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Guide to the Gordon Burghardt Papers, 1709-2023— 123.3589

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, NY 14607

library@museumofplay.org

URL: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/brian-sutton-smith-library-archives-of-play/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Collection Scope and Content Note	4
System of Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	7
Series I: Reference	7
Series II: Publications	17
Series III: Conferences	19

Summary Information

Repository:	Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
Creator:	Burghardt, Gordon M., 1941-
Title:	Gordon Burghardt papers
ID:	123.3589
Date [inclusive]:	1709-2023
Date [bulk]:	1970-2010
Physical Description:	11.0 Linear Feet (10 record cartons, 1 legal size box, and 1 restricted folder)
Language of the Material:	The materials are in English with some instances of German.
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-11
Abstract:	The Gordon Burghardt papers include extensive research files relating to play behavior in animals, Burghardt's writings, including his 2005 book, <i>The Genesis of Animal Play</i> , and conferences attended by Burghardt. The collection includes articles, correspondence, conference materials, drafts, and notes. The materials consist of printed materials, photocopies, photographs, CDs, and floppy disks. The materials date from 1709 to 2023 with the bulk dating from 1970 to 2010.

Preferred Citation

Gordon Burdhardt papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Gordon M. Burghardt is an Alumni Distinguished Service Professor in the departments of Psychology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee. Burghardt received his Ph.D. in Biopsychology in 1966 from the University of Chicago. His research focus has been on comparative studies of behavioral development in reptiles. He has held leadership positions in multiple professional

organizations and served as editor for numerous publications. He is the author of *The Genesis of Animal Play: Testing the Limits* (MIT Press, 2005) which examines the origins and evolution of play in humans and animals. Burghardt retired in 2022 and continues his contributions in the field with editing, publishing, and serving on several committees. In 2024, Burghardt's achievements were honored by the Animal Behavior Society with the Distinguished Animal Behaviorist Award.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Scope and Content Note

The papers document the career of animal play scholar Gordon M. Burghardt. The collection is arranged into three series in Burghardt's original order. Series I is comprised of extensive research files and correspondence relating to play behavior in animals compiled by Burghardt. Series II pertains to the writing and publication of Burghardt's 2005 book, *The Genesis of Animal Play: Testing the Limits* and other publications. Series III contains materials from conferences that Burghardt attended. The collection includes articles, correspondence, conference materials, drafts, and notes. The materials consist of printed materials, photocopies, photographs, CDs, and floppy disks. The materials date from 1709 to 2023 with the bulk dating from 1970 to 2010.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

System of Arrangement

Series I: Reference, 1709-2023

Series II: Publications, 1969-2015

Series II: Conferences, 1970-2019

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, NY 14607

library@museumofplay.org

URL: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/brian-sutton-smith-library-archives-of-play/>

Conditions Governing Access

The papers include one folder of restricted materials that has been removed from the unrestricted folders. The remainder of the collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and users of its library and archive.

Conditions Governing Use

Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, they have given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

Processed by

Laura Boland, 2024.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Gordon Burghardt papers were donated to The Strong in October 2023 as a gift from Gordon M. Burghardt. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under 123.3589. The papers were received from Gordon Burghardt in 7 boxes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Aggressive behavior in animals
- Animal behavior
- Animals
- Bears
- Cats
- Dogs
- Developmental biology
- Ethologists
- Evolution (Biology)
- Fishes
- Herpetology
- Laboratory animals

- Motivation in animals
- Ontogeny
- Play behavior in animals
- Play -- Psychological Aspects
- Play--Religious aspects
- Primates
- Rats
- Reptiles
- Snakes
- Social behavior in animals
- Theology
- Wolves -- Behavior
- Zoology
- Sutton-Smith, Brian, 1924-2015
- TASP
- Association for the Study of Play
- Animal Behavior Society
- Bekoff, Marc
- Biben, Maxeen
- Burns, Richard G.
- Byers, John A. (John Alexander), 1948-
- Byrne, Richard W.
- Cross, Richard G.
- Frank, Harry, 1942-
- Garland, Theodore, 1956-
- Greenberg, Neil B.
- Handler, Leonard, 1936-
- Harnad, Stevan R.
- Gordon, Deborah (Deborah M.)
- Howes, Carollee
- Klinghammer, Erich, 1930-
- Lillegraven, Jason A., 1938-
- MacDonald, Kevin B.
- Mather, Jennifer A.
- McKinney, Michael L.
- McNab, Brian Keith, 1932-
- Meyer-Holzappel, Monika, 1907-
- Mitchell, Robert W., 1958-
- Morris, Molly R., 1956-
- Nalepa, Christine A.
- Newberry, Ruth C.
- Nielsen, Jennifer L.
- Ono, Kathryn A., 1951-
- Panksepp, Jaak, 1943-2017
- Pellegrini, Anthony D.
- Pellis, Sergio

- Barlow, George W.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Reference, 1709-2023

Series Scope and Contents

This series contains research articles compiled by Burghardt related to animal play behavior and other related topics including anthropology, biology, ethology, evolutionary psychology, ontology, and much more. Burghardt's correspondence with other research scholars is also included. Materials include drafts, photocopies, and printed articles.

