



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Alexander H. Leighton fonds (MS-13-86)

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Alexander H. Leighton fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Alexander H. Leighton fonds
Reference code:	MS-13-86
Date:	1953-1958 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	8 cm of textual records
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Alexander H. Leighton fonds, MS-13-86, Box [box Number], Folder [folder Number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Alexander H. Leighton was a sociologist and psychologist and the lead researcher of the Stirling County Study, an investigation into social factors related to psychiatric health. Born on 17 July 1908 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he received a BA from Princeton University (1932), an MSc from Cambridge University (1934), and an MD from Johns Hopkins Medical School (1936). He held professorial appointments in both the departments of psychiatry and community health and epidemiology at Dalhousie University, as well as in sociology and anthropology at Cornell, and he was professor emeritus at Harvard. He also served on multiple advisory committees for the governments of Canada and the United States and for the World Health Organization, and over his lifetime received a multitude of awards and honours. He died in 2007.

In 1948 Leighton initiated the first of the post-war studies of the distribution and prevalence of mental illness in a general population. The Sterling County Study is still active and was at one time directed by Leighton's wife, Dr. Jane Murphy Leighton. One of its initial findings in the Digby area of Nova Scotia, was that one in five adults experiences mental illness, most commonly depression, anxiety and/or alcohol abuse. Similar studies were carried out in other settings, including New York City, Alaska, Nigeria and Vietnam. Other investigations of this type now number in the hundreds and have been conducted across the world.

Custodial history

The custodial history is unknown.

Scope and content

Fonds contains five early reports from the Sterling County Study. One report contains a covering letter to C.B. Stewart from J.S. Robertson, Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Health.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

Files are listed chronologically.

Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions on these materials. All materials are open for research.

Conditions governing use

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

Related material

See the Chester Stewart fonds (MS-13-61) for additional records on medical research in Nova Scotia.

Accruals

Further accruals are possible, but not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Stewart, Chester B. (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Correspondence (documentary form)
- Reports, publications, studies, and documentation (documentary form)
- Medical archives (subject)

- Psychiatry (subject)
- Public health (subject)
- Digby (N.S.) (place)

Collection holdings

File: MS-13-86, SF Box 46, Folder 25 - Research design in the Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD

Title: Research design in the Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD

Reference code: MS-13-86, SF Box 46, Folder 25

Date: December, 1953 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a report prepared by Leighton for the Departments of Health and Welfare, Ottawa and Halifax. File also contains a cover letter from J.S. Robertson, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Public Health, to C.B. Stewart. The letter, dated February 2, 1954, explains that the project "has been the source of some difficulties" and asks whether Stewart would be willing to look over the methods of evaluation proposed from an epidemiological point of view.

Physical description: 111 pages (1 folder)

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

File: MS-13-86, SF Box 46, Folder 26 - The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [fourth annual report]

Title: The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [fourth annual report]

Reference code: MS-13-86, SF Box 46, Folder 26

Date: November 1954 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains an annual report prepared by Leighton. File also contains a Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry library lending card and an envelope that was originally affixed to the cardstock cover.

Physical description: 175 pages (1 folder)

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

File: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 1 - The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [fifth and sixth annual reports]

Title: The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [fifth and sixth annual reports]

Reference code: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 1

Date: 1955-1956 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains two annual reports prepared by Leighton. The fifth annual report (104 pages) was prepared on June 30, 1955 and the sixth annual report (50 pages) was prepared on June 30, 1956. File also contains a Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry library lending card and an envelope that was originally affixed to the cardstock cover.

Physical description: 154 pages (1 folder)

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

File: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 2 - The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [seventh annual report]

Title: The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [seventh annual report]

Reference code: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 2

Date: June 30, 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains an annual report prepared by Leighton. File also contains a Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry library lending card and an envelope that was originally affixed to the cardstock cover.

Physical description: 63 pages (1 folder)

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

File: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 3 - The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [eighth annual report]

Title: The Sterling County Study : a research program in social factors related to psychiatric health / Alexander H. Leighton, MD : [eighth annual report]

Reference code: MS-13-86, SF Box 50, Folder 3

Date: June 30, 1958 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains an annual report prepared by Leighton. File also contains a Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry library lending card and an envelope that was originally affixed to the cardstock cover.

Physical description: 117 pages (1 folder)

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published
