



Guide to the Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Brents, Barbara G.
Title:	Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers
ID:	UA-00149
Date [inclusive]:	1982 to 2025
Physical Description:	13.24 Cubic Feet (20 boxes, 2 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	12.96 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	183 Digital Files (0.698 GB)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers (1982-2025) contain materials representing sociologist Barbara "Barb" Brents's academic career as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). In particular, the materials document Brents's research on the political economy of sex workers in Nevada and the culminating scholarly output including papers and her co-authored monograph, <i>The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex and Sin in the New American Heartland</i> . Trade publications, marketing materials, and memorabilia from the AVN Expo and the Adult Entertainment Expo are also in this collection. Materials also include Brents's involvement as a faculty member at UNLV including her work organizing the Womyn's Festival in the early 1990s, and her community work with the ACLU of Nevada and Citizen Alert.

Preferred Citation

Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers, 1982-2025. UA-00149. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Barbara G. "Barb" Brents is a sociologist whose research focuses on the intersection of politics, sex, and gender. Brents received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Missouri in 1987 and began teaching at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1988. Brents is considered one of the leading academic experts on the sex industry and Nevada's legal brothels. Throughout her tenure, Brents has published and presented extensively on the topic of sexual commerce and sex work in various legal systems. She and other members of the UNLV Department of Sociology also collaborated in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area Social Survey (LVMASS), a collaborative project with UNLV students and faculty, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Commission, and the city of Las Vegas to gather neighborhood-level data from Las Vegas residents on neighborhood, environmental, and social sustainability issues.

She is co-author of the 2010 book *The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex and Sin in the New American Heartland* which examines Nevada's brothels and their connection to contemporary tourism. She also co-authored the 2020 publication *Paying for Sex in the Digital Age: US and UK Perspectives* which provides a comprehensive cross-cultural examination of the market for sexual services. Her co-edited book *Sex Work Today: Erotic Labor in the Twenty-First Century* was published in 2024.

Brents has been involved with various social activist movements and organizations including serving as the ACLU of Nevada Board President and as a member of Citizen Alert. She also serves as Board Secretary for The Cupcake Girls, a Las Vegas-based organization that provides confidential support, resources, and referral services for those who have been affected by the sex industry and sex trafficking.

Brents retired in June 2025 after over thirty-seven years of service at UNLV as Professor Emerita.

Source:

"Barb Brents-Professor, UNLV," University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Accessed September 12, 2025. <https://brents.faculty.unlv.edu/#>

"Barbara G. Brents," UNLV News Center-Experts, Accessed September 24, 2025. <https://www.unlv.edu/news/expert/barbara-g-brements>

"Meet the Board," The Cupcake Girls, Accessed September 24, 2025. <https://www.thecupcakegirls.org/meet-the-board>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers (1982-2025) contain materials representing sociologist Barbara "Barb" Brents's academic career as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology

at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). In particular, the materials document Brents's research on the political economy of sex workers in Nevada and the culminating scholarly output including papers and her co-authored monograph, *The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex and Sin in the New American Heartland*. Trade publications, marketing materials, and memorabilia from the AVN Expo and the Adult Entertainment Expo are also in this collection. Materials also include Brents's involvement as a faculty member at UNLV including her work organizing the Womyn's Festival in the early 1990s, and her community work with the ACLU of Nevada and Citizen Alert.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged topically.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect personally identifiable information. Restricted materials are noted at the file level of this inventory and will be open for research use on January 1, 2045.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Barbara G. Brents, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Barbara G. Brents Professional Papers (UA-00149) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2025 by Barbara G. Brents; accession number 2025-080.

Additions

Further additions to this collection are anticipated.

Appraisal

Acquired by Sarah Quigley, Director, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings in sexual entertainment and economies. The original acquisition included 0.5 linear feet of duplicate printed materials that were removed and securely disposed of. One bank deposit bag with money from the Womyn's Festival files was removed from the collection and offered back to the donor. 7 floppy disks and 2 optical discs were securely disposed after files were fully transferred, processed, and preserved following UNLV Special Collections and Archives Digital Preservation guidelines.