The series is arranged alphabetically by the first listed author or by non-Burghardt correspondent. In some cases, Burghardt filed articles by an additional author's name or by topic. A spreadsheet of articles included in this series is available and notes the location of any articles that are not filed alphabetically. This series contains one restricted folder to protect personal privacy.

Of interest, Burghardt's correspondence with Brian Sutton-Smith is in box 7 folders 31-36 and box 8 folder 1-2.

Title/Description	Instances	
Aldis, Owen Human Ethology Bulletin V. 18 Iss. 1 legacy issue, 2003 March	box 1	folder 1
Allen, Colin, 1994-1998	box 1	folder 2
Angier, Natalie "The purpose of playful frolics" NYT article, 1992	box 11	folder 1
Ablon, Steven L. - Alvarez, Edgardo O., 1975-2020	box 1	folder 3
Anderson, James R. - Aycock, Alan, 1962-2001	box 1	folder 4
Balcombe, Jonathan "Pleasurable kingdom: the animal nature of feeling good", 2004	box 1	folder 5
Baldwin, John D. and Janice I., 1976-1981	box 1	folder 6
Bally, Gustav "Vom Ursprung und von den Grenzen der Freiheit" [On the origin and limits of freedom], 1945	box 1	folder 7
Barber, Nigel, 1991, undated	box 1	folder 8
Barlow, George fish ontogeny papers, 1963-2001	box 1	folder 9
Barlow, George correspondence, 1997-2001	box 1	folder 10
Baron, N.H. "Genetic revolutions, founder effects, and speciation", 1984	box 11	folder 2
Bauchot, Roland, 1989-2004	box 1	folder 11
Beck, Don correspondence, 1998	box 1	folder 12
Behncke, Isabel research grant application summary (bonobos), 2010	box 1	folder 13

Bekoff, Marc articles, 1970-1989	box 1	folder 14
Bekoff, Marc articles, 1990-1999	box 1	folder 15
Bekkoff, Marc articles, 2000-2009	box 1	folder 16
Bekoff, Marc correspondence, 1994-2003	box 1	folder 17
Bekoff, Marc proofs, 1975-2002	box 1	folder 18
Bell, Curtis articles, 1986-1997	box 1	folder 19
Bell, Curtis correspondence, 1997	box 1	folder 20
Bell, Graham "Selection: the mechanism of evolution", 1997	box 1	folder 21
Bergmann, Hans-Heiner "Eine deskriptive Verhaltensanalyse des Segelflossers" [a descriptive behavioral analysis of the sailfin fish], 2010	box 1	folder 22
Bevins, Rick A., 1998-2003	box 1	folder 23
Biben, Maxeen squirrel monkeys, 1984-1988	box 1	folder 24
Biben, Maxeen, UNC Chapel Hill dissertation "Analysis of the motivation for predatory and play behaviors in the domestic cat (<i>Felis catus</i>)", 1976	box 1	folder 25
Blass, Elliot, 1990-2002	box 1	folder 26
Bloom, Howard correspondence, 1997-2001	box 1	folder 27
Borgia, Gerald, 1992, undated	box 1	folder 28
Borgia, Gerry correspondence, 2002	box 1	folder 29
Boulton, Michael, 1991	box 1	folder 30
Brody, James correspondence, 1998	box 1	folder 31
Bronson, F.H., 1981-1985	box 1	folder 32
Brosnan, Sarah, 2003-2011	box 1	folder 33
Brown, Joseph A., 1954-2001	box 1	folder 34
Bryant-Cavazos, Eli correspondence, 2004	box 1	folder 35
Bugnyar, Thomas correspondence, 2003	box 1	folder 36
Bull, Michael correspondence, 1998	box 1	folder 37
Bullock, Theodore correspondence, 1997	box 1	folder 38
Burghardt, Gordon articles, 1994-1995	box 1	folder 39
Burghardt, Gordon Der Spiegel interview [German], 2004	box 1	folder 40
Burns, Richard, 1987-1993	box 1	folder 41
Byers, John, 1977-1999	box 1	folder 42
Byrne, Richard, 2000-2003	box 1	folder 43

