Hare joined the faculty of San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University) and became the program coordinator of the school's Black Studies program, the first in the United States. This has earned him the title "father of Black Studies" by scholars. As the program coordinator, Hare created the term "ethnic studies" to replace the more pejorative "minority studies." Hare battled with the college administration and left the college just a year later, in 1969. Needing a way to express his thoughts and the ideas of others, he founded the scholarly periodical, *The Black Scholar: A Journal of Black Studies and Research* in 1969. He left the journal in 1975 to work as a clinical psychologist in community health programs, hospitals, and in

private practice. In 1979, he co-founded the Black Think Tank with his wife, Julia Hare. The Black Think Tank addresses the problems and concerns that plague the African American community.

Throughout his career, Hare has served as a consultant and given numerous lectures and presentations. Furthermore, he has written several books and articles including *The Black Anglo Saxons*, *The Endangered Black Family*, *Bringing the Black Boy to Manhood: The Passage*, *Crisis in Black Sexual Politics*, and *The Miseducation of the Black Child*. He has been the recipient of many awards such as the Joseph Hines Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the National Association of Black Sociologists, Scholar of the Year Award from the Association of African Historians, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. Hare was also awarded the National Council for Black Studies National Award for his distinguished scholarly contributions to Black Studies. Throughout his life, his love of boxing and learning has helped him to fight for social justice.

Nathan Hare was interviewed by the *The HistoryMakers* on April 5, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nathan Hare was conducted by Loretta Henry on April 5, 2004, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Psychologist and african american studies professor Nathan Hare (1933 -) became the coordinator of the nation's first Black Studies Program at San Francisco State College, worked as a clinical psychologist in community health programs, hospitals, and private practice, and established The Black Think Tank, which focuses on issues affecting the black family. He is the author of many books and articles and is the recipient of numerous awards.

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:

Hare, Nathan

Henry, Loretta (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hare, Nathan--Interviews

African American psychologists--Interviews

African American college teachers--Interviews

African American authors--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

African American Studies Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Nathan Hare, April 5, 2004. 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 Nathan Hare, Section A2004_039_001_001, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Nathan Hare was born on April 9, 1933 near Slick, Oklahoma. His mother, Tishia Lee Davis, born in Texas, was a sharecropper. Her father had been born into slavery and was the son of his former master. Hare's father, Seddie Hare, was also the child of a former slave-- his mother who lived to be 104 years old. Hare's father was arrested for making bootleg whiskey during the Great Depression. Hare's parents separated when he was nine years old. Hare remembers stories his family told about slavery, such as the fact that the first set of his Grandma Nancy's children were sold away. As a young child, he lived with his wealthy maternal aunt in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where he was taught to curse and drink beer, to his mother's horror. Hare remembers daily life on the farm in Slick, making ice cream on holidays, and visits from his relatives. When World War II started Hare moved with his mother to San Diego, California where she worked at the Naval Base, before buying another farm. Hare describes his six siblings.

African American families--Oklahoma.

Single-parent families--Missouri.

African American fathers--Oklahoma.

African American mothers--Oklahoma.

Video Oral History Interview with Nathan Hare, Section A2004_039_001_002, TRT: 0:31:14 ?

Nathan Hare remembers the smell of the farm he grew up on in Slick, Oklahoma. The community of Slick was segregated and African Americans were in constant fear of being lynched. As a child, he once sat in the front of a segregated bus, refusing the driver's requests for him to move to the back. He was baptized at Landmark Baptist Church in Slick, and attended L'Overture Elementary School where he excelled at reading. In 1945, Hare's family moved to San Diego, California for two years where his mother worked on the U.S. Naval Base. There, Hare was ignored by the teachers at his a majority white junior high school. Returning to Slick, he attended L'Overture High School where he won six Oklahoma state academic prizes when he graduated in 1950. He aspired to be a boxer and never thought of going to college, but his high school principal encouraged him to attend Langston University in Oklahoma. In college, he majored in sociology and earned a scholarship to complete his graduate work at the University of Chicago.

African American children--Educatio (Primary)--Oklahoma.

African American families--Oklahoma.

Race Relations--Oklahoma--20th century.

African American children--Education (Secondary).

Sociology--Study and teaching--Oklahoma--Langston.

Langston University--Students.

Mentoring in education.

Video Oral History Interview with Nathan Hare, Section A2004_039_001_003, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Nathan Hare became a sociology major at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, on the advice of his favorite professor, Dr. E.R. Edmonds, who also helped him apply for the Danforth Fellowship. After being awarded the fellowship in 1954, Hare went to the University of Chicago, in Chicago, Illinois, where he earned his master's degree in sociology, and his thesis 'What Makes a Man a Fighter?' appeared in The Saturday Evening Post. Hare joined the U.S. Army Reserves for six months before going back to the University of Chicago to get his Ph.D., studying under sociologist Everett Hughes, and Otis Dudley Duncan, who helped him get a job at Howard University in Washington, D.C. At Howard, Hare was a popular professor and taught both Stokely Carmichael and Claude Brown. Hare left Howard and pursued a boxing career until 1967. In 1968, he became coordinator of San Francisco State University's black studies department. Hare describes the inspiration for his book, 'The Black Anglo-Saxons.'

African American churches.

African Americans--Education--Study and teaching (Higher).

Howard University--Faculty.

Black Studies.

Sociology--Study and teaching--Oklahoma--Langston.

African American college teachers--Resignation.

Video Oral History Interview with Nathan Hare, Section A2004_039_001_004, TRT: 0:30:50 ?

Nathan Hare's interest in race relations began as a child in segregated Oklahoma, and continued as a student in the 1950s at the University of Chicago. Hare became a civil rights activist after he publicly opposed a proposal to make Howard University's student population majority white and aligned himself with the Howard student group, the Black Power Committee, which included Stokely Carmichael. Hare read the group's Black University Manifesto and helped raise funds to bail H. Rap Brown out of jail. In 1968, Hare went to San Francisco State University to coordinate the Department of Black Studies. When he got there, he discovered the department did not exist and faced stiff opposition from the faculty. Hare's vision for the department was to wed the black community and the educational process. Hare attended the first Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algeria and created The Black Scholar journal. Later, he earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Francisco.

African American college students--Political activity.

Black Studies.

African Americans--Race identity--Periodicals.

African Americans--Studying and teaching--California--San Francisco.

African Americans--Psychology.

Black power--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Nathan Hare, Section A2004_039_001_005, TRT: 0:26:30 ?

Nathan Hare started the Black Think Tank, with his wife, HistoryMaker Julia Hare, in 1979. The think tank originated from Hare's interest in understanding issues which impacted black families, specifically the problems facing black men. Hare loves boxing and has pursued his interest in the sport throughout his life. He reflects on others inability to understand how he is both a good boxer and a respected academic. Hare talks about the regrets in his life; and describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered. He concludes by narrating his photographs.

African Americans--Periodicals.

San Francisco State University. Black Studies Dept.

African American college teachers--Dismissal of.