Processing Information

In 2025, Tammi Kim reboxed the collection and created the inventory and finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Tammi Kim processed born-digital materials including migrating files off of optical discs and floppy disks which were normalized to standard preservation and access formats following UNLV Special Collections and Archives Digital Preservation guidelines.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Barbara G. Brents oral history interview, 2010 January 12. OH-00124. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f15961>

Norma Jean Almodovar Papers, 1918-2022. MS-01176. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1xf67>

Kathy Eastland Papers, approximately 1972-2003. MS-01174. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1rv29>

Brian Gross Professional Papers, approximately 2000-2021. MS-01162. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1819b>

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Names and Subjects

- Sex workers
- Sex industry -- Nevada
- Brothels
- Sociology
- photographs
- born digital
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Faculty
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Political economy of sexuality research	
<i>The State of Sex in the New American Heartland</i> manuscript draft with annotations, 2008	oversized box 21
<i>The State of Sex in the New American Heartland</i> hard cover copy, 2010	box 07
<i>The Little Chapel of Esoteric Cosmetology</i> by Jonnie Andersen, 2007	box 07
<i>The Art of the Pimp: One Man's Search for Love, Sex, and Money</i> by Dennis Hof, 2015	box 07
"The sexualization of culture and the Nevada brothel industry: McDonaldization, pornographication, and social change in late capitalism" lecture by Dr. Barb Brents and Dr. Kate Hausbeck: digital video, 2005 September 27 (UA_00149_001) Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.082 GB) MP4	digital file 00
"The Women of Mustang Ranch" CD-ROM created by BJW Production: digital files, 1994 (UA_00149_002) Physical Description: 142 Digital Files (0.610 GB) CD-ROM Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs	digital file 00 box 04
Access Note: The digital files represent an interactive CD-ROM that is accessible through the MRANCH.EXE file which was designed to run on Windows 3.5.1 or Windows 95. UNLV Special Collections and Archives is currently unable to provide access to the resource as an interactive program due to incapability with current Windows operating systems. However, individual video and image files are accessible.	
General: "The Women of Mustang Ranch" is a CD-ROM game that provides users with an interactive behind-the-scenes look at the Mustang Ranch brothel including introductions to the brothel	

workers. The CD-ROM was created by BJW Productions that was filmed on location at the Mustang Ranch in Reno, Nevada.

ARTSPEAK folio publication with story and advertisement for "XXX Rated International Artists' Peep Show, Admission 25 cents!" at CFM gallery, 1997	oversized box 21	flat file 02
"Sex Workers' Art Show Tour" poster, approximately 2004	oversized box 21	flat file 01
Newspaper clippings about brothels in Ely, Nevada sent to Brents, 1999	oversized box 21	flat file 03
Northern Nevada brothel research trip photographic prints, negatives, and memorabilia, 1998 to 2010	box 12	
Northern Nevada brothel tour video tapes, approximately 1998 to 2000 Physical Description: 5 VHS Tapes	box 12	
Brents's research files for <i>The State of Sex in the New American Heartland</i> including notes, correspondence, interviews with brothel workers, conference papers and programs, 1998 to 2015	box 12 box 13	
Brothel research files: interview schedules, surveys, brothel menus, clippings, and correspondence, 1995 to 2009 Physical Description: 31 Files	box 15 box 16	
Sex industry research files, Free Speech Coalition, and Brents's conference presentation and papers, 1995 to 2024	box 17	
Sexuality studies and sex industry related papers and workshop files for conferences including the Desiree Alliance, International Conference on Prostitution (ICOP), and the American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meetings, 2005 to 2018	box 18 box 19	
Research files on Internet sex industry and exotic dancing, 1996 to 1999 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 16	
WhoreNet listserv email print outs, 1996 to 1997 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2045.	box 22	
Commercial sex industry conventions and tradeshow files		
Adult Video News (AVN) industry directories and show guides; commercial sex industry related trade publications and marketing materials, 2008 to 2017 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 04 oversized box 20	flat file 05
Trade publications and marketing materials collected at the Adult Entertainment Expo (AEE), 2008 to 2012 Physical Description: 7 Digital Files	box 04	
Sex adult services directory print out from Yahoo! and "Secrets" website terms of access webpage printout, 1997	box 04	
Trade publications and marketing materials collected at the Gentlemen's Club Convention, 1996	box 04	