Bacon, Kim - Bazelon, Emily, 1962-2010	box 1	folder 44
Beatty, William W. - Benzie, J.A.H., 1835-2004	box 1	folder 45
Bergen, Doris - Beurton, Peter, 1966-2015	box 2	folder 1
Bhana, Deevia - Blumer, Lawrence S., 1985-2010	box 2	folder 2
Boal, J.G. - Boysen, S.T., 1971-2004	box 2	folder 3
Brattstrom, B.H. - Byosiere, Sarah-Elizabeth, 1934-2016	box 2	folder 4
Behavior (religion and culture), 1996-2006	box 2	folder 5
Cabanac, Michel, 1999-2008	box 2	folder 6
Caldwell, Roy correspondence, 1997	box 2	folder 7
Calvin, William H., 1982-1999	box 2	folder 8
Campos, Joseph J. "Travel broadens the mind", 2000	box 2	folder 9
Caro, T.M., 1980-1992	box 2	folder 10
Caton, Hiram correspondence, 1998	box 2	folder 11
Christie, Israel correspondence, 1997	box 2	folder 12
Clark, Anne B. correspondence, 1993-2001	box 2	folder 13
Clark, Cindy Dell, 1996-1998	box 2	folder 14
Cole, Kathleen Ragan correspondence, 1997	box 2	folder 15
Colemon, Roy correspondence, 1997	box 2	folder 16
Coppinger, Raymond, 1983-1998	box 11	folder 3
Cory, Gerald A. Jr. correspondence and articles, 1997-1998	box 2	folder 17
Coss, Richard, 1968-1997	box 2	folder 18
Cox, Rosamund Kidman correspondence, 2003	box 2	folder 19
Cundall, David snakes drinking, 2000-2002	box 2	folder 20-21
Cabib, Simona - Casto, Joseph M., 1975-2003	box 2	folder 22
Cenni, Camilla - Churchland, Patricia, 1970-2018	box 2	folder 23
Ciali, S. - Clutton-Brock, T.H., 1987-2002	box 2	folder 24
Coelho, Anthony M. Jr. - Coplan, Robert J., 1982-2002	box 2	folder 25
Corballis, Michael C. - Cowie, Helen, 1991-2010	box 2	folder 26
Craig, James - Cutts, C.J., 1979-2005	box 2	folder 27
Dambraskas, Joseph J. "Children's play and the culture of Lithuania," correspondence, 2005-2006	box 2	folder 28
Day, Stephanie M. "Environmental enrichment for a captive loggerhead sea turtle, Caretta caretta," correspondence, 2002	box 2	folder 29

De Waal, Frans correspondence, 2003	box 2	folder 30
Deacon, Terrance, 1990-1997	box 2	folder 31
Diamond, Judy, 1973-2003	box 2	folder 32
Dugatkin, Lee "Animal play behavior", 2001	box 2	folder 33
Daenen, Elisabeth W.P.M. - Davies, Vicki A., 1973-2006	box 3	folder 1
Debat, Vincent - Dingfelder, Sadie, 1962-2010	box 3	folder 2
Djawdan, Minou - Durant, John R., 1939-2008	box 3	folder 3
Anthony Third Earl of Shaftesbury "Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times", 1709	box 3	folder 4
Eisenberg, John F. and Edwin Gould "The behavior of Solendon paradoxus in captivity with comments on the behavior of other insectivora", 1966	box 3	folder 5
Emery, Nathan J., 2003-2004	box 3	folder 6
Ebinger, Peter - Elowson, A. Margaret, 1966-2009	box 3	folder 7
Emerson, Ralph Waldo - Ewer, R.F., 1870-2010	box 3	folder 8
Fagan, Mary K., 2007-2008	box 3	folder 9
Fagen, Robert, 1974-2004	box 3	folder 10
Fairbanks, Lynn, 1993-1995	box 3	folder 11
Early Falhon Soviet Union black bear cubs, 1974	box 11	folder 4
de Fazio, Antionette "Object discrimination in a weakly electric fish, Gnathonemus petersii (Mormyridiformes)", 1979	box 3	folder 12
Fecher, Michael sources, 1940-2005	box 3	folder 13
Fentress, John, 1998	box 3	folder 14
Font, Enrique, 1991-2002	box 3	folder 15
Foroud, Afra, 2002-2003	box 3	folder 16
Foster, Susan correspondence, 1997-1999	box 3	folder 17
Frank, Harry, 1980-1989	box 3	folder 18
Franz, Victor "Das Mormyridenhirn" [The mormyrid brain], 1993	box 3	folder 19
Frost, Peter correspondence, 1998	box 3	folder 20
Fadem, Barbara H. - Finlay, B.L., 1971-2001	box 3	folder 21
Fleay, David - Froberg-Fejko, Karen M., 1944-2010	box 3	folder 22
Fukui, Hijame - Furlow, Bryant, 2001	box 3	folder 23
Fish articles, 1941-2004	box 3	folder 24

