

**University of Toronto Archives and
Records Management Services**



Kay Armatage Fonds

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Biographical Sketch

Professor Kay Armatage is jointly appointed to the Institute of Women's Studies and Gender Studies and Innis College Cinema Studies. She is seen as a key founder in both disciplines. In 1971, while still a graduate student in the Department of English, she was part of collective that organized and taught the first inter-disciplinary course in Women Studies - FSW 200: Women in Society. By 1974, she had her Ph.D. in English at the same time the University began offering a minor in Women Studies. As a Lecturer, Prof. Armatage helped develop and co- taught NEW 260 : Introduction to Women's Studies, along with colleagues Sylvia Van Kirk and Kathryn Morgan. Around the same time, the study of cinema was developing and Prof. Armatage, along with colleagues Joe Medjuck and Bart Testa, developed INI/NEW 212, Introduction to Cinema Studies. Throughout her career, Prof. Armatage has continued to develop and teach over a dozen new courses in both disciplines, often combining the two, such as in Women's Film and Literature, Women's Cinema and Women and Representation.

Her academic writing, again, reflects both her interest in film and feminism. Her book, *The Girl from God's Country: Nell Shipman and the Silent Cinema*, celebrates an early Canadian actor and director. In 1999 she co-edited *Gendering the Nation: Canadian Women's Cinema*. She has published extensively in refereed journals, contributed articles to books and given over fifty lectures on her areas of interest which include women filmmakers, feminist theory and Canadian cinema.

Along with her academic work, Prof. Armatage has undertaken activities in a more public forum. Between 1975 and 1987, she produced seven experimental narrative and documentary films. Her last film on artist Joyce Wieland, *Artist on Fire* (1987) earned her a Gemini nomination for Best Television Documentary. From 1983-2004, she was one of the senior international programmers of the Toronto International Film Festival. It was due in part to these endeavours that she was seen as having made a major contribution to the study of women and film. For all of her work, she has been recognized with several awards including YWCA Woman of Distinction 1989 and Toronto Women in Film in Video Special Award for Contribution to Women's Film Culture 1988. She has also been awarded several research and arts grants throughout her career including a Canada Council Senior Artist's Grant (1992) and a SSHRCC research grant (1995).

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Scope and Content

1937-2011 4.1 m multi-media

This fonds documents various facets of Prof. Armatage's career as a filmmaker, senior programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival, and a professor of Cinema Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Toronto. The academic activity files in Series 1 give an overview of the breadth of her interests, achievements and promotions. Lecture notes and other course materials in Series 2, along with comments on student works found in Series 3, document her teaching role. These will be especially useful to researchers interested in understanding the early beginnings of both women studies and cinema studies and how these developing academic disciplines were being taught to students. Prof. Armatage's role as a programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival is documented in her extensive notes found in notebooks where she recorded critiques of films she was screening. These are found in Series 4. The extent of her filmmaking is documented in Series 7 and contains preserved original film elements to several of Prof. Armatage's films, along with a limited amount of related documentation on the making of these films. Unfortunately, this fonds does not contain release prints for these titles.

This fonds has only a small amount of records relating to her published academic works as well as files relating to conferences she organized and associations in which she was active. These can be found in Series 5 and Series 6.

Access: Restricted: Series 1 and 2, 5 and 6 are open;
 Series 3 and 4 are restricted. Consult University Archivist
 Series 7 is restricted due to conservation.

Accessions: B2005-0012, B2009-0020, B2012-0002

Associated Accession: A2005-0008, Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies.

Electronic files: Consult University Archivist

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Series 1

Academic Activity Files

1978-2011 0.25 m textual; graphic.

This series contains documents pulled together by Prof. Armatage for her tenure review as well as for subsequent yearly reviews. Files contain mainly professional correspondence, descriptive reports on research and teaching activities, yearly activity reports and clippings about her work. There is information on promotions, awards, research leaves and grants. Clippings in this series also give evidence to Prof. Armatage's work outside mainstream academia including her role as a documentary filmmaker and curator for the Toronto International Film Festival.

Access: Open

B2005-0012/001(01) – (07) – 1978-1994
B2009-0020/001 – 1994-2006
B2012-0002/001(01) – (02) – 2006-2011

See also electronic files:

B2012-0002/Disks 001, 003, 009, 012

Series 2

Teaching

1973-2010 0.68 m textual

This series consists of course files that can contain lectures, course outlines, assignments, and reading lists. It documents Prof. Armatage's approach to the teaching of both Women's Studies and Cinema Studies in the early years as they were emerging into disciplines of study and research.

Files in B2005-0020 focus on teaching in the 1970s. For these early courses, except for INI 112Y Introduction to Cinema Studies and NEW 260Y Introduction to Women's Studies, all courses were developed and taught solely by Prof. Armatage.

Files in B2009-0020 relate exclusively to courses she taught in Cinema Studies from 1990-2007. This accession also contains subject files used for course lectures, covering various topics in film studies. These files contain lecture notes and outlines to lectures and are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Files in B2012-0002 focus on two courses she taught in Cinema Studies from 2006-2010, INI 323 Feminist Approaches to Cinema and INI 484 International Film Festivals. This accession also contains several subject files used for course lectures, covering various topics in film studies. These files contain lecture notes as well as teaching resources published by the British Film Institute, and are arranged alphabetically by topic.