Free Speech Coalition brochure, 2017	box 04
Sex industry marketing materials and trade publications from conventions including Comic Convention, Computer Electronics Convention (CES), and AVN, 1996 to 2003 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 05
<i>Sisters and Daughters Betrayed: The Trafficking of women and girls and the fight to end it</i> produced by Chela Blitt, 1996 Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	box 05
Allen Lichtenstein and Lt. Cordero (Metro Vice) sex industry course, 1997 February 05 Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	box 05
1987 Calico Club and 2003 Free Speech Coalition calendars, 1987, 2003	oversized box 20 flat file 01
Faculty papers	
UNLV Sociology department memoranda, 1988 to 2009	box 10
Newspaper articles, awards, and recognition about Brents, 1987 to 2005 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 10
LVMASS survey proposal and research, 2008 to 2010 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 10
Drafts of Brents's papers on skinhead gangs, activism, and "Dale Carnegie, The Carpenters, and Cambodia", 1991 to 2008 Physical Description: 5 Digital Files	box 10
"Dale Carnegie, The Carpenters, and Cambodia" research, 1989 to 1993	box 11
Brents's research and faculty files, copies of her published papers, 1982 to 2010 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 11
Status of KUNV radio station committee files: correspondence, research, and reports, 1995 to 1998 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 11
Brents's files on her involvement with the Women's Center issues, teach-ins, Faculty Institute, and the <i>Las Vegas People's Press</i> , 1988 to 2014 Physical Description: 13 Files	box 09
Sociology course syllabi taught by Brents on sexuality, gender studies, feminist theory, and political science, 1988 to 2023	box 08
Womyn's Festival	
Womyn's Festival planning documents, press, workshop and program evaluations, and mailing lists, 1993 to 1994	box 01
Womyn's Festival letters, Melanie McEvoy's workshop and planning documents, press, and event photographic prints, 1993 to 1994 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 02

Physical Description: 10 Items

Womyn's Festival committee planning binder, mailing lists, tabling subcommittee, and press, 1993 to 1994	box 03
Tabling subcommittee files, festival planning files and program, 1993 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 06
UNLV Women's Center Committee and Tabling Subcommittee meeting minutes and planning files, correspondence, and mailing lists, 1992 to 1994 (UA_00149_002-004) Physical Description: 36 Digital Files (0.003 GB) ODS, PDF/A	digital file 00
ACLU of Nevada	
UNLV Community Forum fliers: "Rodney King Decision and its Aftermath" (1992) and "Defining Democracy" (2024) , 1992, 2024	box 06
ACLU briefing paper no. 5, campaign finance reports, ACLU of Nevada reorganization files, 1991 to 1996 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 06
Letter to Barb Brents from the Chair of the Nevada Supreme Court Task Force, 1995	box 06
ACLU of Nevada board meeting agendas, minutes, and correspondence, 1996 to 1999 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 06
ACLU newsletters, 1996 to 1998	box 07
September project member lists, 1992 to 1994	box 07
ACLU of Nevada board correspondence and memoranda, 1993 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 07
ACLU major gifts campaign, 1997 to 1999 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 07
Citizen Alert and anti-nuclear testing files	
Native American Cultural Resource Studies at Yucca Mountain, Nevada research report, 1990	box 08
Nevada Test Site, Department of Energy, and Nevadans for Peace research, issue files, and correspondence, 1991 to 2002 Physical Description: 4 Digital Files	box 09
Citizen Alert bumper sticker, anti-nuclear testing festival posters, 1991 to 1995	oversized box 20 flat file 04
Citizen Alert newsletters, meeting minutes, and correspondence, 1992 to 1994 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 15