Fish brain size - play book correspondence edits and review [Panksepp, Jaak], 2004	box 3	folder 25
Fish pupfish (Cryprinodon) - playbook info, 1997	box 3	folder 26
Fish ray and tigerfish play, 2005	box 3	folder 27
Gans, Carl, 1993-1999	box 3	folder 28
Garland, Theodore, 1983-1997	box 3	folder 29
Geist, Valerius, 1978-2006	box 3	folder 30
Gittleman, John, 1985-1990	box 3	folder 31
Gladwin, Mark "Participants' perception of risk play in middle childhood", 2005	box 3	folder 32
Glickman, Stephen E. articles, 1964-1995	box 3	folder 33
Glickman, Stephen E. correspondence, 1997	box 3	folder 34
Gordon, Deborah M., 1983-2002	box 3	folder 35
Govind, C. K. "Asymmetry in lobster claws: why lobsters have two kinds of claws", 1989	box 3	folder 36
Grandin, Temple, 1998	box 3	folder 37
Graybiel, Ann, 1995-1997	box 3	folder 38
Greenberg, Jody correspondence, 2004	box 3	folder 39
Greenberg, Neil articles, 2001	box 3	folder 40
Greenberg, Neil correspondence, 1998-2002	box 3	folder 41
Greene, Harry correspondence, 2001	box 3	folder 42
Griffen, Don correspondence, 1999	box 3	folder 43
Griffin, Jocelyn correspondence, 1998	box 3	folder 44
Guilmette, Ann Marie correspondence, 2005	box 3	folder 45
Gácsi, Márta - Gavrilets, Sergey, 1977-2013	box 3	folder 46
St. George, Donna - Gladwin, Mark, 1974-2009	box 3	folder 47
Glassman, David M. - Goldstein, Michael H., 1981-2003	box 3	folder 48
Gomez, Jesus - Graziano, Michael S., 1982-2010	box 4	folder 1
Green, Shawn C. - Guldberg, Helene, 1901-2009	box 4	folder 2
Halloy, Monique correspondence, 1998	box 4	folder 3
Hampton, Robert, 2001-2002	box 4	folder 4
Handler, Leonard, 1999	box 4	folder 5
Harnad, Stevan correspondence, 1992	box 4	folder 6

Harrison, Jon correspondence, 1998	box 4	folder 7
Hawthorne, Ann correspondence, 2003	box 4	folder 8
Helfman, Gene, 1996-2003	box 4	folder 9
Hertz, Paul and Raymond B, Huey, 1988-2003	box 4	folder 10
Hofman, Michel A., 1903	box 4	folder 11
Holloway, Ralph L. correspondence, 1997-2000	box 4	folder 12
Hopkins, Carl D. correspondence, 1997	box 4	folder 13
Howes, Carollee, 1992-1997	box 4	folder 14
Hughes, Linda correspondence, 1997	box 4	folder 15
Hagemann, Dirk - Hargrove, David S., 1972-2018	box 4	folder 16
Harris, William - Hayssen, Virginia, 1983-2010	box 4	folder 17
Head, J.J. - Hinton, G.E., 1946-2009	box 4	folder 18
Hoese, H. Dickson - Hoy, Ronald R., 1899-2009	box 4	folder 19
Hubbs, Carl L. - Hyde, Lewis, 1948-2008	box 4	folder 20
Illinger, Patrick "Ideenklau im Aquarium" [Plagiarism in the aquarium], 2022	box 4	folder 21
Ingle, David, 2001-2004	box 4	folder 22
Iwaniuk, Andrew, 1997-2004	box 4	folder 23
Izard, Carroll E., 1989-1991	box 4	folder 24
Jackson, Donald C., 1979-1999	box 4	folder 25
Jambor, Tom, 1996	box 4	folder 26
Jerison, Harry J. "Fossils, brains, and behavior", 2006	box 4	folder 27
Janssen, Jac and Rosalind - Joyal, C.C., 1928-2001	box 4	folder 28
Kablai, Peter correspondence, 1999	box 4	folder 29
Kawata, Ken, 1980-2007	box 4	folder 30
Kawata, Ken correspondence, 2002	box 4	folder 31
King, Malcom adventure playgrounds Wales, 2009	box 4	folder 32
Klinghammer, Erich, 2001-2009	box 4	folder 33
Kramer, Bernd correspondence, 1990-1997	box 4	folder 34
Kramer, Matt correspondence, 1998-2002	box 4	folder 35
Kuba, Michael, 2002-2004	box 4	folder 36
Kälin, Nadja - Kavanagh, Patrick H., 1967-2020	box 4	folder 37
Kelley, Beth - Kim, Walter, 1952-2009		

