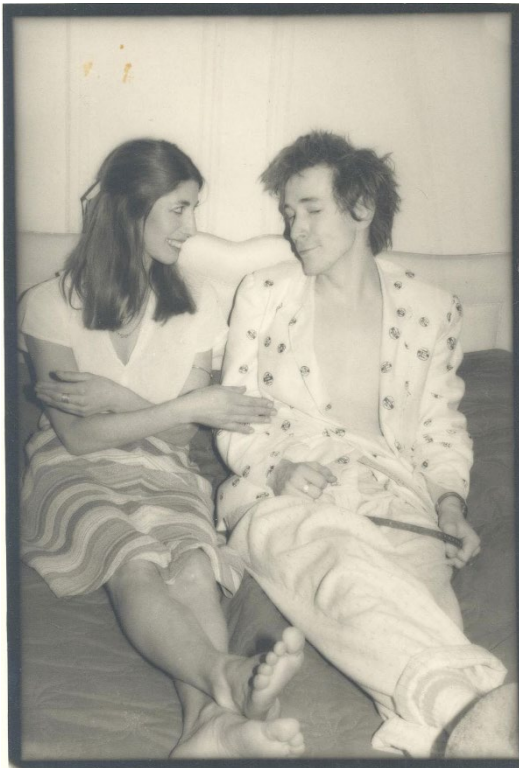


## Acquisition Highlight

### The Archives of Investigative Journalist and Author of A.L. Bardach

What do Fidel Castro, Sid Vicious, JonBenet Ramsey, Larry Rivers, William Burroughs and Benazir Bhutto have in common? They are all subjects of the investigative reporting by the award-winning American journalist Ann Louise Bardach (known to friends and her former students at UCSB as simply Annie). In 2018, the UCSB Library Department of Special Research Collections acquired Bardach's research files, documenting her career in journalism, as well as four books she authored or edited, between 1979 and 2018.

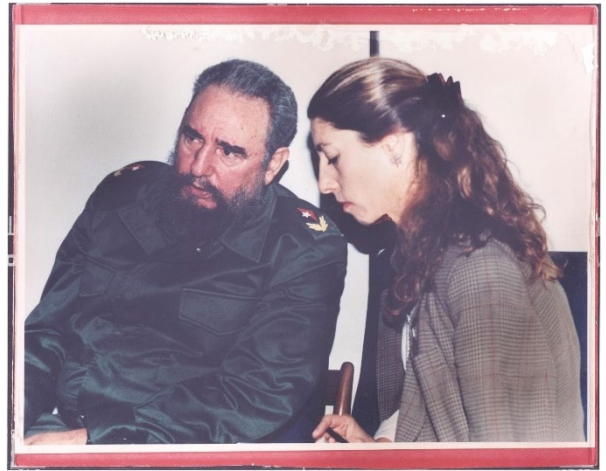


An intrepid reporter known for extracting damning admissions from an array of political and cultural figures - spanning from Johnny Rotten to Watergate burglar, E. Howard Hunt, to the famed anti-Castro militant, Luis Posada Carriles, Bardach has interviewed several dozen U.S. and world leaders and personalities. She has been frequently seen and heard on television and radio including several times on 60 Minutes and The Today Show. She has written for virtually all the major media in the U.S. and the U.K. -from the New York Times, Washington Post, POLITICO, the Los Angeles Times - after a decade-long stint at Vanity Fair magazine. The Columbia Journalism Review has called her "the go-to journalist on all things Cuban and Miami."

In 1995 Bardach won the PEN USA Award for Journalism for her reporting on Mexican politics, and was a finalist in 1994 for her coverage of women in Islamic countries. Her book *Cuba Confidential* was a finalist for the New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism and the PEN USA Award for Best Non-fiction, and named one of "Ten Best Books of 2002" by the Los Angeles Times. Bardach was a finalist for the 2005 PEN USA award for Journalism for her story on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's ties with the tabloid press, published in Los Angeles magazine. The late dean of American journalism, Tom Wolfe gushed over Bardach's

second book on Cuba, *Without Fidel: A Death Foretold* in Miami, Washington and Havana," writing that "Without Fidel is news between hard covers by a relentless reporter who writes like a dream."

"Annie's collection is an incredibly valuable research tool and is widely used, especially in the area of US and Cuba relations," says Danelle Moon, Director of UCSB Library Special Research Collections. "Her collection is a perfect example of how archives can have an indefinite impact on future scholarship."



