

Cultural Studies Reading Group

This reading group will explore the works of the cultural studies movement as it has emerged in Britain in the 1970s. This scholarship, which still has an immense influence on the social sciences and humanities, was mobilizing a broad notion of culture to analyse the workings of power in historical and contemporary society. Some of the common characteristics of cultural studies scholarship are: drawing inspiration from Marxist theory, not least the political theory of Antonio Gramsci; a keen interest in popular culture; an urge to understand the cultural production of otherness in postcolonial and racialized global capitalism; as well as a general openness for an interdisciplinary dialogue between the social sciences and the humanities – particularly between history, sociology, anthropology, literary and media studies. This reading group will serve as an open forum in which the participants read and discuss foundational texts of cultural studies scholarship.

Wednesdays, 16:00-18:00

Rost- und Silberlaube

Habelschwerdter Alle 45, 14195 Berlin

Room JK 33/224

(Conference Room of the SFB 1171 “Affective Societies”)

In the first session on 10 April we will discuss an introductory article by Stuart Hall. During the semester we aim at reading one book per month. Texts will **be read in English**, languages of **discussion** are both **English and German**.

- 10 April** Stuart Hall, *Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms*
(*Media Culture and Society* 2(1): 57-72, 1980)
- April** E.P. Thompson, *Whigs and Hunters: The Origin of the Black Act*
(Allen Lane, 1975)
- May** Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*
(Oxford University Press, 1977)
- June** Angela McRobbie, *Postmodernism and Popular Culture*
(Routledge, 1994)
- July** Stuart Hall, *Essential Essays, Volume 1: Foundations of Cultural Studies*
(Duke University Press, 2018)

The reading group is **open for everybody**, be it B.A., M.A. or PhD students, postdocs, or professors. Those interested to participate should **write an email** in advance to Jonas Bens (jonas.bens@fu-berlin.de).

Please note:

This reading group is not part of any study program and no credit points can be assigned.