	box 4	folder 38
Klaczynski, Paul A. - Kluge, Arnold G., 1966-2007	box 4	folder 39
Kobayashi, Satoru - Krotoski, Aleks, 1980-2020	box 4	folder 40
Krumm-Merabet, Christiane - Kuczaj, Stan A. II, 1984-2004	box 4	folder 41
Levine, Linda, 2001	box 4	folder 42
Lewis, Kerrie, 2000-2002	box 4	folder 43
Liddell, Christine, 1987-1994	box 4	folder 44
Lillegraven, Jason, 1987	box 4	folder 45
Loranca, Angelica, 1998-2001	box 4	folder 46
L'Abade, Luciano - Lazell, James, 1973-2010	box 5	folder 1
Leary, Angela - Lewis, Michael, 1986-2010	box 5	folder 2
Lieberman, J. Nina - Liu, Yijun, 1952-2004	box 5	folder 3
Lockwood, Randall - Lyytinen, P., 1972-2007	box 5	folder 4
MacDonald, Kevin, 1991-1992	box 5	folder 5
Martin, Paul, 1982-1985	box 5	folder 6
Mather, Jennifer A., 1982-2007	box 5	folder 7
McKinney, Michael, 1991-1998	box 5	folder 8
McNab, Brian K., 1963-1989	box 5	folder 9
Mellgren, Roger correspondence, 2002	box 5	folder 10
Mendl, Mike, 1986-1988	box 5	folder 11
Meyer-Holzappel, Monika "über das Spiel bei Fischen" [Concerning play in fishes, especially the tapir trunk fish Mormyrus] [German with English translation], 1958	box 5	folder 12
Miklósi, Ádám "The ethological analysis of imitation", 1997-1999	box 5	folder 13
Mitchell, Robert W., 1986-2000	box 5	folder 14-15
Moore, Allen J. correspondence, 1998	box 5	folder 16
Morgan, William, 1982-1997	box 5	folder 17
Morris, Molly, 2003	box 5	folder 18
Moscow News, 1974 June 8	box 11	folder 5
Murphy, James B. correspondence, 1998-2003	box 5	folder 19
Myrberg, Arthur, 1965-1997	box 5	folder 20
MacLean, Paul D. - Manson, Joseph H., 1970-2009	box 5	folder 21
Marans, Steven - Martínez-Marcos, Alino, 1981-2003	box 5	folder 22

Mason, Georgia J. - Matsuzawa, Tetsuro, 1974-2016	box 5	folder 23
McCracken, Gary F. - McNicol, Richard E., 1980-2019	box 5	folder 24
Meder, Erich - Mercer, Julian G., 1976-2004	box 5	folder 25
Midgley, Bryan D. - Moxon, Steve, 1952-2008	box 5	folder 26
Mulcahy, Dan - Myers, David, 1968-2010	box 5	folder 27
"M", 1991-2010	box 5	folder 28
Nalepa, Christine correspondence, 1994-1997	box 5	folder 29
Newberry, Ruth, 1988-1997	box 5	folder 30
Nicolopoulou, Ageliki, 1999	box 5	folder 31
Nielsen, Jennifer correspondence, 1997	box 5	folder 32
Nilson, Don correspondence, 1993	box 5	folder 33
Nair, Dinesh G. - New, John G., 2000-2008	box 6	folder 1
Niewiarowski, Peter H. - Nissen, Henry W., 1931-2000	box 6	folder 2
Noble, G. K. - Nowicki, Douglas R., 1976-1999	box 6	folder 3
Nunes, Scott - Nyberg, Dennis, 1971-2008	box 6	folder 4
O'Connor, Kevin "The play therapy primer", 1983	box 6	folder 5
Ono, Kathryn, 1987	box 6	folder 6
Ödberg, Frank O. - Özçali#kan, Seyda, 1976-2005	box 6	folder 7
Palagi, Elisabetta, 2004-2016	box 6	folder 8
Panksepp, Jaak articles, 1980-1984	box 6	folder 9
Panksepp, Jaak articles, 1985-1989	box 6	folder 10
Panksepp, Jaak articles, 1990-1999	box 6	folder 11
Panksepp, Jaak articles, 2000-2009	box 6	folder 12
Panksepp, Jaak, undated	box 6	folder 13
Panksepp, Jaak correspondence, 1995-2005	box 6	folder 14
Parker, Sue correspondence, 1990-2000	box 6	folder 15
Pellegrini, Anthony articles, 1982-1989	box 6	folder 16
Pellegrini, Anthony articles, 1990-1999	box 6	folder 17
Pellegrini, Anthony articles, 2000-2010	box 6	folder 18
Pellegrini, Anthony, undated	box 6	folder 19
Pellegrini, Anthony "Children's play" final draft, 2000 June 9	box 6	folder 20
Pellegrini, Anthony correspondence, 2004	box 6	folder 21

