April 29, 2013 - 21 Years After the Riots

Fires raged in the USC neighborhood and throughout Los Angeles over several days in April and May of 1992. The U.S. military patrolled Vermont Avenue in armored vehicles. Community leaders like Rev. Dr. Cecil Murray advocated for justice and peace after an all-white jury failed to convict four LAPD officers for the videotaped 1991 beating of Rodney King.

More than twenty years later, Angelenos are still trying to understand the significance of the Rodney King verdict and the events of 1992. On the 21st anniversary of the verdict, join us for a Visions & Voices panel discussion with Rev. Dr. Cecil Murray, journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan, filmmaker Dae Hoon Kim and Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

The discussion will explore many questions that remain—about racial profiling by the LAPD; the geography of wealth and poverty in Southern California; relations between African American, Korean American and Latino communities; and rebuilding efforts in South L.A.

The event will be held on Monday, 4/29/13, 4pm in the Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library, Room 240.

During the Visions & Voices Panel Discussion the USC Libraries will display a selection of documentary materials from two recently unsealed archives of the independent commissions set up to investigate the Los Angeles Police Department in the wake of the 1991 Rodney King beating and the civil unrest that followed the 1992 not-guilty verdict:

- Christopher Commission Records
- Webster Commission Records

These records can also be viewed by appointment in USC's Libraries' Special Collections Department.

This Panel Discussion is presented by USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative. Organized by the USC Libraries in conjunction with the University Residential Student Community.
Books @ USC pertaining to the 1992 LA Riots

A selection of titles available at USC:

**The Riot Within: my journey from rebellion to redemption** - Rodney King; Lawrence J. Spagnola
Call Number: Doheny E185.97.K595 A3 2012
ISBN: 9780062194435
Publication Date: 2012

**Twilight Los Angeles, 1992** - Anna Deavere Smith
Call Number: Doheny PS3569.M465T95 1994
ISBN: 0385473753
Publication Date: 1994

**Performance and Activism: Grassroots discourse after the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992** - Kamran Afary
Call Number: Doheny & Leavey - F869.L89A23 2009
ISBN: 9780739133569
Publication Date: 2009

**Geography of Rage** - Jervey Tervalon
Call Number: VKC - F869.L89A2577 2002
ISBN: 1893329232
Publication Date: 2002

**Official Negligence** - Lou Cannon
Call Number: Von Kleinsmid Center F869.L89N327 1997
ISBN: 0812921909
Publication Date: 1998

**Understanding the Riots** - Los Angeles Times Editors
Call Number: Doheny F869.L89N44 1992
ISBN: 0961909595
Publication Date: 1992
Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles riots - Nancy Ablemann and John Lie
Call Number: Doheny & Leavey - F869.L89K616 1995
ISBN: 0674077040
Publication Date: 1995

Ethnic Peace in the American City - Jeannette Diaz-Veizades; Edward T. Chang
Call Number: Leavey F869.L89A2517 1999
ISBN: 0814715834
Publication Date: 1999

The Rodney King Rebellion: A psychopolitical analysis of racial despair and hope - Brenda Wall
Call Number: Doheny - F869.L89N4 1992
ISBN: 0913543314
Publication Date: 1992

Writing the Ghetto: Class, authorship, and the Asian American ethnic enclave - Yoonmee Chang
Call Number: Doheny - PS508.A8C53 2010
ISBN: 9780814715834
Publication Date: 2010
Includes this chapter: "Ethnic entrepreneurs: Korean American spies, shopkeepers, and the 1992 LA Riots"

Koreans in the Hood - Kwang Chung Kim (Editor)
Call Number: Doheny E184.K6K6555 1999
ISBN: 0801861039
Publication Date: 1999

Images of "others" : the effect of media coverage of racial unrest on public opinion - Gross, Kimberly Ann
Call Number: Doheny P94.5.M552U637 2001a
Publication Date: 2001

Korean Americans and African Americans in the Los Angeles riots : a study of the rhetoric of conflict - Hyunsuk Yoo
Call Number: Doheny - F869.L89K686 1996a
Publication Date: 1996

Strange Future: Pessimism and the 1992 Los Angeles riots - Min Hyoung Song
Call Number: Doheny & Leavey - F869.L89A27 2005
ISBN: 0822335794
Publication Date: 2005

A more complete list of books available at USC on the 1992 LA Riots

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide
Los Angeles Webster Commission records
The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners established the Webster Commission to assess law enforcement’s performance in connection with the 1992 riots.

Included in this collection are interviews, article clippings, broadcasts, reports, emergency operations plans, and internal LAPD documents that were collected and analyzed by the Commission over the course of its study.

Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department records
Chaired by the attorney and former Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department assessed the structure and operations of the LAPD in connection with the Rodney King incident of March, 1991.

This collection consists of materials collected and analyzed by the Commission and its professional staff over the course of their 100 day study. Materials reflect the major themes of the Commission’s investigation including use-of-force guidelines, bias and discrimination, personnel and hiring practices, internal discipline, complaints, and citizen oversight.

Richard M. Mosk Christopher Commission records
Chaired by Warren Christopher, the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department was formed in the wake of the 1991 videotaped beating of Rodney King by several LAPD officers.

This collection consists of files kept by Richard M. Mosk in his capacity as a member of the Commission.
LA Newspaper coverage

**The L.A. riots: 20 years later - Remembering the riots and how they reshaped Southern California** - This Los Angeles Times site offers photographs, videos, timelines, maps and much more

**Then & Now: Images from the Same Spot as the L.A. Riots, 20 Years Later** - LA Weekly

National TV News Coverage of Rodney King Beating and 1992 Riots

**Videos require RealPlayer**

**Rodney King Beating, March 3, 1991:**

Two cases of police brutality against blacks in southern California examined. Home video camera reported capturing evidence of Los Angeles, California, police beating suspect Rodney King; details given of case; scenes shown from Lakeview Terrace, California, and from video; investigation by FBI and Los Angeles police department into police brutality against minorities noted.

**NBC Evening News, 3/6/1991**
Home video camera evidence of Los Angeles policemen beating black man reported triggering investigations by FBI, district attorney and police department; details given of California Highway Patrol chase and police arrest of Rodney King; video and photo shown.

**NBC Evening News, 3/7/1991**
Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates reported announcing criminal charges against police officers involved in beating of black motorist Rodney King; excerpts shown from home video of this and another incident of police using excessive force.

**1992 Riots:**


**NBC Evening News, 4/30/1992**
Home video camera evidence of Los Angeles policemen beating black man reported triggering investigations by FBI, district attorney and police department; details given of California Highway Patrol chase and police arrest of Rodney King; video and photo shown.

**NBC Evening News, 3/7/1991**
Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates reported announcing criminal charges against police officers involved in beating of black motorist Rodney King; excerpts shown from home video of this and another incident of police using excessive force.

NBC Evening News, 5/1/1992 - The American criminal justice system and black Americans examined; riots in Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967 and Miami's Liberty City in 1980 recalled; scenes shown. Need for better educational and job opportunities for blacks noted.

NBC Evening News 5/3/1992 - Move towards recovery after the rioting in Los Angeles featured; scenes shown from a temporary food bank and the city streets.

CNN Evening News, 5/5/1992 - Two jurors in the Rodney King trial are interviewed about their vote; A Hispanic juror tried to hold out for at least one guilty verdict.