



Guide to the H. Gregg Lewis Papers, 1939-1990

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Summary

Collection Title:

H. Gregg Lewis papers, 1939-1990

Source:

Economists' Papers Archive

Creator:

Lewis, H. Gregg

Abstract:

H. Gregg Lewis (1914-1992) was a professor emeritus of economics at Duke University and the University of Chicago. This collection documents his professional life through his research, writings, and teaching. It forms part of the Economists' Papers Archive.

Extent:

28.5 Linear Feet (19 boxes.)

Language:

Material in English.

Collection ID:

RL.00809

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1bd1w>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], H. Gregg Lewis papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection is chiefly comprised of research and background material for Gregg's book *Union Relative Wage Effects: A Survey* (1986) and a collection of various academic articles (mostly working papers on various topics in labor economics). Types of material include book manuscripts; drafts of papers

(including unpublished articles); correspondence; lecture notes and syllabi; referee reports; administrative paperwork associated with the University of Chicago; and papers written by other economists. The primary subjects are labor economics, trade unions, and relative wage effects. There is important or substantial correspondence with Gary Becker, Walter Oi, Albert Reese, Sherwin Rosen, and Finis Welch.

The Research Notes, Drafts and Proofs series contains material related to Lewis' book *Union Relative Wage Effects: A Survey* (1986). His two books are more than just summaries of the existing literature; they also involved extensive work of his own; he recalculated a substantial amount of the data presented in the studies in order to replace or correct what he perceived as errors. As such, this series contains much more than background notes, manuscripts, and proofs. It is comprised of approximately 300 folders, grouped together by him and sequentially numbered within the groupings. A single folder might contain an article/study; notes on that article (e.g., on data sources and coverage, sample restrictions, controls, and definitions of variables); correspondence with the authors of the studies asking for clarification on statistics, variables, and equations; notes showing the numbers which he obtained in reworking the authors' calculations; and manuscript drafts of each chapter.

The Articles, Comments, and Notes series contains articles written by Lewis--many of which were never published. These include: "How Americans Use their Time" (1975), "Notes on Partial Equilibrium Analysis" (1975), "Notes on Corner Problems in Production and Utility Theory" (no date), "Unionism, Wages and Employment in US Coal Mining, 1945-68" (1971), "Notes on the Shadow Price of Household Time" (no date), "The Impact of Unionism on Relative Wages in the US" (1963), "Employer Interests in Employee Hours of Work" (late 1960s), "Notes on the Economics of Hours of Work" (1967), and various article reprints and comments that were published during the 1930s-1950s. This series also contains drafts of comments on colleagues' papers that were published. In addition, there are background notes on various topics, e.g., notes on a paper that he and Gary Becker worked on jointly regarding the interaction between the quantity and quality of children. This series also contains a copy of Lewis' PhD thesis, "Studies in the Elasticity of the Demand for Steel" (1947).

The Correspondence series is a substantive collection of letters Lewis wrote to fellow economists or received from them. It also includes a file containing referee reports, mostly done for the *Journal of Political Economy*. Note that the "University of Chicago" file excludes those pieces of correspondence with Albert Reese, who served as the Chairman of the Department of Economics during the 1960s. Instead, those letters are found in the file "Correspondence with Al Reese." The file titled "University of Chicago Department of Economics" contains correspondence that mostly relates to administrative duties that Lewis had as Director of Graduate Studies. Note that the "Milton Friedman" file is sparse, containing only three letters written between Friedman and Lewis. The

"AEA Distinguished Fellow, 1981" file contains letters of congratulations from friends and colleagues upon his receipt of this award.

The Teaching series contains lecture notes for classes taught both at the University of Chicago and at Duke. In addition, there are five files on University of Chicago dissertations which he supervised even after moving to Duke.

Finally, the Colleagues' Articles: Indexed series contains working papers and any handwritten notes (e.g., Lewis' calculations) on these papers. There are also pieces of correspondence related to the papers interspersed throughout this series.