Pellis, Sergio articles, 1980-1984	box 6	folder 22
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1985-1989	box 6	folder 23
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1990-1991	box 6	folder 24
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1992	box 6	folder 25
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1993-1994	box 6	folder 16
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1995-1996	box 7	folder 1
Pellis, Sergio articles, 1997-1999	box 7	folder 2
Pellis, Sergio articles, 2000-2004	box 7	folder 3
Pellis, Sergio articles, 2005-2009	box 7	folder 4
Pellis, Sergio articles, 2010-2020	box 7	folder 5
Pellis, Sergio drafts and proofs, undated	box 7	folder 6
Pellis, Sergio correspondence, 1989-2003	box 7	folder 7
Perrotta, Vincent correspondence, undated	box 7	folder 8
Pitchford, Ian correspondence, 1999	box 7	folder 9
Promislow, Dan correspondence, 1997	box 7	folder 10
Provine, Robert R. laughter, 1989-2004	box 7	folder 11
Punzo, Fred, 1984	box 7	folder 12
Paglier, Fabio - Paus, Tomáš, 1971-2004	box 7	folder 13
Pearson, M. P. - Phillips, Roger D., 1985-2006	box 7	folder 14
Plessner, Helmuth - Power, Thomas G., 1961-2010	box 7	folder 15
Prager, Phillip Andrew - Previc, Fred H., 1999-2001	box 7	folder 16
Pribram, Karl H. - Pylyshyn, Zenon W., 1984-2014	box 7	folder 17
Rabb, George B., 2004-2005	box 7	folder 18
Renner, Michael J., 1987-1993	box 7	folder 19
Renouf, Deane, 1993	box 7	folder 20
Ritter, Erich sharks correspondence, 2001-2002	box 7	folder 21
Rizzolatti, Giacomo, 1995-1996	box 7	folder 22
Robinson, Michael, 1994-1998	box 7	folder 23
Raedeke, Thomas D. - Raynolds, Peter A., 1971-2009	box 7	folder 24
Reilly, Stephen M. - Rensch, Bernhard, 1975-2001	box 7	folder 25
Robbins, Tom - Russon, Anne E., 1988-2018	box 7	folder 27
Savitzky, Barbara A. correspondence, 1998-2002	box 7	folder 28

Schleidt, Wolfgang M. correspondence, 2003	box 7	folder 29
Smith, Dave correspondence, 1998-1999	box 7	folder 30
Sutton-Smith, Brian articles, 1966-2004	box 7	folder 31-34
Sutton-Smith, Brian correspondence, 1998-2003	box 7	folder 35-36
Sutton-Smith, Brian correspondence, 1997-2001	box 8	folder 1
Sutton-Smith, Brian correspondence, 2002-2009	box 8	folder 2
Sutton-Smith, Brian posthumous items [RESTRICTED], 2015-2023	folder RESTRICTED	
Samson, Alice V. M. - Sylva, Kathy, 1947-2010	box 8	folder 3
Tegano, Deborah, 1989-1996	box 8	folder 4
Thompson, Katerina V. articles, 1992-1995	box 8	folder 5
Thompson, Katerina V. "Behavioral development and play" w/ Burghardt comments, 1995	box 8	folder 6
Tillier, Ben correspondence, 1997-1998	box 8	folder 7
Tamis-LeMonda, Catherine S. - Tizard, Barbara, 1997-2010	box 8	folder 8
Toates, Frederick - Tullberg, Birgitta S., 1998-2002	box 8	folder 9
Ulin, David L. - Updike, John, 2004	box 8	folder 10
VanFleet, Risë, 2008-2012	box 8	folder 11
Van den Berg, C. L. - Vygotsky, Lev Semyonovich, 1967-2021	box 8	folder 12
Waller, Mike correspondence, 1997-1998	box 8	folder 13
Watson, Duncan, 1992-1997	box 8	folder 14
Weldon, Paul J. correspondence, 1997-2003	box 8	folder 15
Wesdek, Christina correspondence, 2000	box 8	folder 16
Wilcox, Stimson, 1993-1998	box 8	folder 17
Wozniak, Robert correspondence, 1997	box 8	folder 18
Wright, Robert correspondence, 2002	box 8	folder 19
Wake, D.B. - Ward, Russell E., Jr., 1980-2001	box 8	folder 20
Weinstein, Randi B. - Westergaard, Gregory Charles, 1975-2009	box 8	folder 21
Whishaw, Ian Q. - Whiten, Andrew, 1957-1998	box 8	folder 22
Wickelgren, Ingrid - Winnicott, D.W., 1968-2010	box 8	folder 23
Wohlwill, Joachim F. - Worch, Erich A. , 1972-2008	box 8	folder 24
Yeager, Carey, 1989-1991	box 8	folder 25
Yágüez, Lidia - Yogman, Michael, 1984-2018	box 8	folder 26

Zippel, Kevin correspondence, 2001	box 8	folder 27
Zamichow, Nora - Zor, R., 1992-2009	box 8	folder 28

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Publications, 1969-2015

Series Scope and Contents

This series relates to the writing and publication of Burghardt's book *The Genesis of Animal Play*. Materials include correspondence with publishers, drafts, notes, and reference articles. Also included are materials related to Burghardt's reviews and contributions to various publications. The reference articles in this series are included to maintain Burghardt's original order.

