

# EXHIBITION



CULTURE, POLITICS,  
RACE & DIASPORA:

The thought of

# STUART HALL

# GROWING UP IN JAMAICA



**STUART HALL** was born into a brown middle-class family in Kingston in 1932 – the son of an accountant. In his own words he was the darkest member of his colour-and-class conscious family.

His primary education took place at Cardiff Preparatory School. From there he went in 1944 to Jamaica College (JC), where he stayed until 1951. He was involved in several school activities, was tennis captain, track athlete and played cricket as well. During his last year at school, he was appointed Head Boy.

It was at JC, during the extra year he spent in sixth form, that he was exposed to modern literature, political ideas and current affairs.

He won both the Rhodes Scholarship and the Jamaica Scholarship in 1950 which took him to Oxford and enabled him to complete undergraduate and Masters degrees respectively.



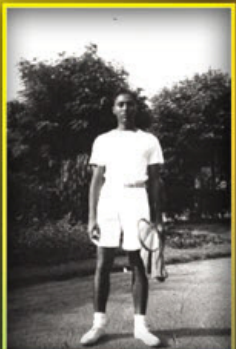
Mother



Father



George (brother), Patricia (sister), Jessie (mother), and Herman (father) at home



Playing tennis for Jamaica College 1949



Receiving Jamaica College's Head Boy's Prize in 1949 from Headmaster, Mr. Hugo Chambers



Rhodes Scholar 1950 at King's House Jamaica



# ENGLAND BECKONS



With Mother Jessie on boat to England, 1951



Stuart Hall as an undergraduate at Merton College, Oxford, 1953

**IN 1951**, Hall migrated to England, fulfilling aspirations to study there. His mother accompanied him when he went up to Oxford. According to Hall, she handed him over to the college scout saying: "There is my son, his trunks, his belongings. Look after him."

At Oxford, Hall met fellow West Indian and African students. He also began his association with left wing politics at this time. According to Hall, the Soviet invasion of Hungary, and the British taking control of the Suez in the summer of 1956 were important turning points in his life. He became involved in the politics of the New Left in Britain.

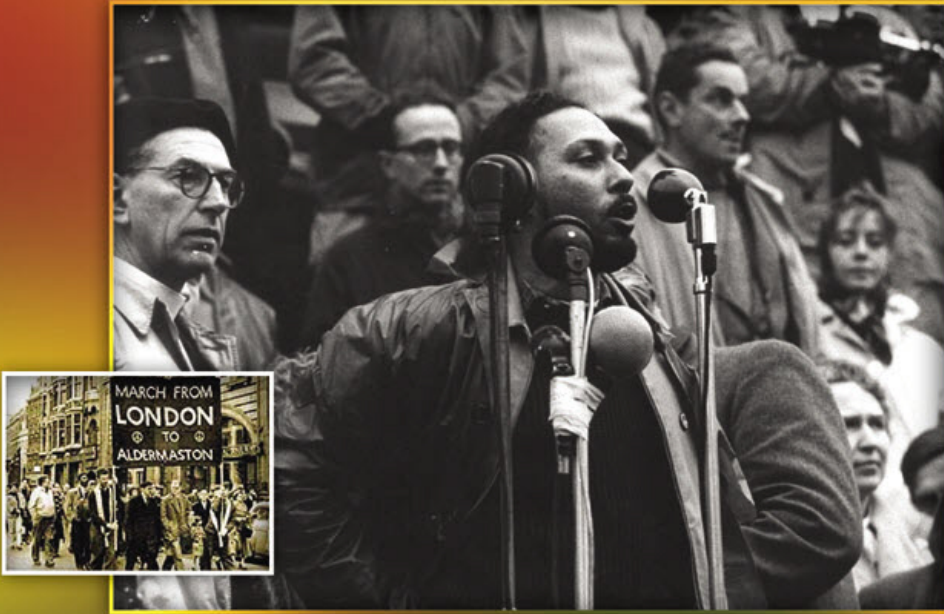
Issues of identity, race, ethnicity and culture were also to become lifelong and passionate interests. A critic of British media and British treatment of Black immigrants, he would eventually be widely regarded as the founder of British cultural studies.



