

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Shirley Malcom

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Malcom, Shirley M.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom,
Dates:	March 8, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:08:16).
Abstract:	Education administrator and science educator Shirley Malcom (1946 -) is head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs. She is a pioneer of minority science education serving on the National Science Board and the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. Malcom was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 8, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_060
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Education administrator and science education advocate Shirley Malcom was born on September 6, 1946 in Birmingham, Alabama to Lillie Mae and Ben Mahaley. From an early age, she wanted to be a doctor because of her love of biology. At George Washington Carver High School, Malcom was a top student and graduated in 1963. She then attended the University of Washington and received her B.S. degree in zoology in 1967. Malcom went on to attend the University of California at Los Angeles where she graduated with her M.A. degree in zoology in 1968. She taught high school biology in Los Angeles before attending Pennsylvania State University where she obtained her Ph.D. degree in ecology in 1974.

After completing her education, Malcom joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington as an assistant professor. In 1975, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she began working as a research assistant in the Office of Opportunities in Science (OOS) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She co-published "The Double Bind: The Price of Being a Minority Woman in Science" in 1976. Then, Malcom served as a program officer for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Science Education Directorate. She became head of the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science in 1979 and head of the AAAS Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs in 1989. In 1993, Malcom was appointed to the National Science Board by President Bill Clinton and in 1995, she became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was also named to the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology from 1994 until 2001. Malcom has authored several reports on engaging women and minorities in science and is considered a pioneer in the field.

Malcom has served as co-chair of the Gender Advisory Board of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development and has chaired many national committees on scientific education and literacy. In

2006, she was named co-chair of the National Science Board Commission on 21st Century Education in STEM. Malcom serves as a trustee of California Institute of Technology and a regent of Morgan State University. She has sixteen honorary degrees, received the University of Washington's Alumna Summa Laude Dignata Award in 1998, the university's highest honor and in 2003, was given the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Shirley Malcom is married to Horace Malcom and they have two adult daughters.

Shirley Malcom was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 9, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Shirley Malcom was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 8, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Education administrator and science educator Shirley Malcom (1946 -) is head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs. She is a pioneer of minority science education serving on the National Science Board and the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology.

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:

Malcom, Shirley M.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Malcom, Shirley M.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Science Educator

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Shirley Malcom, March 8, 2012. 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 Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_001, TRT: 1:28:51 ?

Shirley Malcom describes her family history. Her mother, Lilly Funderburg Mahaley, was born in September, 1914 in Birmingham, Alabama. She studied home economics for two years at Tuskegee University and later became a teacher. Malcom's father, Ben Lee Mahaley, was born in October, 1915 in Birmingham, Alabama. He completed his high school education at Parker High School and went on to serve in World War II. Upon his return, he attended Booker T. Washington Business College under the GI Bill and later worked as a meat packer. Malcom's parents met through a mutual friend and were married in 1940. Malcom's sister, Sandra, was born in 1943. Malcom describes her parents' personalities and who she takes after.

African American families--Alabama.

African Americans--Education.

Tuskegee University--Alumni and alumnae.

Parker High School (Birmingham, Ala.)--Alumni and alumnae.

Husband and wife--Birmingham (Ala.).

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_002, TRT: 2:29:56 ?

Shirley Malcom grew up in Collegeville, Alabama. Her household consisted of her mother, father, grandmother, and sister. After attending kindergarten, Malcom skipped to the second grade at Hudson school in 1952. She was a voracious reader from the early age of four, and particularly enjoyed reading encyclopedias and Greek mythology. In 1956, Malcom began the sixth grade at Lewis Elementary School. Her teachers, Mr. Smoot and Ms. Goddard, encouraged and challenged her academically. Malcom discusses how the launching of Sputnik in 1957 propelled her interest in science. She also discusses her interests in television, radio and football.

Children--Books and reading--United States.

Gifted children--Education.

Sputnik satellites--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_003, TRT: 3:31:50 ?

Shirley Malcom talks about her memories of the Civil Rights Movement and growing up in Birmingham Alabama. In the 1950s and 1960s, Birmingham, Alabama was at the epicenter of the civil rights struggle for African Americans. Activist, minister of Bethel Baptist Church, and founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conferences (SCLC), Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who was a central local figure during the Civil Rights Movement. With the desire to escape the intense racial climate of Birmingham, after graduating from George Washington Carver High School in 1963, Malcom chose to attend the University of Washington in Seattle. She initially struggled in her chemistry labs, but after seeking help from a fellow African American and her teacher assistant, Ken Maloney, her grades improved significantly.

Bethel Baptist Church--Birmingham (Ala.).

Civil rights--Alabama--Birmingham--History.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference--History.

Shuttlesworth, Fred L., 1922-2011.

Race relations--Alabama--Birmingham.

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_004, TRT: 4:28:48 ?

Shirley Malcom describes how extremely underprepared she was for college at

the University of Washington in 1963, despite her high marks throughout high school. While at the University of Washington, Malcom became disinterested in pursuing a career in medicine. After taking the MCAT, Malcom changed her major from pre-med to zoology and graduated with her B.S. degree in 1967. In 1968, Malcom received her M.S. degree in zoology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She talks about her experience at UCLA and living through the traumatic death of her cousin as well as the Sylmar Earthquake of 1971.

Medicine--Vocational guidance.

Readiness for school.

University of Washington. Department of Zoology.

San Fernando Earthquake, Calif., 1971.

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_005, TRT: 5:29:18 ?

Shirley Malcom received her Ph.D. degree in ecology from Pennsylvania State University in 1974. Her dissertation was on the factors that relate to the termination of behavioral imprinting in birds. In 1975, Malcom served as an assistant professor of biology and zoology at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. After marrying her husband, she moved to Washington, D.C. and began working as a research assistant for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in the Office of Opportunities Science (OOS). Malcom's work centered around increasing the participation of minorities and women in STEM fields. In 1976, Malcom co-published "The Double Bind: The Price of Being a Minority Woman in Science," which focuses on the intersectional experiences of minority women in science and academia.

Animal behavior--Research.

Universities and colleges--Faculty.

American Association for the Advancement of Science. Office of Opportunities in Science.

Minorities in science--United States.

Women in science--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_006, TRT: 6:29:55 ?

Shirley Malcom began her career at the American Association for the Advancement of Science as a research assistant in 1975, and was appointed as head of the organization's Office of Opportunities in Science in 1979. In 1977, Malcom served as a program officer in the Science Education Directorate of the National Science Foundation. In 1983, Malcom was involved in organizing the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, where she was introduced to the challenges of women's access to STEM on an international level. She has served on the National Science Board and as a member of President Bill Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. She describes her professional activities and talks about her involvement in STEM initiatives on behalf of women and minorities. Malcom reflects upon her legacy and talks about her hopes and concerns for the African American community.

American Association for the Advancement of Science. Office of Opportunities in Science.

National Science Foundation (U.S.). Directorate for Science Education.

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Gender Working Group.

National Science Board (U.S.)--Officials and employees.

Clinton, Bill, 1946---Relations with African Americans.

Video Oral History Interview with Shirley Malcom, Section A2012_060_001_007, TRT: 7:09:38 ?

Shirley Malcom's hope for the African American community, and society at large, is for them to appreciate the importance of the contributions of scientists and recognize the vast career opportunities available in STEM fields. Malcom talks about her family, shares how she would like to be remembered and reflects on her life choices.

African American scientists--History--20th century.

Race relations--United States.

Science--Vocational guidance--United States.

African American families.