



Guide to the Roy Radner Papers, 1951-2014

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Summary

Collection Title:

Roy Radner papers, 1951-2014

Source:

Economists' Papers Archive

Creator:

Radner, Roy, 1927-

Abstract:

Roy Radner (1927-2022) was the Leonard N. Stern Professor of Business, Emeritus at New York University. This collection documents his professional life through his correspondence, writings, research, and teaching. It was acquired as part of the Economists' Papers Archive.

Extent:

36 Linear Feet (24 boxes.)

1 Megabytes (One set.)

Language:

Material in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11298

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m14p9t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Roy Radner papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection contains material related to Radner's writings, correspondence, teaching, and research.

The Writings series contains his published and unpublished papers and related material, such as correspondence with editors and colleagues, multiple drafts with handwritten notes, and handwritten sheets of mathematical developments.

The Correspondence series mostly contains his professional correspondence (there is a small amount of personal correspondence).

The Teaching series contains his teaching material, such as syllabi, reading lists and packets, and exercises with solutions).

The Research series contains material on seminars, workshops, study groups, and the like.

The Writings by Others series contains material written by other researchers, with or (in most cases) without notes from Radner.

Biographical/Historical

Roy Radner (1927-2022) was a white American academic and research economist who was born in Chicago. He earned a BS (1950), MS (1951), and PhD (1956) in mathematics from the University of Chicago, where his dissertation, "Team Decision Functions," was supervised by Leonard Savage. He was a researcher at the Cowles Commission (1951-1957) before moving to the University of California, Berkeley (1957-1969), Harvard University (1977-1979), and AT&T Bell Laboratories (1979-1995). After retiring from AT&T, he moved to New York University (1995-2017) and became the Leonard N. Stern Professor of Business in 1996. Throughout these years, he also worked as a consultant for various private and public entities.

He is probably most well-known among scholars for three contributions. The first one is on the theory of "Team", especially with Jacob Marschak, which culminated in the publication of Economic Theory of Team in 1972. The second is on growth theory, with his 1961 contribution to the so-called "Turnpike Theorems." The third is on general equilibrium theory with time and uncertainty, where he introduced a notion of equilibrium involving rational expectations in the early 1970s, now known as a "Radner Equilibrium" in financial economics. More generally, he made key contributions to the economics of information and on bounded rationality in economics, and later in life, he became interested in environmental studies and climate change treaties.

He was married to economist Charlotte Kuh and had four children: Hilary, Ami, Ephraim, and Erica.

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Arrangement

The Roy Radner papers are arranged into five series: Writings, Correspondence, Teaching, Research, and Writings by Others.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Access restricted. The Correspondence series is closed until 2050 due to prolific personnel and tenure review files and recommendations. Records pertaining to employment where individuals are identified are closed for 70 years.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Acquisition Information

The Roy Radner papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library as a gift in 2015.

Processing Information

Processed by Dorian Jullien, September 2016.

Electronic records processed by Zachary Tumlin, June 2023.

Accession described in this collection guide: 2015-0096.

This collection arrived from Radner fairly well divided into six groups: Published Papers (six boxes), Notes on Published Papers (two boxes), Notes on Research

(four boxes), Correspondence (seven boxes), Miscellaneous Files/Papers (one box) and Teaching Notes (five boxes). Correspondence remained practically untouched; a very small number of letters from the other files have been refiled here. Teaching Notes were renamed Teaching and reorganized alphabetically. For the same reason, the remaining four groups were collapsed into three new series: Writings, Research, and Writings by Others. Accordingly, it should be noted that the series Research partly overlaps with Teaching in the sense that most workshops run by Radner could be attended by students, and the latter could be graded on a paper about the contents of these workshops.

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

- Economics -- Mathematical models
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- Equilibrium (Economics)
- Game theory
- Turnpike theory (Economics)
- Arrow, Kenneth J. (Kenneth Joseph), 1921-2017
- Cowles Commission for Research in Economics
- Debreu, Gerard
- Dutta, Prajit K.
- Economists' Papers Archive
- Hahn, Frank
- Hurwicz, Leonid
- Leonard N. Stern School of Business -- Faculty
- Linhart, Peter B.
- Majumdar, Mukul, 1944-
- Marschak, Jacob, 1898-1977
- University of Chicago. Department of Economics -- Faculty

Collection Inventory

Writings, 1951-2013

Scope and Contents

Radner's published and unpublished papers with related material. Related material can include correspondence with editors and colleagues, multiple drafts with handwritten notes, handwritten sheets of mathematical developments, numerical sheets of simulation or experimental data, others' papers (not always annotated), transparencies and other presentation-related material, and newspaper and magazine clippings. Most of the papers are academic; those that are related to his consulting activities have typically then served as the basis for subsequent academic publications. Arranged alphabetically.

