

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Gibbs, Jewelle Taylor
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 25, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:28:01).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Social work professor Jewelle Taylor Gibbs (1933 - ) was a noted author, clinical psychologist, college professor and member of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee in California. Gibbs was also the first African American professor appointed to an endowed chair in the University of California system when she became the Zellerbach Family Fund Professor of Social Policy, Community Change and Practice at Berkeley. Gibbs was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 25, 2002, in Palo Alto , California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_047
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs is a noted author, clinical psychologist, college professor and member of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee in California. She was born on November 4, 1933, to Margaret Morris and the Reverend Julian A. Taylor.

Gibbs grew up in Connecticut and in 1951 graduated from Ansonia High School. Gibbs attended Radcliffe College, graduating cum laude in 1955. She went on to study at the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration, earning a certificate with distinction in 1959. Gibbs went to work at the Pillsbury Company that same year and stayed there until 1961.

In 1970, Gibbs graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with an M.S.W. From 1970 to 1975, she worked as a clinical social worker at Stanford University. Gibbs then continued her pursuit of education, receiving an M.A. in 1977 and a Ph.D. in psychology in 1980 from Berkeley. Gibbs began her teaching career in 1979 as a professor at the School of Social Welfare and also at Berkeley. Gibbs became the first African American professor appointed to an endowed chair in the University of California system as the Zellerbach Family Fund Professor of Social Policy, Community Change and Practice at Berkeley.

Gibbs is a regular commentator on issues relating to youth violence, adolescence, urban education, affirmative action, police misconduct and racial profiling – particularly as they affect the African American community. Gibbs is the author of numerous books on high-profile issues, including *Preserving Privilege: California Politics, Propositions, and People of Color*; *Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Culturally Diverse Youth*; and *Race and Justice: Rodney King and O.J. Simpson in a House Divided*. She also edited *Young, Black and Male*

*in America: An Endangered Species*. She is a sought-after speaker across the country and has delivered lectures in Canada, England, Japan, Hawaii and South Africa. Gibbs is married to James Lowell Gibbs, Jr.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 25, 2002, in Palo Alto, California, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social work professor Jewelle Taylor Gibbs (1933 - ) was a noted author, clinical psychologist, college professor and member of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee in California. Gibbs was also the first African American professor appointed to an endowed chair in the University of California system when she became the Zellerbach Family Fund Professor of Social Policy, Community Change and Practice at Berkeley.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Gibbs, Jewelle Taylor

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gibbs, Jewelle Taylor--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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University of California, Berkeley. School of Social Welfare

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## Occupations:

Social Work Professor

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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## 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 Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, March 25, 2002. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_001, TRT: 0:27:00 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs talks about her family's history. Gibbs' mother, Margaret Morris Taylor, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1912. After her maternal grandmother passed away and her maternal grandfather left, Washington's mother and aunt were sent to live with their black relatives while her mother's four older siblings who could pass as white lived with their Irish grandmother. Gibbs' father, Reverend Julian A. Taylor, was born to Reverend William Andrew Taylor in Hertford, North Carolina. Gibbs' father was a Baptist minister, an influential Democratic political activist, and a champion of Civil Rights. Gibbs grew up in Stratford, Connecticut where her father was the minister of the First Baptist Church. As the minister's daughter, Gibbs recalls receiving both scrutiny and support from the congregation.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs describes how her sister found her Aunt Grace who had long been separated from her mother and passed as white. The family reunited on The Oprah Winfrey Show, and Gibbs' sister, Shirlee Taylor Haizlip, chronicled her family's history in a book. Gibbs recalls the smells of fresh baking bread, the sound of living near water, and the sight of spring in bloom. Additionally, the sights and sounds of the Baptist Church where her father ministered imprinted strong memories of gospel music and women dressing in their Easter Sunday finery. While Gibbs was aware of the many ways lighter skin was valued in both the black and white communities, she was taught by her parents to be proud of her black heritage and consequently she married a dark-skinned man. A smart, confident child, Gibbs vowed to always stand up for herself in the face of discrimination.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:07 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs recalls her educational and early career trajectory. Gibbs broke racial barriers by being the first African American student cast in an operetta at Ansonia Junior High School. An excellent student at Ansonia High School in Stratford, Connecticut, Gibbs was accepted to Radcliffe College in 1951. At Radcliffe College, Gibbs founded the Radcliffe Association for Minority People and successfully advocated for desegregating room assignments in the dorms. After graduating in 1955, Gibbs was the first black woman to be hired from the register after passing the federal civil service exam. Gibbs worked for a year at the women's bureau in the Labor Department. After marrying Harvard anthropologist James Lowell Gibbs, Jr., she joined him for eighteen months of fieldwork in Liberia.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:13 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs chronicles her career development and education in the 1960s and 1970s. Gibbs earned a certificate from the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration in 1959 and worked in marketing for Pillbury Company until 1961. Gibbs was active in Minnesota politics and the Civil Rights Movement during the early 1960s. Gibbs graduated with a Masters of Social Work from the University of California at Berkeley in 1970. Gibbs worked as a clinical social worker at Stanford University for four years before receiving an M.A. degree in 1977 and a Ph.D degree in 1980 in psychology from the University of California at Berkeley. Gibbs then became a professor at the School of Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley where her

research focused on problems facing black youth.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:22 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs discusses three of her books. Her first book, an edited volume, “Young, Black, and Male: An Endangered Species” focused on how failing social systems put young black males at risk for delinquency. Her second book, “Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Culturally Diverse Youth,” developed a framework to train human service providers on issues related to the mental health of minority children. Her third book, “Race and Justice: Rodney King and O.J. Simpson in a House Divided,” interpreted how the cases of Rodney King and O.J. Simpson represented the treatment of black males in the criminal justice system.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_006, TRT: 0:30:22 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs discusses her book “Preserving Privilege: California Politics, Propositions, and People of Color,” an examination of the racially sided California propositions that emerged in the 1990s. Gibbs shares her hopes and concerns for the black community. Gibbs wants her legacy as one voice among many advocating for black youth. Gibbs reflects upon her family’s legacy of valuing self-esteem, education, and community service. Gibbs closes by narrating her photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Section A2002\_047\_001\_007, TRT: 0:28:52 ?

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs narrates her photographs.