Biographical/Historical

Date	Description
1914, May 9	Born in Homer, MI
1936	BA, Economics, University of Chicago
1939-1975	Faculty member, University of Chicago; at various times he was also Research Associate at Cowles Commission, Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of Chicago-Latin American Program (Chile and Argentina projects)
1941	Economist, President's Emergency Railroad Board
1943-1945	6th Regional War Labor Board (Chicago office): War Labor Board's liaison with Armed Forces, 1943-June 1944; Assistant Wage Stabilization Director, June 1944-April 1945
1945	Served in US Army Air Force
1947	PhD, Economics, University of Chicago

Date	Description
1959-1960	Faculty Research Fellow, Ford Foundation
1963	Unionism and Relative Wages in the United States
1972	Quantrell Prize, University of Chicago
1976-1984	Professor, Duke University
1976, Aug.	Special Issue of Journal of Political Economy: "Essays in Labor Economics: In Honor of H. Gregg Lewis," ed. Gary S. Becker
1981	Distinguished Fellow, American Economics Association
1983	Lead article, inaugural issue of Journal of Labor Economics
1983	Scholar-Teacher Award, Duke University, sponsored by United Methodist Church
1984	Retired from Duke University
1986	Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
1986	Union Relative Wage Effects: A Survey
1992, Jan. 25	Died in Chapel Hill, NC

H. Gregg Lewis (1914-1922), one of the founders of modern labor economics, brought an empirical approach to a field then dominated by the institutionalist school. He studied topics that included the allocation of time between market and non-market activities, the allocation of labor among alternative uses, and the compensation of labor. It is the topic of the influence of trade unions on wage differentials, however, to which he contributed the bulk of his published work. His first book, titled *Unionism and Relative Wages in the United States*:

an Empirical Enquiry was published in 1963, and his second book, Union Relative Wage Effects: A Survey was published in 1986.

Lewis was linked to the University of Chicago Department of Economics for over forty years, first as an undergraduate and then as a graduate student, but for most of this time as a faculty member. As such, his career was inextricably linked to the events and personages of Chicago. He studied under Lloyd Mints, Henry Schultz, and Henry Simons, and later was a colleague of Paul Douglas, Ted Schultz, Gale Johnson, Albert Reese, Al Harberger, Milton Friedman, Harry Johnson, Robert Fogel, and James Heckman.

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Arrangement

The H. Gregg Lewis papers are arranged into five series: Research Notes, Drafts and Proofs; Articles, Comments and Notes; Correspondence; Teaching; and Colleagues' Articles: Indexed.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

The H. Gregg Lewis papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library as gifts between 1989-1992.

Processing Information

Processed by Joanna Vinluan, November 1998.

Encoded by Don Sechler.

"Lewis threw away many of his papers upon moving from the University of Chicago to Duke University in 1976. He only kept half a file drawer filled with longer letters. At Duke, without a personal secretary to file for him, he discarded most items as he finished with them." From notes of Bob Byrd, Director of the Special Collections Library, H. Gregg Lewis collection control file.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

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Names and Subjects

- African Americans -- Economic conditions
- Economists -- United States -- Correspondence
- Labor unions -- United States -- History
- Race discrimination -- Economic aspects
- Wages -- United States -- History
- Working class -- United States
- Duke University. Department of Economics -- Faculty
- Economists' Papers Archive
- Lewis, H. Gregg
- University of Chicago. Department of Economics -- Faculty

Collection Inventory

Research Notes, Drafts, and Proofs, 1978-1986

Scope and Contents

Lewis' files for Union Relative Wage Effects: A Survey (University of Chicago Press, 1986). Boxes 1-6 contain approximately 300 manila folders' worth of research notes, arranged by him according to subject matter. Boxes 7-8 hold chapter drafts, a file on reviews of his book, as well as data analyses (statistical tables and computer printouts).

Survey	Box 1
Physical Description: 5 folders	
Estab	Box 1
Physical Description: 57 folders	
Mobility	Box 1
Physical Description: 8 folders	
Dispers	Box 1
Physical Description: 8 folders	
Estim	Box 1
Physical Description: 10 folders	
Estim	Box 2
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Reference, 1-52	Box 2
Physical Description: 52 folders	
Reference, 53-92	Box 3
Physical Description: 41 folders	
Reference, 93-131	Box 4
Physical Description: 38 folders	
Reference, 133-147	Box 5
Physical Description: 16 folders	
Prob	Box 5
Physical Description: 7 folders	
Prod	Box 5
Physical Description: 12 folders	

Rigid	Box 5
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Spill	Box 5
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Theory	Box 5
Physical Description: 15 folders	
Time Series (Macro)	Box 5
Jobstat	Box 5
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Market	Box 5
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Misc.	Box 6
Physical Description: 9 folders	
Fringes	Box 6
Physical Description: 17 folders	
Macro	Box 6
Physical Description: 41 folders	
Reviews: H. G. Lewis's book	Box 7
Drafts: Chap. 1-7, 1982, Feb.-1984, June	Box 7
Physical Description: 8 folders	
Various computer printouts and data tables (in longhand)	Box 8

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Articles, Comments, and Notes, 1939-1990

Scope and Contents

Various articles (published and unpublished), comments on colleagues' work, and unpublished notes (some of which were circulated widely among fellow economists). Arranged chronologically.