Included in the collection are a vast array of research materials, correspondence, scores of photographs, court documents, financial records of organizations and people, hand notes, interview transcripts, articles, and audio recordings of interviews. Notably, all of her materials related to the US government's case and trial of anti-Castro militant Luis Posada Carriles - that were subpoenaed by the FBI and the Department of Justice - are included. These include Posada's hand written notes, the audio of his three days of interviews with Bardach - that were the basis for the New York Times series on exile militants in 1998.

Bardach has covered an unusually eclectic range of political and cultural issues making the collection as diverse as Bardach's own life and career.

"Because I was a more of general assignment reporter - prior to my dive into Cuban politics," says Bardach, "What the Library now has [via my collection] is just about the kitchen sink of journalism - from the Manson murders, Punks, Beats, then the Cuban-Miami wars and some general Latin America."

Some of the major subjects and people covered in the collection include the life and trials of Miami's epic-exile leader, Jorge Mas Canosa, Cuba-United States relations, Fidel Castro and his family, Elián González, JonBenét Ramsey, Arnold Schwarzenegger and numerous political figures, and high profile murder cases.

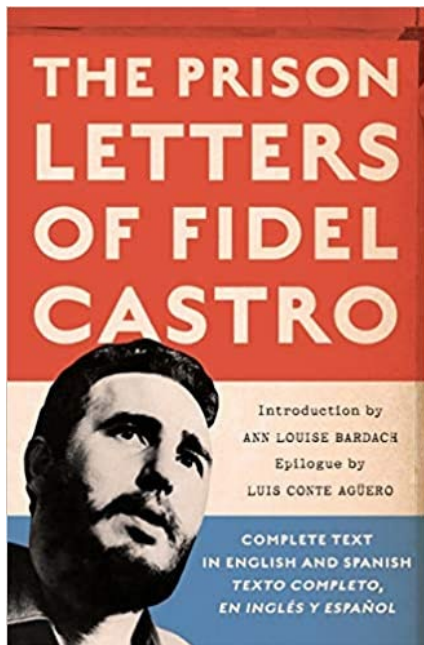
Bardach has had a long relationship with UCSB: she started teaching the first Global Journalism course at the UC Santa Barbara; as a board member for UCSB's Carsey-Wolf Center for Film, Television and New Media; and was a Resident Scholar with the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies at UCSB.

Bardach was introduced to the UCSB Library Special Research Collections by her friend and Reagan biographer, Lou Cannon, who urged her to consider donating her archives to the Library. After a fire threatened to destroy her life's work, Bardach migrated her archives to the Library.

As a self-described teenage "fly on the wall," Bardach spent her early years on NYC's theater, Beat and jazz scene, while studying acting at Stella Adler's and HB Studios. She attended NYU's School of the Arts when it was still housed over Ratner's Restaurant on Second Avenue (and next door to the famed Fillmore East! where she and her fellow students snuck out to watch Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix & The Doors).

She migrated to San Francisco and the world of improv theater before moving back to New York where she slipped into its emerging punk scene. During this time - 1978 to 1985 - she recorded dozens of her conversations and interviews (while her old schoolmate Marcia Resnick photographed one and all) with the cultural stars of the era - ranging from Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, and Blondie's Debbie Harry, boxing champ Jake La Motta, Marianne Faithfull, the punk opera star Klaus, artist Larry Rivers et al are now all part of the collection and accessible to scholars.

Bardach's work is frequently cited and has been repeatedly optioned for various Hollywood films and television shows. She has appeared in numerous documentaries on Cuba, Fidel Castro, and those on various murder cases she covered. Her book, *Cuba Confidential: Love and Vengeance in Miami and Havana* is widely regarded as a seminal work on Miami-Cuba-US relations. Most recently, Bardach was featured in a new HBO documentary airing in Oct 2020 called *537 Votes*, which examines the year 2000 in Miami-Dade County and how the Elian Gonzalez affair and its fallout impacted the presidential election.



Collections like Bardach's that detail the methodology of investigatory journalism help to shed a singular light on the exhaustive legwork and process of investigative reporting. Her papers and ephemera are a glimpse into the backstories that shape our understanding of politics, history and culture. And they are a perfect example of how Special Collections can be a critical portal to understanding all sides of the story.