As an Oxford undergraduate outside Merton College



# POLITICAL & CULTURAL ACTIVISM



Speaking at a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Rally in Trafalgar Square at the end of an Aldermaston March, 1958 ( Copyright Philip Jones Griffiths )

**HALL** immersed himself in the politics of the New Left. In 1958, after the Notting Hill riots in London, the New Left became involved in organizing tenants' organizations, and working with immigrants in London. Hall was also involved with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

In 1964, he accepted an offer to move to the University of Birmingham where he was a founding member of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. By 1972, he was director of the Centre. His work is regarded as being "central to the formation and development of cultural studies as an international discipline." (Morley and Chen, 502)

In 1979, he left the Centre to take up an appointment at the Open University, which with its interdisciplinary and unconventional setting, served some of his political aspirations. This also allowed him to "take the high paradigm of cultural studies ... to a popular level." (Interview with Chen, 1996)

He would later comment on Thatcherism, "the nature of the radical right and the crisis of the left." (Interview with Jacques)

# THE FAMILY MAN



**IN 1964** Hall married Catherine Mary Barrett whom he had met at a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament march. They have two children, a son and a daughter, and two grandsons.



**With daughter Rebecca, on holiday in Northumbria**



**Walking with wife Catherine in the woods in the Lake District**

**Daughter, Rebecca, a Child Psychotherapist, 2001**



**Son, Jess, a Cameraman and Director of Photography**



**With son Jess 2001 and Jess's wife Radha from Rajasthan, India**



**Stuart with grandson Noah, at Silver Sands on his Millenium holiday, January 2000**



**With grandson Ishaan in Suffolk**



# ACADEMIC CAREER

An influential teacher, Hall suggests that for good teaching “we ought to be more methodologically self-conscious without falling into a methods course whatever that might be. We ought to be reflexive about our own means of doing so. The more we are, the better we are able to teach our students about it. We are able to alert them as to what is distinctive about how we are producing the knowledge that we are offering them.” (*U. of Mich. CSST Faculty Seminar, 1999*).

**Teacher**, Secondary School, London  
(1958–60)

**Part-time Lecturer in Adult Education**, Oxford  
University, Delegacy of Extra-Mural Studies (1958–62)

**Occasional Lecturer**, Education Department,  
British Film Institute

**Founder-Editor**, *Universities and Left Review*  
(1958–60)

**Editor**, *New Left Review* (1960–61)

**Lecturer**, Film and Mass Media, Chelsea College of  
Advanced Technology, London University (1961–64)

**Research Fellow**, Centre for Contemporary Cultural  
Studies, University of Birmingham (1964–66)

**Assistant to the Director**, Centre for  
Contemporary Cultural Studies, University of  
Birmingham (1966–68)

**Acting Director**, Centre for Contemporary Cultural  
Studies, University of Birmingham (1968–72)

**Director**, The Centre for Contemporary Cultural  
Studies, University of Birmingham (1972–79)

**Professor of Sociology and Head of  
Sociology Discipline**, The Open University  
(1979–1997, retired)

**Visiting Professor**, Goldsmiths College,  
London University (1998–2001)



# HIS WORK ACKNOWLEDGED (HONOURS AND AWARDS)



**Convocation at the  
Tavistock Institute for  
his Honorary  
Professorship**



**D. Litt. Hons. Graduation  
ceremony, University of  
East London**



**Conferred with Degree  
of Doctor of Civil Law  
honoris causa from the  
University of Durham 9  
December 2000**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>1986</b> | <b>Fellow, Portsmouth Polytechnic</b>   |
| <b>1989</b> | <b>D.Litt. Hum., University of Massachusetts</b>  |
| <b>1990</b> | <b>Centenary Fellow, Thames Polytechnic</b>   |
| <b>1993</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., Kingston University</b>   |
| <b>1993</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., City University</b>   |
| <b>1993</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., Oxford Brookes University</b>   |
| <b>1994</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of Sussex</b>  |
| <b>1994</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., De Montfort University</b>  |
| <b>1995</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of Leeds</b>   |
| <b>1995</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., Middlesex University</b>  |
| <b>1995</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of South Bank</b>  |
| <b>1995</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of Keele</b>   |
| <b>1996</b> | <b>Musgrave Gold Medal - for contribution<br/>to Sociological Studies, The Institute of<br/>Jamaica</b> |
| <b>1997</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., Goldsmiths College, University of<br/>London</b>                                      |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of East London</b>   |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of Teeside</b>   |
| <b>1999</b> | <b>D. Litt., University of the West Indies</b>  |
| <b>1999</b> | <b>Emeritus Professor, The Open University</b>  |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>Doc. Of Laws., University of Tampere, Finland</b>  |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., University of Birmingham</b>  |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>LI. D., University of Durham</b>   |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>Academician, Academy of Learned Societies<br/>for the Social Sciences</b>                            |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>Hon. Fellow, Merton College, Oxford</b>  |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>Visiting Professor, The Tavistock Clinic</b>   |
| <b>2003</b> | <b>D. Litt. Hum., The Royal College of Art</b>  |



# PUBLIC SERVICE

Hall's involvement extended beyond the walls of academia. Numerous appointments on advisory boards and commissions serve as testament to the esteem in which he is held.

