Descriptive Summary

**Creator Information** Grof, Stanislav, 1931-

**Title** Stanislav Grof papers

**Collection Identifier** MSP 1

**Date Span** circa 1955-1995, bulk 1965-1979

**Abstract** This collection contains writings that document the career and research interests of psychiatrist and author Stanislav Grof. It consists primarily of published research articles and clippings discussing the therapeutic effects of psychoactive substances as well as some first-hand accounts of transcendental experiences.

**Extent** 6 cubic feet (17 boxes)

**Finding Aid Author** Stephanie Schmitz and Sammie Morris, 2011

**Languages** English

**Repository** Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Overview of collection contents

Languages represented in the collection.

Call number. Useful to know when requesting access to the materials

Size of the collection
Administrative Information

Location Information: ASC

Access Restrictions: Patient Notes (Series I-D), Student Experiences (Series II), and Research Studies, Projects and Proposals (Series III-A) containing confidential information are restricted for 75 years from the date they were created.

Custodial History: Stanislav Grof's papers were initially deposited with Betsy Gordon. In 2006 they were transferred from Betsy Gordon to Purdue Archives and Special Collections. Additional materials were donated by Grof to the Archives in 2006 and he continues to donate materials to the collection.

Accession Numbers: 20060525 20060717 20061218 20061218

Preferred Citation: Stanislav Grof papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Copyright Notice: The donor has assigned the copyright in his papers to the Archives; copyright in some items of the collection may be held by their respective authors. Consult a reference archivist for details.

Related Materials Information: A complete listing of authors whose articles exist in this collection is located in Appendix One. A list of the books that Dr. Grof has authored is available in Appendix Two.

More information on Stanislav Grof and his research can be found on the Erowid Vaults web portal:

http://www.erowid.org/culture/characters/grof_stanislav/

This section points out other items in the archives (or another repository) that are closely related to the collection described in the finding aid.
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Grof, Stanislav, 1931-

Organizations
Sandoz Pharmaceuticals
Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
Esalen Institute

Topics
Hallucinogenic drugs—Therapeutic use
LSD (Drug)
Psychotropic drugs—Therapeutic use

Form and Genre Types
Articles
Conference Proceedings
Interviews
Manuscripts for publication
Research (document genres)

Occupations
Psychiatry
Psychology
Psychotherapy
Biography of Stanislav Grof

Stanislav (Stan) Grof, noted psychiatrist, author, consciousness researcher, and pioneer of transpersonal psychology, was born on July 1, 1931 in Prague, Czechoslovakia to Stanislav (a chemical engineer) and Maria Petnik Grof. Heavily influenced by the works of Freud early in his studies, Grof was inspired to become a psychiatrist and earned an M.D. at the Charles University School of Medicine in Czechoslovakia in 1956, and a Ph.D. at the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences in 1965.

Dr. Grof’s interest in the clinical use of psychedelic substances was spurred in the 1960s when the Sandoz pharmaceutical company approached the Psychiatric Research Institute in Prague, requesting that studies be conducted on LSD-25 in order to ascertain whether or not the substance had therapeutic properties. Grof subsequently volunteered to participate in a research program which explored LSD as a tool for experiential training, allowing psychiatrists and psychologists to experience the “inner-world” of psychotic patients. He eventually became principal investigator of this program, and has gone on to devote his career to examining the therapeutic potential of psychedelic substances.

Grof’s major fields of research interest include therapeutic and heuristic aspects of non-ordinary states of consciousness, the use of psychedelics and non-drug techniques in psychotherapy, alternative approaches to psychoses, spiritual emergency and treatment of transpersonal crises, biology, brain research, and consciousness studies. He also maintains interests in other non-ordinary states of consciousness such as shamanism, Eastern spiritual systems, mysticism, the rites of passage of aboriginal cultures, and near-death experiences.

Dr. Grof is a Professor of Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) in the Department of Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness, and also teaches in the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, CA.

Dr. Grof has written extensively on LSD and its use in psychotherapy and about other methods and types of psycho-spiritual work.