Allocation of Resources in a Team, 1971, undated Box 1

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Correspondence, 1959-2014

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Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Scope and Contents

Radner's correspondence, which is mostly professional in nature. Roughly half of the files contain correspondence with the named individual, while the other half contain material about the named individual (mostly recommendations, but also papers, PhD dissertations, and CVs). There is also a set of personal files, the names of which all start by "Radner, Roy". Arranged alphabetically by last name.

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Physical Description: 9 files; less than 1 megabyte.

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Teaching, 1967-2012

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Radner's teaching material, such as syllabi, reading lists and packets, exercises with solutions, and administrative documents. About half of the series is on "Microeconomics: Theory and Application (META)," taught at the Stern School of Business from 2000-2012. The other half is on various microeconomic courses (mostly about the theory of the firm, and some notably as applied to

environmental issues) taught at different institutions, although the bulk are from the Stern School.

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Original file name: "Notes on Efficient Allocation and Growth"

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Research, 1962-2014

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Scope and Contents

Material on Radner's research activities, such as seminars, workshops, study groups, lectures, and notes from research meetings. The bulk are from his time at NYU.

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Economics of IS Workshop, 2003	Box 21
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Fisher Lecture: Optimal Capital Accumulation Under Uncertainty, 1972, undated	Box 21
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Gaming Electronic Files, 1985-1988	Digital-materials RL11298-SET-0001 Folder 1

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236 files; approximately 1 megabyte.

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Microsoft print, text, and executable files.

ICIS Panel, 1997 Box 21

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Interdepartmental Workshop on Innovation,
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Originally filed under "TOPICS..."

Interdepartmental Workshop on Deception,
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Original file name: "Limit Laws of Reliability of Multistage Systems"

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Writings by Others, 1954-2006

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This series contains writings by others, i.e., mostly published papers but also working papers and Ph.D. dissertations, with or (in most cases) without notes from Radner. These documents were dispersed in all the series of the original collection, hence the constructed thematic organization is not Radner's. Accordingly, it should be noted the distinctions between "Firms and Decentralization", "Game Theory and Principal-Agent" and "Teams" is made on intuitive and semantic grounds (i.e., with respect to the words used in the titles of the papers), not on substantial theoretic grounds. It should also be noted that the dates displayed in this series are publication dates of the papers, not necessarily the dates at which Radner made notes about them or printed them.

With Notes from Radner: 1961-1985, 1961-1987 Box 23

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Contains a paper from Kenneth Arrow ("Economic Welfare and the Allocation of Resources for Invention") and a paper from Tjalling Koopmans ("Axioms for Persistent Preferences")

With Notes from Radner: 1989-1991, 1989-1991 Box 23

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Partly from files originally named: "Dynamic Games with Delayed Information" (1991); "AT&T Transfer Pricing, 1990" (1990-1991); "Qs in PPOs" (1989-1991)

With Notes from Radner: 1997-2000, 1997-2000 Box 23

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Without Notes from Radner: On Firms and Decentralization, 1984-1986, 1984-1986 Box 23

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Without Notes from Radner: On Game Theory and Principal-Agent, 1981-1987 and undated, 1981-1987, undated Box 24

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Without Notes from Radner: On Game Theory and Principal-Agent, 1994-1995, 1994-1995 Box 24

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Without Notes from Radner: On Various Topics, 1951-1966, 1951-1966 Box 24

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Contains one old working paper by Jacob Marschak ("Economics of Leadership: Some Remarks") and another one by Leonid Hurwicz ("Comments on Statistical Decisions")

Without Notes from Radner: On Various Topics, 1967-1988, 1967-1988, undated Box 24

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Contains an undated hand-written documents which, from its original file, seems to be from Mike Meurer

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