**Member,** The Hunt Commission: Immigrants and the Youth Services

**Member,** Regional Advisory Committee, BBC Midlands

**Member,** The Social Effects of Television, BBC

**Member,** Committee of Inquiry into the Events in Southhall, National Council of Civil Liberties (1980)

**Advisor to the** Independent Committee of Inquiry Into Policing in Hackney (1985)

**Member,** Advisory Board, The Humanities Institute, University of New York, Stonybrook

**Member,** Advisory Board, Centre for Global Cultural Studies, New School of Social Research, New York

**Member,** Advisory Board, The Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University

**Member,** Board of Advisors and Assessors, University of London

**Member,** Board of Trustees, The Photographers Gallery, London

**Member,** Advisory Committee, The Institute for Contemporary Arts, London.

**Independent Nominee Governor,** Polytechnic/University of East London

**Member of the Court,** Middlesex University

**Member,** Professorial and Readership Committee, Middlesex University (Ended 97)

**Chair,** Autograph: The Association of Black Photographers

**Chair,** Research Centres Board, Economic and Social Research Council (Ended 95)

**Advisory Board,** The GLG Journal, University of California, Berkeley

**Hon. President,** Standing Conference on Cultural, Communication and Media Studies in Higher Education (Ended 97)

**Chair, Steering Committee,** 1995 Conference, Royal African Society and Africa 95

**Chair,** The Institute of International Visual Arts (INIVA).

**Member,** The Media and Cultural Studies Panel, HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise (1996)

**President,** The British Sociological Association (1995-6)

**Hon. Vice President,** The British Sociological Association (1999--)

**Member,** The Commission on The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain (Runnymede Trust)





# AN INTERNATIONAL VOICE

With his “distinctive intellectual voice” and “huge international reputation,” Hall has been and continues to be very much in demand on the lecture circuit around the world. Not only is he invited to give public lectures, keynote addresses and conference papers but he has been:

**Visiting Professor,** The Haven Centre, Social Sciences Graduate School, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA (1985)

**Visiting Professor,** The Department of Communications, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA (1985)

**Visiting Professor,** The Faculty of English and American Studies, The University of the Orientale, Naples, Italy, (1986)

**Fellow,** The Transnational Institute, Amsterdam.

**Honorary Fellow,** Centre for Contemporary Caribbean Studies, University of Warwick (1991-)

**Visiting Professor,** The Centre For Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, New York (1993)

**Visiting Professor and W.E.B. DuBois Lecturer,** Harvard University, Mass. (1994)

**Visiting Professor,** The University of California, San Diego (1995)

**Visiting Professor,** The University of California, Santa Cruz (1995)

**Visiting Professor,** CARIMAC, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (1998)

**Visiting Professor,** Johns Hopkins University (1999)

**Visiting Professor,** Centre for Global Transformations, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1999)

**Centenary Lecturer,** University of the West Indies, Barbados (2000)

**Visiting Professor,** Atlantic Studies programme, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2001)



# PUBLISHING LEGACY

While Hall has inspired an enormous publishing output, he has himself authored and edited many works and served on several editorial boards. His writings provide a permanent record of his wide interests, intellectual engagement and development. During the late 50s, he and the New Left sustained discourse on identity and culture through the *Universities and Left Review* of which he was Founder-Editor. He later became Editor of the *New Left Review* in 1960. Below are some of the Editorial Boards and Advisory Committees on which he has served:

- **Boundary 2**
- **Dialectical Anthropology**
- **Discourse and Society**
- **International Journal of Law and Society**
- **Marxism Today**
- **Media, Culture and Society**
- **Cultural Studies**
- **New Formations**
- **Rethinking Marxism**
- **The American Journal of Sociology**
- **The Journal of Communication**
- **Ten 8**
- **Transition**
- **Social Identities: Journal For The Study of Race, Nation and Culture.**
- **The European Journal of Cultural Studies**
- **Post- colonial Studies**
- **The Journal of Visual Culture**
- **Ethnicities**
- **Inter-Asian Cultural Studies**