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Stuart Hall

Professor Matthew Hilton & Dr Kieran Connell

"On Monday 10 February, Stuart Hall, one of the University of Birmingham's most distinguished academics, died at the age of 82. Hall was a pioneer in the field of cultural studies, though his political interventions also saw him become one of the chief intellectual critics of 'Thatcherism' - indeed, he coined the phrase even before she became Prime Minister."

Read full opinion (/research/impact/perspective/stuart-hall-hilton-and-connell.aspx)

Have your say

This debate has now closed.

Feedback

- AM on 15 February 2014, **Clive D. Fraser (Prof.)** wrote

  As an inconsequential "fresher" of humble Afro-Caribbean origins on a General First Year in Social Sciences in 1972-73 at Birmingham U, I was awed and inspired to encounter the great Stuart Hall. He never taught me academically (and my degree stream of Mathematical Economics might have been anathema to him), but we conversed several times subsequently through shared interests in Handsworth and the common struggles of Black academics. From what he said when he was leaving Birmingham for the OU (sadly, one of the last times I saw him), I believe Stuart felt that he was blocked at Birmingham not because of his radicalism but because of his race. Of course, Stuart did not leave Birmingham just "to take up a post at the Open University". He left to take up the Chair of Sociology. Perhaps if Birmingham U had appointed Stuart to a Chair instead, Sociology would have continued to thrive there with such a pivotal figure as its fulcrum.

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- M on 14 February 2014, **Andrew Rathbone** wrote

  I wonder what Stuart Hall would have had to say about recent events at the University of Birmingham involving the Defend Education Birmingham group. Police summoned by the university to the campus on 29th January in connection with a demonstration and short occupation. 13 students arrested. 5 students summarily suspended for an indefinite period, without any opportunity to make representations and no right of appeal. In view of his involvement in the 1968 events as described in this obituary, I wonder which side he would have been on in the present dispute?

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- M on 13 February 2014, **Wilfried van der Will (professor emeritus, Modern German Studies, UoB)** wrote

  Apart from being saddened by Stuart's mortal departure I am also still saddened by CCCS being thrown out by University authorities at Birmingham Uni not totally appreciating what uniquely had been created on its campus and what international resonance it had achieved meanwhile.

  I am delighted to hear that Special Collections will house an archive about the Centre's work. I often worked closely together with Stuart from the start and cherish the memory I have of him and his colleagues three floors up (the German Department was on the fifth floor in the Muirhead Tower, and on the first floor of the 'Old Arts Faculty Building' where CCCS started its seminars). WvdW.

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- M on 12 February 2014, **Beverley Maynard** wrote

  Very saddend to hear of Stuart Hall's passing. Although I never met him, his work and ideas had a huge impact on my interest in cultural studies and I completed a masters degree in Race and Education at Birmingham as a result of the Cultural Studies Department. I for one, will miss his passion and vibrancy so evident in his body of work but thankful that he leaves a rich legacy. So goodbye to a great intellect, orator and thinker - you will not be forgotten.

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