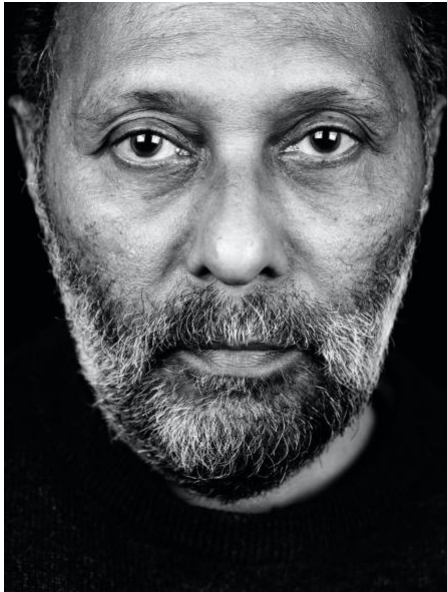


Stuart Hall's The West & The Rest

This factsheet aims to explain Stuart Hall's idea of "the west and the rest" as a discourse. It begins by defining discourse and then explores how discourse functions to produce and reproduce the certain ideas.



- Hall defines 'the west' as a **historical** term rather than a geographical one
- The 'west' and 'the rest' exist in a dichotomous relationship that oversimplifies the differences within 'the rest'
- 'The west' cannot exist without 'the rest', as it is **relational** (to identify 'western society' you must refer to being against or in relation to another society)

What is Discourse?

- Discourse is defined in the specific context of 'the west' and 'the rest' as the production of knowledge through language
- Discourse is a system of **representation**

Functions of Discourse

1. Allows us to **classify** societies into different categories
2. Works as a system of **representation**
3. Creates a model of **comparison**
4. Provides criteria of **evaluation** for other societies to be ranked against

Discourse, Knowledge, Power

- To resist the harmful, dichotomous language of the 'west' and 'the rest' we must understand that Europeans framed history using the production of **knowledge** through **discourse**.
- The pervasiveness of this narration was made possible because of the **power** that the Europeans held in relation to other societies.
- We must consider the **time** and **place** that these narratives were produced and the intent that the narrators had when producing it.

References

Stuart Hall, "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power" in *Essential Writings: Identity and Diaspora Vol. 2* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2018):141-182.

Marcus Williamson, "Professor Stuart Hall": *The Independent*, 2014