Of interest, box 9 folder 15 contains material related to the field study of the Komodo dragon name Kraken at the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

Title/Description	Instances	
Chapman and Hall publishers, 1990-1997	box 8	folder 29
Chapman and Hall book info, 1999	box 8	folder 30
Chapman and Hall old signed pub-ed permissions, 1997-1998	box 8	folder 31
Chapman and Hall early "Genesis" chapter drafts, 1997	box 8	folder 32
Kluwer academic publishers, 1991-1999	box 8	folder 33
The MIT Press, 1998-1999	box 8	folder 34
The MIT Press, 1999-2006	box 8	folder 35
The MIT Press play book permission forms, 2002-2003	box 8	folder 36
The MIT Press correspondence, 2002	box 8	folder 37
Book correspondence, 1997-2002	box 8	folder 38
Important original old sources and quotations, 1892-1996	box 8	folder 39
Figures, 1998	box 8	folder 40
Figure legends, circa 1999	box 8	folder 41
Figures ("extra old"), 2001	box 8	folder 42
Figures (June 2003 draft), 2002-2004	box 8	folder 43
Figures (near-final versions), 2003	box 8	folder 44
Figures (final), 2003 June	box 8	folder 45
Figures (copies), 2003	box 8	folder 46
Notes on play, undated	box 8	folder 47
Promotion and review info, 2004-2005	box 8	folder 48

Table info (extra sets), circa 2000s	box 8	folder 49
Misc. prep play Kathy Reeping, 1997-2001	box 8	folder 50
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, 2003	box 8	folder 51
Spirit of Play video grant NEH proposal, 2002-2003	box 8	folder 52
Power point presentations animal clipart book and CD, 2002	box 8	folder 53
Reviews of play papers, 1998-2001	box 8	folder 54
"Animal Play and Creativity" chapter - Allison Kaufman, correspondence, 2014	box 9	folder 1
"Animal Tool Behavior" review, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006 March 31	box 9	folder 2
"The Comparative Reach of Play and Brain," Panksepp's edits, 2010	box 9	folder 3
Developmental Psychobiology in Handbook of Behavioral Neurobiology, vol 13, edit, 2000-2001	box 9	folder 4
Encyclopedia of Comparative Psychology, Garland Publishing, 1993	box 9	folder 5
"Home Aestheticus," review, Human Ethology Newsletter, 1995	box 9	folder 6
Neurobiology Handbook chapter, 1997-1998	box 9	folder 7
"Play and Animal Minds," chapter, Evolution and Cognition, 1998-1999	box 9	folder 8
"Play and the Brain in Comparative Perspective," Greenwood Publishing	box 9	folder 9
"Play in Reptiles," New Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians, 2002	box 9	folder 10
Quarterly review of Biology, Kerrie P. Lewis manuscript, 2010	box 9	folder 11
Animal play articles, 1973-2011	box 9	folder 12
Animal play articles, 2010-2015	box 9	folder 13
Hamill Family Play Zoo Brookfield Zoo, 2001	box 9	folder 14
Komodo dragon play Animal Behavior Society [with CD], 2002	box 9	folder 15
Mouse play Ted Garland [with floppy disk], 1998	box 9	folder 16
Octopus play Michael Kuba, 2003	box 9	folder 17
Sex, gender, and play articles, 1969-2007	box 9	folder 18
Turtle Play Project, National Zoo, 1991-1993	box 9	folder 20
Turtle play, Zoo Biology (with Ward and Rosscoe), 1992-1996	box 9	folder 19
Turtle play - Mark Krause data and correspondence [with floppy disk], 1997	box 11	folder 6

Turtle Play Project, Toronto Zoo, 1996-1998	box 9	folder 21
Turtles - precocial turtle courtship with Matt Kramer [with floppy disk], 1996-1997	box 9	folder 22

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Conferences, 1970-2019

Series Scope and Contents

This series contains material related to conferences attended by Burghardt. The materials are arranged alphabetically by the name of the conference.

Of interest, box 9 folders 35 and 36 contain drafts of Burghardt's first conference presentation of an animal play behavior paper.

Title/Description	Instances	
American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada, 1984 August 24-28	box 9	folder 23
Animal Behavior Society, Bucknell University, 1983 June 19-24	box 9	folder 24
Animal Behavior Society Play Symposium, North Carolina State University, 1985 June 24-28	box 9	folder 25
Animal Behavior Society 25th Anniversary, Northern Kentucky University program, 1989	box 9	folder 26
Animal Behavior Society, Northern Arizona University, 1996 August 3-8	box 9	folder 27
Animal Behavior Society, Northern Arizona University program and abstracts, 1996 August 3-8	box 9	folder 28
Animal Behavior Society, Oregon State University, 2001 July 14-18	box 9	folder 29
Animal Behavior Society, Indiana University, 2002 July 13-17	box 9	folder 30
Animal Behavior Society 42nd Annual Meeting, Snowbird, Utah, 2005 August 6-10	box 9	folder 31
Animal Behavior Society, University of Illinois, Chicago conference program, 2019 July 23-27	box 9	folder 32
Animal Mind Workshop, Bremen, Germany, 1997 September 19-21	box 9	folder 33
Binghamton, NY talk, 2000	box 9	folder 34
Burghardt, Gordon M. - 1970 conference, first play paper revisions "Notes on the behavioral development of two female black bear cubs: the first 8 months" , 1970-1971	box 9	folder 35-36
Canisius College play talk, 2015 March 11-13	box 9	folder 37

