

The logo for Simon Fraser University (SFU), consisting of the letters "SFU" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

Finding Aid - Gillian Darling Kovanic fonds ()

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Gillian Darling Kovanic fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Gillian Darling Kovanic fonds
Date:	1994-2004 (date of creation)
Physical description:	2.4 m of moving image material and textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created January 25, 2016. SS

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gillian Darling Kovanic began an undergraduate degree in anthropology in 1968 at Simon Fraser University. In August of that year, Kovanic left Simon Fraser University and spent most of 1969 to 1970 hitchhiking and travelling around the world, including stops in the United States, Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, India, South East Asia and Japan. Upon her return to Canada in 1970, Kovanic transferred to the University of British Columbia where she began a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Anthropology -- focusing on South Asia -- and minors in Museology and Art History. She completed this degree in 1975.

Kovanic began her Master's degree at the University of British Columbia in South Asian Anthropology in 1975, finishing in 1979. During this period she completed a year of field work (1976 to 1977) in the Hindi Kush (Kafiristan and Nuristan, Afghanistan) for her Master's thesis titled, "Merit Feasting Amongst the Kalash of Northern Pakistan." During this time in Afghanistan and Pakistan she collected ethnographic materials, which now reside with the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

In 1979, Kovanic returned to India as a Shastri Indo-Canadian scholar studying the Oriya language in Orissa state. She returned to Canada in 1981 and from 1983 to 1985 completed a diploma in Media Arts and Sciences in the Media Resources Department at Capilano College. Upon completion of this diploma, Kovanic joined Northern Lights Entertainment as a film producer and director. She worked as an independent film maker from 1985 to 1997 and with the National Film Board of Canada from 1997 to 2001, before returning to her work as an independent film maker with her company Tamarin Productions Inc.

Kovanic has earned accolades at film festivals around the world for films such as *Island of Whales* (1990), *Battle for the Trees* (1993) *Through a Blue Lens* (2000) and *Suspino: A Cry for Roma* (2003). Her films have been nominated for many awards. She won a Gemini Award for *Island of Whales* in 1992, and has been nominated for the Golden Sheaf Awards and the British Columbia Leo Awards. On many of these projects Kovanic works as director, writer, producer and location sound editor.

Custodial history

Records were in the custody of Gillian Darling Kovanic prior to their acquisition by Simon Fraser University Library Special Collections and Rare Books in 2010.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of research material, scripts, notebooks, permissions and source footage used by Kovanic in the production of her documentary films. *Suspino: A Cry for Roma* was released in 2003 and directed by Kovanic and produced by Tamarin Productions. The film uses interviews, a profile of a refugee family, and historical footage in order to trace the experience of persecuted Romani peoples in Eastern Europe, primarily Romania. Other films in the fonds include *Our Tears Run Red, Yellow and Green*, *Baboon Tales* and *Dreaming a Nation: The Kurds*, from 1994.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

This fonds has not been processed. Restrictions on access may apply; please consult staff for more information.

Conditions governing use

Works in this fonds are under copyright. Researchers are required to secure permission from the copyright holders for usage of this material, except for those covered by fair dealing.

Related material

Related material in the Gillian Darling Kovanic fonds at UBC's Museum of Anthropology. <http://www.memorybc.ca/gillian-darling-kovanic-fonds>

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
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Access points

- Kovanic, Gillian Darling (subject)
- Moving images (documentary form)

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Cultural groups (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)