

Lynn Margulis Papers
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2001084817>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018008>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2018
Revised 2021 September

Collection Summary

Title: Lynn Margulis Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1965-2013

Bulk Dates: 2000-2010

ID No.: MSS84817

Creator: Margulis, Lynn, 1938-2011

Extent: 12,500 items

Extent: 37 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 14.6 linear feet

Extent: 115 digital files (24.21 MB)

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2001084817>

Summary: Biologist. Manuscript drafts, articles, markups, correspondence, proposals, and teaching guides relating to Margulis's career as a science author and educator.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Dyer, Betsey Dexter.

Margulis, Lynn, 1938-2011.

Margulis, Lynn, 1938-2011. Acquiring genomes : a theory of the origins of species. 2002.

Sagan, Dorion, 1959- Acquiring genomes : a theory of the origins of species. 2002.

Organizations

Boston University.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Subjects

Biology--Study and teaching.

Biology.

Evolution (Biology)

Scientific expeditions--Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula)

Occupations

Biologists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Lynn Margulis, biologist, were given to the Library of Congress by Margulis between 2000 and 2010, with additions given by James D. MacAllister in 2012 and by Betsey Dexter Dyer in 2020.

Processing History

The papers of Lynn Margulis were arranged and described by Colleen Benoit Kim in 2018, with an addition processed by Colleen Benoit Kim in 2021.

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Lynn Margulis on a variety of storage media, each of which was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each media. A

description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.digital>. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lynn Margulis in these papers is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lynn Margulis are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Technical Requirements

Digital files associated with the papers of Lynn Margulis consist of .doc and .jpg files.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID number, Lynn Margulis Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1938 Mar. 5	Born, Chicago, Ill.
1957	A.B., liberal arts, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. Married Carl Sagan (divorced 1964)
1960	M.S., zoology and genetics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis.
1963-1966	Research associate, lecturer, biology coordinator for Peace Corps Columbia project, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.
1965	Ph.D., genetics, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, Calif.
1966-1988	Adjunct assistant professor (1966-1967), assistant professor (1967-1971), associate professor (1971-1977), professor (1977-1986), university professor (1986-1988), Department of Biology, Boston University, Boston, Mass.
1967	Married Thomas Margulis (divorced 1980)
1982	Published with Karlene V. Schwartz <i>Five Kingdoms: An Illustrated Guide to the Phyla of Life on Earth</i> . New York, N.Y.: W.H. Freeman and Company
1988-2011	Distinguished university professor of botany (1988-1993), distinguished university professor of biology (1993-1997), distinguished university professor of geosciences (1997-2011), University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Mass.
1992	Published with Clifford Matthews and Aaron Haselton <i>Environmental Evolution: Effects of the Origin and Evolution of Life on Planet Earth</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press
1995	Published with Dorion Sagan <i>What is Life?</i> New York, N.Y.: Simon & Schuster
1999	Awarded National Medal of Science

2002	Published with Michael Dolan <i>Early Life: Evolution on the Precambrian Earth</i> 2nd edition. Sudbury, Mass.: Jones and Bartlett Publishers Published with Dorion Sagan <i>Acquiring Genomes: A Theory of the Origins of Species</i> . New York, N.Y.: Basic Books
2005-2006	President, Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society
2006	Published with Brian Hawthorne and James Corner <i>Ian McHarg: Conversations with Students/ Dwelling in Nature</i> . Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Architectural Press
2007	Published <i>Luminous Fish: Tales of Science and Love</i> . White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publishing Published with Dorion Sagan <i>Dazzle Gradually: Reflections on the nature of nature</i> . White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publishing Published with Eduardo Punset <i>Mind, Life and Universe: Conversations with Great Scientists of Our Time</i> . White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publishing
2009	Awarded Darwin-Wallace Medal of the Linnean Society of London
2011	Published with Celeste A. Asikainen and Wolfgang E. Krumbein <i>Chimeras and Consciousness: Evolution of the Sensory Self</i> . Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press
2011 Nov. 22	Died, Amherst, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lynn Margulis (1938-2011) span the years 1965-2013, with the bulk of the material dating between 2000 and 2010. The papers are organized into five series: [Writings](#), [Correspondence](#), [Professional File](#), [2021 Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

This collection documents Margulis's career as a biologist, evolutionary theorist, author, and educator from 1966 until her death in 2011. The papers primarily chronicle Margulis's pursuits as a science author and comprise drafts and edits of her many books and articles. Represented to a lesser extent are files documenting Margulis's career as a university educator and mentor and material reflecting the early portion of her career between 1966 and the early 1990s. Little to no documentation of Margulis's personal life and family is included in this collection.

The [Writings](#) series comprises material documenting Margulis's work as an author and editor and spans the years 1980 to 2013. This series forms the bulk of the collection and contains annotated drafts and markups for Margulis's numerous articles, books, chapters, and forewords, correspondence with collaborating authors and peers, publishing agreements, and book proposals. Also included are articles and manuscripts written by other scientists and reviewed and edited by Margulis. This series comprises both published and unpublished works.