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Series 2 (cont'd)

Teaching

Access: Open

Courses in Cinema Studies at Innis College:

B2005-0012/001 (08)-(17) /002 (01)-(22)

- INI 112 Introduction to Film Studies
- INI 212/NEW 212 Introduction to Cinema Studies
- INI 225 Documentary Film
- INI 280 and 281 Women's Cinema
- INI 321 Film Study
- INI 322 Experimental and Avant-Garde Film
- INI 323 Women and Representation
- INI 325 Dream, History and Narrative in the Cinema
- INI 327 Race and Representation
- INI 428 Dream, History and Narrative in the Cinema
- INI 429 Post Colonial Film and Third Cinema

B2009-0020/002 (01)-(13)

- INI 214 Film Theory
- INI 323 Women and Representation
- INI 325 Documentary Film
- INI 327 Race and Representation
- INI 330 Contemporary Film Theory
- INI 385 Canadian Film
- INI 423 Melodrama
- INI 424 Current issues in Film Theory
- INI 425 Apparatus and After: Film Theory since 1970
- INI 429 Dream, History and Narrative in the Cinema
- INI 481 Advanced Studies in Cinema

B2012-0002/001 (03)-(05)

- INI 323 Feminist Approaches to Cinema
- INI 484 International Film Festivals

Courses in Women Studies at New College

B2005-0012/002 (23)-(30)

- NEW 220 Women Writers
- NEW 260 Introduction to Women's Studies
- NEW 360 Introduction to Women's Literature
- NEW 363 Selected Topics in Feminist Theory

Subject Files – Cinema Studies

B2009-0020/002 (15)-(24) and /003

B2012-0002/001 (06)-(16)

See also electronic files:

B2012-0002/Disks 001, 003, 006, 010 – 011, 017, 019 – 020

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Series 3 Assessments and Letters of Recommendation

1974-2010 0.28 m textual

These files contain comments by Prof. Armatage on students' essays and assignments. These are fairly extensive and document her approach to teaching her subject matter. Files are arranged by course number. Also included are three files of letters of recommendation for students and colleagues filed chronologically.

Access: Restricted – Consult University Archivist

B2005-0012/003 1974-1990 – student assessments
B2009-0020/004 (01)-(05) 1984-2001 – student assessments
B2009-0020/004 (06)-(08) 1987-1994 – letters of recommendation
B2012-0002/002 (01)-(03) 2006-2010 – student assessments

See also electronic files:
B2012-0002/Disks 002, 006, 010, 015

Series 4 Notebooks

1981-2011 0.21 m textual

Notebooks contain mainly analysis of films reviewed by Prof. Armatage in her capacity as a programmer and curator of the Toronto International Film Festival. There are also some notes relating to meetings and appointments. The notebook in B2012-0002 is largely related to her administrative activities at Innis College between 2010 and 2011.

Access: Restricted – Consult University Archivist

B2005-0012/004
B2009-0020/004 (09)
B2012-0002/002 (04)

See also electronic files:
B2012-0002/Disks 008 – 010

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Series 5 **Publishing and Talks**

1971-2010 0.25 m textual

This series documents a small selection of academic papers and talks published or given by Prof. Armatage throughout her career. Files can contain edited typescripts, correspondence, e-mail and readers' reports. There are two files of her published reviews and a file with copies of some of her magazine contributions. Additionally, there are records relating to her book *The Girl From God's Country: Nell Shipman and the Silent Cinema* (University of Toronto Press, 2003). These include research notes, correspondence and a copy of the manuscript.

B2009-0020/005 and /006
B2012-0002/002 (05)-(12)

See also electronic files:
B2012-0002/Disks 001, 005 – 006, 009, 011, 017 – 018

Series 6 **Professional Activities**

1937-2009 0.28 m textual; graphic

This series documents various professional activities and research including participation in conferences, film festivals and screenings, and particularly Prof. Armatage's work within the Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Program. The series includes her correspondence with a small number of notable women filmmakers, including Dorothy Arzner and Tracey Moffatt, as well as posters, programs, and pamphlets on women and cinema collected over the course of her professional career. There is also one file relating to her time teaching in Japan in 2002.

B2009-0020/007 (01)-(08)
B2012-0002/002 (13)-(24) and /003 (01)-(06)

See also electronic files:
B2012-0002/Disks 003 – 007, 010, 012 – 014, 017, 021

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Series 7 (cont'd)

Filmmaking

Storytelling: 16 mm Optical Track part 1 & 2 – 2 rolls
(1983) 16 mm A&B rolls, colour negatives Pt. 1 & 2 – 4 rolls

B2009-0020/001M – /003M and /001S

Artist on Fire: 16mm film, original elements – 5 rolls
(1987) ¼” sound reels – original recordings – 11 reels

B2009-0020/004M

Bed and Sofa: original negative – 2 rolls
(1979)

B2009-0020/002S

Life on This Planet: ¼” sound reels – voice over masters – 14 reels
(1982)

B2012-0002

<i>Speak Body</i> (1979) [Abortion] /001M-/005M	16 mm, workprints? – #1Bobbe, #2Susan, #3Lisa, #4Janet, #5Marien	5 rolls
/006M	16 mm- Narration	1 roll
/007M	16mm Cut Copy	1 roll
/008M	16 mm Print	1 roll
/009M	1 videocassette – ¾” Umatic	1 video

B2012-0002

<i>Life on This Planet:</i> (1982) /010M	16 mm – Negative	1 roll
/011M	16 mm – cut copy	1 roll
/012M	16 mm – Sound Track 1	1 roll
/013M	16 mm – Sound Track 3 – Dialogue	1 roll
/014M	16 mm - track 2 Special Effects	1 roll

B2012-0002/015M – 1 videocassette – VHS – containing Prof. Armatages films:
Jill Johnston,, Gertrude and Alice, Bed & Sofa, Speakbody

Access: Film elements are restricted due to conservation. See Special Media Archivist.