

## Acquisition Highlight: The Archives of Investigative Journalist A.L. Bardach

What do Fidel Castro, JonBenet Ramsey, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Sid Vicious have in common? They are all subjects of investigative reporting by the award-winning American journalist Ann Louise (A.L.) Bardach. In 2018, the UCSB Library Department of Special Research Collections acquired Bardach's research files, documenting her career in journalism between 1960 and 2016.

An intrepid reporter known for securing hard-to-get admissions from Fidel Castro to E. Howard Hunt, Bardach has interviewed several dozen U.S. and world leaders and personalities. She is frequently seen and heard on television and radio and she has written for virtually all the major media in the U.S. and the U.K. The *Columbia Journalism Review* has called her "the go-to journalist on all things Cuban and Miami."

"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 research materials, correspondence, photographs, court documents, financial records of organizations and people, newspaper clippings, notes, interview transcripts, articles, and audio recordings of interviews relating to the different stories and persons that she covered.

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

"Because I was a more general assignment reporter," says Bardach, "What the Library got [via my collection] is Charlie Manson, punks, Beats, and Latin America."

Some of the major subjects and persons covered in the collection include the trials of Jorge Mas Canosa and Luis Posada Carriles, Cuba-United States relations, Fidel Castro and his family, Elián González, JonBenét Ramsey, Arnold Schwarzenegger, numerous political figures, and high profile murder cases.

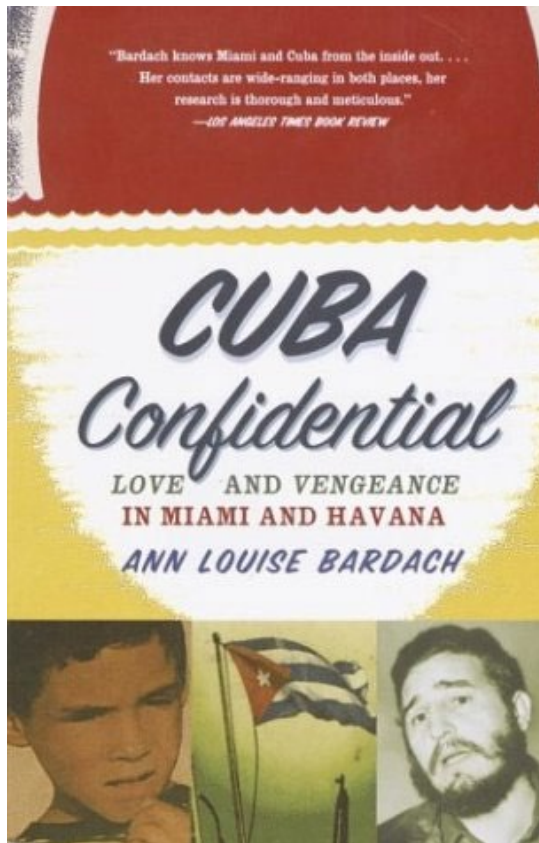
Bardach has had a long relationship with UCSB: she started teaching the first Global Journalism course at the UC Santa Barbara; is a current board member for UCSB's

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 Ronald Reagan biographer, Lou Cannon, who urged her to consider donating her archives to the Library. After a house fire threatened to destroy her life's work, Bardach migrated her archives to the Library.

A self-proclaimed natural "fly on the wall," Bardach spent her early years as part of the Beat scene in San Francisco and then moved to the punk scene in New York. During this time, she recorded her experience via photographs of now historic friends including

Allen Ginsburg, William Burroughs, Joey Ramone and Debbie Harry, which are now all part of the collection and accessible to scholars.



Bardach's work is frequently cited and has been optioned for various Hollywood films and television shows. Her book, *Cuba Confidential*, is a seminal work on Miami-Cuba relations and was cited as one of the best 10 books of 2002 by *The Los Angeles Times*.

Collections like Bardach's that detail the methodology of investigatory journalism--like her work on Cuba--shed an important light on process and documentation. Her papers and ephemera are a glimpse into the backstories that shape our understanding of history and its long-term effects. And they are a perfect example of how Special Collections can be a critical portal to understanding all sides of the story.