Various pamphlets, 1939-1947 Box 9

"Unionism, Wages and Employment in U.S. Coal Mining, 1945-1969" (1971)	Box 9
Studies in the Elasticity of the Demand for Steel, 1947	Box 9
"Some Observations on Duopoly Theory" (reprinted from AER Proceedings), 1948, May	Box 9
Three pamphlets, 1951-1963	Box 9
Book Reviews, 1941-1958	Box 9
Labor Unions and Labor Monopoly in the U.S., 1959	Box 9
"Notes on the Shadow Price of Household Time," 1960-1974	Box 9
The Impact of Unionism on Relative Wages in the U.S., 1963	Box 9
"Employer Interest in Employee Houses of Work," late 1960s	Box 9
"Notes on the Economics of Hours of Work," 1967	Box 9
Assorted notes, 1967-1972	Box 9
Three papers on Labor Force Participation, 1968, 1972	Box 9
Notes on Corner Problems in Production and Utility Theory, undated	Box 9
Comment to Ben-Porath Paper, JPE, 1973, Mar./Apr.	Box 9
Becker and Lewis "On the Interaction Between Quantity and Quality of Children," 1973-1975	Box 9
Comments on Selectivity Biases in Wage Comparisons, 1974	Box 9
The Economics of Labor, 1974, Nov.	Box 9

Black Lung Commerce, 1974	Box 9
"Notes on Partial Equilibrium Analysis, " 1975 Physical Description: 4 folders	Box 9
"Economics of Time and Labor Supply," 1975	Box 9
"How Americans Use Their Time," 1975-1976	Box 9
"Selected References": IRS: Princeton, 1976-1979	Box 9
"Competitive and Monopoly Unionism," undated	Box 9
Notes and letters regarding a paper by Becker, 1977	Box 9
Comments on wages and unionism in N.C., 1977, Oct. 14	Box 9
Rand Research Review, 1977	Box 9
NLS Newsletter, 1977	Box 9
The Center Newsletter, 1977	Box 9
AEI: Bulletins, etc. 1977-1978	Box 9
"Unionism and Relative Wages Revisited after 15 Years," 1978	Box 9
Notes on Becker: Effort Theory, 1978	Box 9
Retirement Conference: Duke , 1978, Oct.	Box 9
Two pamphlets, 1983	Box 9
Union/Non-Union Wage Gaps in the Public Sector, 1990, JLE	Box 9

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Correspondence, 1958-1986

Scope and Contents

Files of general correspondence, arranged chronologically, followed by specific files for people/events with more substantive correspondence, arranged alphabetically.

1958-1986	Box 10
Physical Description: 6 folders	
AEA Distinguished Fellows letters, 1981	Box 10
American Enterprise Association, 1958-1962	Box 10
Becker, Gary, 1957-1979	Box 10
Bunting, Robert L. 1964-1970	Box 10
Finegan, T. Aldrich (regarding), 1959-1971	Box 10
Fisher, Stanley, 1971-1972	Box 10
Fleisher, Belton (regarding), 1962-1972	Box 10
Friedman, Milton (regarding), 1960-1973	Box 10
Griliches, Zvi, 1960-1975	Box 10
Haberler, Gottfried, 1962	Box 10
Heckman, James, 1968-1976	Box 10
Jones, Ethel, 1969-1973	Box 10
Kessel, Reuben A., 1966-1971	Box 10
Lectures, seminars, conferences, etc, 1962-1975	Box 10
Mincer, Jacob (regarding), 1961-1962	Box 10
MacFarlan, Maitland, 1977, 1979	Box 10
Move from University of Chicago to Duke University, 1975	Box 10
Oi, Walter, 1969-1972	Box 10
Rapping, Leonard, 1965-1970	Box 10

