

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rosalyn Terborg-Penn,
Dates:	June 15, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:33:39).
Abstract:	History professor Rosalyn Terborg-Penn (1941 - 2018) taught at Morgan State University in 1969, and is an expert in African American Women's history. From 1978 through 1989, Terborg-Penn served as the Morgan State University Oral History Project Director. She is the author of numerous publications on the struggles and triumphs of African American women throughout history. Terborg-Penn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 15, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_078
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author and educator Rosalyn Marian Terborg-Penn was born on October 22, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York. Her father was a jazz musician who played with Tiny Bradshaw, and her mother was a clerical worker. She attended New York City's P.S. # 70 until her family moved to Queens in 1951, and she transferred to P.S. # 123. She attended Shimer Junior High School and received her high school diploma from John Adams High School in 1959.

Terborg-Penn graduated from Queens College in Flushing, New York, in 1963 with a B.A. degree in history. She became involved in the Civil Rights Movement in 1960 and was a charter member of the college NAACP chapter. She and fellow students organized bus trips to Prince Edward County, Virginia, to help tutor black students who were not attending school in the county because officials had closed public schools in opposition to integration. In 1962, Terborg-Penn led a boycott at Queens College protesting the school's decision to prevent Malcolm X from speaking at the school. In 1967, she earned her M.A. degree in U.S. history and diplomatic history from George Washington University where she also joined "D.C. Students for Civil Rights" and lobbied for the civil rights bill in 1964. Terborg-Penn earned her Ph.D. from Howard University in 1978 in U.S. history with a concentration in Afro-American history before 1865.

Terborg-Penn began her teaching career at Morgan State University in 1969 where she continues to teach today. She was hired as a history professor and in 1977, became the Coordinator of the African/Afro-American Studies Program, a post she held until 1995. From 1978 through 1989, Terborg-Penn served as the Morgan State University Oral History Project Director. From 1989 through 1992, she was the Project Director of the Ph.D. history program and has served as the Campus Coordinator of the Cornell-Morgan Distance Learning Project since 1996. From 1970 through 1974, Terborg-Penn was an adjunct faculty member at Howard Community College. From 1977 through 1978, she served on the faculty at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where she

taught American Studies and History.

Terborg-Penn passed away on December 25, 2018.

Terborg-Penn is the author of numerous publications on the struggles and triumphs of African American women throughout history. She has also received scores of awards and honors for her accomplishments.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rosalyn Terborg-Penn was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 15, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. History professor Rosalyn Terborg-Penn (1941 - 2018) taught at Morgan State University in 1969, and is an expert in African American Women's history. From 1978 through 1989, Terborg-Penn served as the Morgan State University Oral History Project Director. She is the author of numerous publications on the struggles and triumphs of African American women throughout history.

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:

Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn.

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Morgan State University

Occupations:

History 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 Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, June 15, 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 Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Section A2004_078_001_001, TRT: 0:31:28 ?

Author and educator Rosalyn Terborg-Penn shares her family history, discussing her ancestors' origins and her parents' backgrounds and personalities. Terborg-Penn describes her experiences growing up in Brooklyn and Queens, remembering family holidays, her elementary school, and her family's involvement in the church.

Video Oral History Interview with Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Section A2004_078_001_002, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn describes her educational history from junior high school onwards, and her path into teaching. She reflects on her encounters with race and racism throughout high school, and her involvement with civil rights organizations in college during the 1960s at Queens University and George Washington University. She recounts her first professional job at a settlement house in Washington, D.C., and her move to Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland where she obtained her Ph.D. and a full-time teaching position. She then recalls the beginning of her involvement in black women's studies.

Video Oral History Interview with Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Section A2004_078_001_003, TRT: 0:31:11 ?

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn describes her experiences in academia, and the historical invisibility of African American women. She relates her own experiences delving into black women's history, and pushing for women's history courses. She stresses her belief in the importance of education, mentoring and role models for African Americans, and describes her current hopes for her own work, and for the African American community. She describes a number of photographs from her and her family's history.