"Whither the Caribbean?: Stuart Hall’s Intellectual Legacy"

CALL FOR PAPERS

The University of the West Indies, June 1 – 3, 2017

The Institute of Caribbean Studies and Reggae Studies Unit in association with the Stuart Hall Foundation and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus invite proposals for papers in Cultural Studies or related fields for the 2017 Stuart Hall Conference under the theme "Whither the Caribbean?: Stuart Hall’s Intellectual Legacy".

Jamaican-born Stuart Hall can best be described as a cultural theorist and master intellectual. Hall is one of the founding fathers of the Birmingham School of Cultural Studies and by extension is credited, along with his contemporaries, for the genesis of the field of Cultural Studies. While other West Indian thinkers chose economics and development as their hermeneutic method, diaspora-based Stuart Hall turned to culture as the analytic mode of choice. For him questions of language, diaspora, ideology, politics, mass culture and representation became objects of study and analysis. Although Hall went on to become globally acclaimed as one of the pre-eminent public intellectuals of the 20th century few are aware of how influential his Jamaican background and heritage were in formulating the heterodox positions for which he became known.

This conference will offer the opportunity to reflect both on how the Caribbean and Jamaica influenced Stuart Hall’s thought but also on how we might bring this unorthodox, paradigm-shifting intellectual’s work home as it were. How can the lens of culture offer alternative approaches to the study of our postcolonial present? How might cultural studies-inflected strategies amplify the ability of policy-makers, educators and technocrats to craft more people-friendly forms of governance? What lessons of negotiating and thinking about social conflict and its management might be embedded in the life and practice of this exemplary public intellectual?

The Stuart Hall Conference invites academics, scholars and artists to honor the late cultural theorist and sociologist by contributing papers that will build on Hall’s ground-breaking contributions. Themes to be explored include but are not limited to:

- The Caribbean Popular
- Exploring Stuart Hall’s Intellectual Legacy
- Stuart Hall in/on the Caribbean
- Re-Imagining Stuart Hall’s Approach Today
- Stuart Hall and the Role of the Public Intellectual
- Culture, Violence and the Caribbean Present
- Wrestling with the Angels, Devils and Empires
- Nationalism and Rethinking the Caribbean
- Representation, the Media and Popular Culture
- Culture, Material Culture and the Cultural Turn
- State(s) of Cultural Studies
- Collaborative and Collective Research Methodologies
- Law, Order and Policing the Present
- Arts Policy and Cultural Industries
- Race, Caribbean Identity and Globalisation
- Memory, Memorialisng, and Remembering in the Caribbean
- The Mobile Caribbean: Migrations, Nations, Diasporas
- Rethinking Marxism, Political Action and the Left

We invite you to submit an abstract of no more than 250 words. The topic can fall within the broad remit of the focus areas above, or any other influenced by the work of Stuart Hall.

KEY DATES

Deadline for Submissions - February 1, 2017
Decision – February 28, 2017
Full Script - April 1, 2017
Conference – June 1-3, 2017

For more information, contact the Secretariat at:
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