Reese, Albert, 1959-1977	Box 10
Referee Reports, 1956-1977	Box 10
Rosen, Sherwin, 1967-1977	Box 10
Simler, Norman J., 1961-1973	Box 10
Unionism and Relative Wages in the United States (published 1963), 1961-1966	Box 10
University of Chicago Department of Economics: Memoranda, Administrative Papers, etc, 1956-1975	Box 10
Welch, Finis, 1967-1976	Box 10

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Teaching, 1967-1983

Scope and Contents

Lecture notes, syllabi, handout materials, problem sets, and exams for various labor economics classes which he taught (some at Chicago, others at Duke). Also contains sample labor prelim exams from both schools. There are files on dissertations-in-progress for five University of Chicago PhD students (ca. 1975-1979) whose work he continued to supervise after moving to Duke in 1976.

Econ 343, summer 1967	Box 11
Econ 240, Spring 1974	Box 11
Econ 341, 1974-1975	Box 11
Physical Description: folder 1 of 2	
Econ 341, 1974-1975	Box 11
Physical Description: folder 2 of 2	
Econ 341, Winter 1974	Box 11
Dissertation: James Hasek, 1975	Box 11
Dissertation in progress: Fechter, Alan, 1976-1977	Box 11

Horowitz, Stanley, 1975-1976	Box 11
Stockel, A., Thesis, 1977	Box 11
Dissertation: Correspondence regarding Thomas Campbell, 1979	Box 11
Exams and grade lists: Duke, 1975-1976	Box 11
Eco 52.9, Spring 1976	Box 11
Labor Economics: Prelim Exams, 1970-1983	Box 11
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Econ:	
355, 1976-1982	Box 11
358, 1979-1981	Box 11
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Eco:	
149: Lecture notes, Spring 1984	Box 11
155: Labor Econ for undergraduates, 1984-1986	Box 11

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Colleagues' Articles: Indexed, 1970-1989

Scope and Contents

Eight boxes of academic articles, the bulk of which are working papers written on various topics in labor economics. The articles are grouped together under letters of the alphabet, arranged methodically according to an organizational schema that is unknown. An attempt has been made to hypothesize the general theme/subject matter of each grouping.

Papers under "A": unions' impact on wages, collective bargaining.	Box 12
Papers under "B": theory of unions and union growth.	Box 12
Papers under "C": union behavior and power; corruption; cartel model of unions.	Box 12

Papers under "D": unionization's effects on wages and employment: disequilibrium	Box 12
and market distortions.	Box 12
Papers under "E": economics of the family; quantity/quality of children; fertility and child quality.	Box 12
Papers under "F": health and schooling/ education.	Box 13
Papers under "G": economic development and growth; human capital investment; income distribution and earnings; econometric studies of wage determination.	Box 14
Papers under "H": labor market turnover; schooling interruptions; layoffs.	Box 14
Papers under "I": schooling: family model of schooling, female schooling, male youth schooling, preschool children, households' time allocation	Box 15
Papers under "J": marriage: marital instability, determinants of, etc.	Box 15
Papers under "K": production functions: functional forms, factors of production, elasticities of substitution.	Box 15
Papers under "L": elasticity of demand for labor.	Box 15
Papers under "M": labor supply and allocation of effort.	Box 15
Papers under "M", cont.	Box 16
Papers under "N": labor force participation rates and labor supply: women in labor force, retirement age, etc.	Box 16
Papers under "O": estimating labor supply response: sensitivity analysis.	Box 16
Papers under "Q": racial discrimination.	Box 16

Papers under "R": government subsidies; parole success; income and education.	Box 16
Papers under "S": wage rates: links with city sizes, older workers, immigration, etc.	Box 17
Papers under "T": tax policies, unemployment insurance and employment.	Box 17
Papers under "U": models with income taxes: estimations and case studies.	Box 17
Papers under "V": migration and job mobility.	Box 18
Papers under "W": assessing the impact of income maintenance programs on migration.	Box 18
Papers under "X": unemployment legislation: min. wage laws, unemployment insurance programs and their impact, welfare benefits, fair employment laws.	Box 18
Papers under "Y": the economics of information: search and signaling; pricing info.	Box 18
Papers under "Z": job satisfaction; wage differentials and public policy; quality of life indices.	Box 18
Papers under "AA": separation and divorce; family and intergenerational mobility, single-person households.	Box 19
Papers under "AB": screening: theory of labor market discrimination, estimation of employee performance, testing educational screening hypothesis.	Box 19

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