**Ruth C. Cohn estate in the archive of the**

**Humboldt University of Berlin**

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Ruth C. Cohn, the founder of theme-centered interaction (TCI), left an extensive textual and therefore "spiritual" legacy. She wrote a wealth of letters, some of many pages, in which she addressed her concerns and concepts directly to the recipient including distinguished pedagogues, psychotherapists, social scientists, philosophers and theologians, among others (about 3500 letters). The creation of her comprehensive life-work materializes through thousands of hand and typewritten notes and manuscript sheets. Accurate records and minutes of group sessions and individual therapies provide a lively insight into her work and that of her close circle of colleagues. These valuable documents are complemented by numerous photographs from the life of Ruth C. Cohn.

Ruth C. Cohn entrusted the preparation for the archiving of the estate to two people very close to her who had taken care of her until her death: Helga Herrmann and Matthias Kroeger, who, after bringing the estate into a basic order, finally handed it over to the Archives of the Humboldt University for archiving and scientific processing. Further relevant documents – in particular from Switzerland - were added to the archival material via the Ruth C. Cohn Institute Berlin, along with documents handed over to the archives by individuals in close contact with Ruth C. Cohn. It is still possible to submit documents. The contact person is Matthias Scharer, current head of RCI International’s science and research section.

To date, the archive contains thousands of books, mostly in German and English, currently kept in 177 folders and boxes in the Humboldt University archives. In order finally to archive the valuable resources and make them accessible to researchers and interested persons, the books first have to be processed. Unfortunately, it has been demonstrated that the Humboldt University's archive lacks the necessary human resources to perform this work in the next few years or decades. In addition, any request to use the resources must document an explicit scientific interest in the sources in order for the processing of the material to be undertaken at all.

M. and M. Scharer began work on the archive stock in the following way: First, all foreign objects (paperclips, plastic covers, etc.) had to be removed from each individual page; then all available pages were numbered. Finally, the documents were listed as accurately as possible according to the archive rules so that they could be found and viewed later. Selected documents were also scanned.

Status of processing of the resources as of March 2017:

To date, 87 of the 177 folders / boxes have been edited. In total, 27,787 sheets have been processed. About 5100 pages were scanned into 206 files. As we can see now the total number of sheets in the Archive will be about 60,000. Further work on the itemization of the documents by M. and M. Scharer is planned for the coming years. The archived and recorded documents are kept in special archiving containers – only then can they be viewed in the reading room of the university archives. The storage in the archiving folders must be done by the archive; this has not yet begun. However, efforts are being made to make the existing inventory available to researchers as early as possible.

The TCI, WILL and professional-related texts of Ruth Cohn are generally released as soon as they are ordered and approved by the archive. All other texts of a more personal nature (such as letters, therapy, group protocols, etc.), can only be released 10 years after the death of the testator. To use and release such texts it is (usually) necessary either to gain the approval of the respective family or to maintain a strict anonymity.

The Ruth Cohn Institute's science and research section encourages researchers to supplement the great treasure of resources scientifically through their diverse queries and perspectives as soon as archival work permits. This is not yet the case but as soon as it is (for example, when the methodological and professional texts of Ruth Cohn are released) you will be informed here on the RCI website. With regard to the extensive resource material, applications are desired at an early stage from research groups such as DFG or FWF among others, and especially in the case of younger researchers. Cross-linked research applications would also be possible. The respective questions for the research and the methodical approaches must, of course, be developed individually or jointly by the applicants. Only a few initial inspections of some of the resources that were possible in the course of the production of the list of sources can be used as an example here.

Biographical research into Ruth C. Cohn’s character and history in the context of both the era and the circumstances of a Jewish migrant living in and between different cultures and continents would be of great interest – as would a critical appraisal of the "Ruth C. Cohn models”, designed by the author herself or by other authors in numerous publications. To cite just one example of many, there are 677 pages in English from the period between January and May 1973 when Ruth C. Cohn was at Clark University preparing her return to Europe that have so far only been seen by the author herself.

In addition to biographical research, it will also be possible to carry out systematic work on specific related queries such as, for example, the development of psychotherapy and humanistic psychology or of individual, group, or "social" therapy. Ruth C. Cohn’s TCI concept could be more precisely defined from the numerous records, in particular handwritten ones, and perhaps even augmented or examined for possible editing. Among other themes, the connections between social policy therapy, ecology and ethics or ethics and worldview / religion addressed in depth by Ruth C. Cohn are open for research. Extensive source material pertains to Ruth C. Cohn’s examinations of many varied cultural and societal global factors, as well as statements on current events. An investigation of the influence of Ruth C. Cohn on WILL America / Europe, WILL International and RCI International could also be a fruitful area for research; here, too, sources not directly derived from Ruth Cohn’s personal estate but added to it through the Ruth Cohn Institute could be included.

**Contact persons**

**Approval of access to sources by** Helga Herrmann und Matthias Kroeger **before** expiry of the restricted period (before 2020)

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**Status of resource lists and scanned documents**

Matthias und Michaela Scharer

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Matthias Scharer

 Currently responsible for the

 RCI science and research section