The [Correspondence](#) series primarily contains incoming letters to Margulis and spans the years 1974-2010. Correspondents include professional colleagues and topics frequently reflect matters of publishing, research collaboration, invitations to lecture, and preparation of course material. Little to no personal correspondence is included.

The [Professional File](#) contains files documenting Margulis's work as a collegiate educator and biologist and span the years 1965-2010. The bulk of this series represents files associated with planning and publicity for the various lectures, panels, and conferences in which Margulis participated. Also included are syllabi for courses taught at Boston University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, grant applications, reports of professional activities and accomplishments, a series of research grants funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and material documenting an interactive lecture series Margulis developed over the span of many years.

The [2021 Addition](#) series comprises papers collected by Betsey Dexter Dyer, Margulis's former student and graduate assistant, and spans the years 1976-2012. The series covers a range of topics, but is primarily reflective of Margulis's teaching career at Boston University and closely mirrors the [Professional File](#) series.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Writings, 1967-2013](#)

- Correspondence, 1974-2010
- Professional File, 1965-2010
- 2021 Addition, 1976-2012
- Oversize, 1990-2009

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-22	<p><u>Writings, 1987-2013</u></p> <p>Edited drafts, markups, correspondence, proposals, and publishing agreements associated with Margulis's many articles, chapters, forewords, and books. Material reflecting Margulis's edits to her books and articles published in the later portion of her career between 2000 and 2010 form the bulk of this series. Additionally, this series comprises poetry and a film proposal written by Margulis, unsuccessful attempts to publish, and an extensive collection of works authored by peers and colleagues, which Margulis reviewed and edited. Digital files comprise drafts of Margulis's books <i>Acquiring Genomes: A Theory of the Origins of Species</i> and <i>Mind, Life, and Universe: Conversations with Great Scientists of Our Time</i>. Arranged alphabetically by material type. File structure of the digital content maintained as received.</p>
BOX 22-26	<p><u>Correspondence, 1974-2010</u></p> <p>Primarily incoming correspondence from professional colleagues and associates. Topics are almost exclusively limited to professional matters and matters of publishing. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 26-35	<p><u>Professional File, 1965-2010</u></p> <p>Lectures, collegiate course proposals, syllabi, correspondence, grants, activity reports, and notes documenting Margulis's career as an educator and professional biologist. The bulk of the series is formed by correspondence, planning, and marketing materials related to lectures Margulis delivered both nationally and internationally during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. Documentation of her endeavors as an educator include course proposals and syllabi from Boston University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, summer internships and courses she lead, and a series of teaching guides targeted at a variety of age and education levels. Grant applications and awards are also comprised in this series, as are copies of Margulis's curriculum vitae and professional activity reports. Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>
BOX 36-37	<p><u>2021 Addition, 1976-2012</u></p> <p>Correspondence, photographs, slides, teaching materials, clippings, and articles documenting Margulis's career as an educator and biologist. Margulis's work on and participation in the Planetary Biology and Microbial Ecology summer course in 1980 is heavily represented in this series through papers and photographs, as is her work on a field survey in Baja California, Mexico. Of particular note is the correspondence and "teaching material" files, which give insight into Margulis's teaching style and relationship to the students she advised. Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1990-2009</u></p> <p>Posters, manuscript drafts, and a drawing. Organized and described according to the series, container, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

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BOX 1	"The Uncut Self" with Dorion Sagan in <i>Organism and the Origin of Self</i> , edited by Alfred Tauber
BOX 1	1995, "Facing Nature" with Dorion Sagan in <i>Biology, Ethics, and the Origins of Life</i> , edited by Holmes Rolston, III
BOX 1	1998
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BOX 1	"Kingdom Bacteria. Kingdom Protoctista" with Dorion Sagan and Michael Chapman in <i>The Diversity of Living Organisms</i> edited by R. S. K. Barnes (2 folders)
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BOX 37	Research report, 1980
BOX 37	Slides, 1980
BOX 37	<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> (controversial article), 2009-2011
BOX 37	Teaching materials (Betsey Dyer student papers), 1976-1981
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1990-2009 Posters, manuscript drafts, and a drawing. Organized and described according to the series, container, and folders from which the items were removed. Writings

Oversize, 1990-2009

Container	Contents
BOX OV 1	<i>Kingdoms and Domains</i> draft figures, drawings, and table of contents, 2007-2009 (Container 14, Drafts and correspondence) Professional File Lectures and conferences, 1990 Apr.-May
BOX OV 1	Poster advertising Margulis's lecture as part of special convocation, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1990 Apr. 9 (Container 27, Lectures and Conferences)
BOX OV 1	Poster advertising Margulis as a speaker at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill., 1990 May 12 (Container 28, Lectures and Conferences)