Sources:


Grof, Stan. Curriculum Vitae.
Scope and Contents of the Papers

The Stanislav Grof papers (1955-2008; 6 cubic feet) document the professional interests of Stanislav Grof over the course of his career. The collection consists mainly of scholarly articles that reflect his research interests during the 1960s and 1970s. Also included in the collection are electronic copies of Grof’s artwork and writings, presentations, his doctoral dissertation, and a handwritten manuscript.

Other materials of interest include firsthand accounts of spiritual experiences written by Grof’s students; annotated bibliographies; pamphlets and issues of periodicals on the nature of psychedelic research (some of which are vibrantly illustrated); and photocopies of unique items such as Joann and Timothy Leary’s Neurologic and “Handbook for the Therapeutic Use of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide-25,” by Blewett and Chwelos.

The Stanislav Grof papers are arranged in three series, two of which have been further arranged in subseries.

I. Stan Grof’s Writings and Biographical Information, 1960-1985
   A. Manuscripts and Typescripts
   B. Published works
   C. Presentations
   D. Patient Notes
   E. Biographical/Promotional Material

II. Student Experiences, 1981

III. Research Materials, circa 1950-1995
   A. Research Studies, Projects, and Proposals
   B. Research Articles
   C. Conference Proceedings
   D. Bibliographies, References and Citations
   E. Journals and Pamphlets (arranged by title)
   F. Books and Reports
Arrangement

**Series I: Writings and Biographical Information, 1960-1985, (.5 linear feet):** Series I contains information produced by Stanislav Grof. It is divided into five subseries: Manuscripts and Typescripts; Published Works; Presentations; Patient Notes; and Biographical/Promotional Material. Materials include Grof’s four-page account of a dream; articles authored or co-authored by Grof from circa 1960-1993; papers that Grof has written and/or presented at conferences which may or may not have been published; his doctoral dissertation (1965); an article Grof conducted with Albert Hofmann in 1984; a first-hand account of a therapy session from one of Grof’s patients [access restricted]; Grof’s notes on the aforementioned patient [access restricted]; and clippings and biographical information on Grof from newspapers and magazines.

**Series II: Student Experiences, 1981 (One folder):** Series II comprises written accounts of students who participated in a weekend workshop with Grof at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Items are arranged alphabetically by author’s last name. These items are restricted for use by the public. In some cases they may be made available for use with the sensitive information redacted.

**Series III: Research Materials, circa 1950-1995 (7 cubic feet):** Series III consists of secondary source materials Stanislav Grof consulted during the course of his career and is divided into 6 subseries: Research Studies, Projects, and Proposals; Research Articles; Conference Proceedings; Bibliographies, References and Citations; Journals and Pamphlets (arranged by title); and Books and Reports.

**Descriptive Rules** [Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard]

**Processing Information**

All materials have been rehoused in acid-free folders and boxes. Rusted staples have been removed from the materials and plastic paper clips or file folder inserts have been used in their place. Oversized materials have been kept in their original series; however, items requiring storage in a larger container have been moved to a box labeled “OVERSIZE” and a separation sheet has been put in place where items have been moved from original location within the series.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1: Stanislav Grof Writings and Biographical Information, circa 1960-1985
(0.5 cubic feet)

Box 1

Subseries A, circa 1960-1985
Folder 1. Manuscripts and Typescripts, circa 1960-1985
   Account of dream at Esalen Institute, circa 1963-1967
   Papers with handwritten notes
   “Basic Perinatal Matrices” charts
   “Dipropylptamine (DPT) as an Adjunct in the Counseling of Cancer Patients”
   “Comparison of the conceptual frameworks of Sigmund Freud and C.G. Jung”
   Stanislav Grof interview with Dr. Albert Hofmann at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, 1984
   “The Holonomic Theory: A New Paradigm for Consciousness Research”

Folder 2. Manuscripts and Typescripts, 1965

Subseries B, 1960-1993
3. Published Works (Grof as Primary Author), 1970-1993
4. Published Works (Multiple Authors), 1960-1973

Subseries C, 1965-1973
5. Presentations, 1965-1973

Subseries D, circa 1970
6. Patient Notes, Circa 1970 [Note: Access to this information is restricted and materials have been moved to Box 16, “Restricted Information,” until 2083.]