Center of Theological Inquiry member handbook, 2013-2014	box 9	folder 38
Center of Theological Inquiry resident colloquium, Princeton, NJ, 2014	box 9	folder 39
Cornell University Psychology colloquium series, 2005 October 27-29	box 9	folder 40
Creativity's Global Correspondents 1998, The Foundation for Concepts in Education, Inc., 1998	box 10	folder 1
9th Croatian Biological Congress, Rovinj, proceedings of abstracts, 2006 September 23-29	box 10	folder 2
9th Croatian Biological Congress, Rovinj, program, 2006 September 23-29	box 10	folder 3
Croatia travel info, 2006	box 10	folder 4
Detroit Zoological Society Symposium, 2014 November 21	box 10	folder 5
Evolution: from molecules to ecosystems, Valencia, Spain book and workshop, 2000 November 2-4	box 10	folder 6
Evolution: from molecules to ecosystems, Valencia, Spain conference, 2000 November 2-4	box 10	folder 7
Great Ape Trust Decade of the Mind III, Des Moines, IA, 2008 May 7-9	box 10	folder 8
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Scientific Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW), New Orleans advanced workshop, 2005 March 21	box 10	folder 9
International Behavioral Neural Genetics Society (IBANGS) 8th Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, 2006 May 19-22	box 10	folder 10
9th International Conference on Environmental Enrichment book of abstracts and information, 2009 May 31-June 5	box 10	folder 11-12
International Environmental Enrichment Conference, Wales travel info , 2009 May 31-June 5	box 10	folder 13
19th International Ethological Conference, Toulouse, France, 1985 August 24-September 2	box 10	folder 14
International Ethological Conference (IEC) XX, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1987 August 7-16	box 10	folder 15
6th International Kraków Study of Religions Symposium, Kraków, Poland, 2017 November 13-15	box 10	folder 16
International Play Association, Creativity/Play Summit, University of Tennessee, 2011	box 10	folder 17-18
International Play Association, IPA/USA national conferences, 1995-2005	box 10	folder 19
Konrad Lorenz Institut, Vienna, Austria trip, 1995	box 10	folder 20

Konrad Lorenz Institut, 2nd KLI Focus Group: Understanding the mechanisms and evolution of play, Klosterneuburg, Austria, 2018 June 2-13	box 10	folder 21
Massachusetts Brain Injury Conference, 2006 October 28	box 10	folder 22
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research Symposium: Play, ritual, and belief in animals and early human societies, 2012 September 13-16	box 10	folder 23
Memphis State University Biology psych talk, 1988 March	box 10	folder 24
Midwestern Psychological Association: 76th Annual Meeting, 2004 April 29-May 1	box 10	folder 25
Morbid Curiosity Conference, University of Tennessee Knoxville, 1984 April 5-6	box 10	folder 26
National Institute for Modeling Biological Systems (NIMBioS) working group organ recital, 2011-2013	box 10	folder 27
18th Play and Human Development Meeting, Wolverhampton, UK, 2007	box 10	folder 28
Play and Human Development Meeting PlayEducation Programme, Wolverhampton, UK, 2007 October 16-17	box 10	folder 29
Play Therapy International, Millennium World Congress on Child and Play Therapy, Dublin, Ireland, 2000 June 19-21	box 10	folder 30
Rocky Fork Bio-Blitz, 2006 June 20-22	box 10	folder 31
Scientists Center for Animal Welfare SCAW/CCAC Conference: The care and use of fish, amphibians, and reptiles in research, Toronto, Canada, 1995 September 28-29	box 10	folder 32
Sigma Xi Conference, 2009-2012	box 10	folder 33
Summer Play Therapy Institute, Kingston, Canada, 1999 August 2-6	box 10	folder 34
The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2010 March 10-13	box 10	folder 35
The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) Conference, Rochester, NY, 2014 April 24-26	box 10	folder 36
University of Veracruz: Current perspectives in the biological study of game theory, 2011 March 16-17	box 10	folder 37
University of Veracruz, Mexico, 2012	box 10	folder 38
Wickler Symposium, Germany, 2003 October 19-22	box 10	folder 39
Western Psychological Association (WPA) Convention, Vancouver, Canada, 2007 May 3-6	box 10	folder 40
Winter Animal Behavior Conference (WABC VI), Park City, UT, 1984 January 21-28	box 10	folder 41

Winter Animal Behavior Conference (WABC XX), Jackson Hole, WY, 1998 January 24-31	box 10	folder 42
Winter Animal Behavior Conference (WABC XXVII), Ranch, Steamboat Springs, CO, 2005 January 15-22	box 10	folder 43
Winter Animal Behavior Conference (WABC), Steamboat Springs, CO, 2013 January 19-26	box 10	folder 44

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)