

# Cultural Studies

Dr K M Johnson  
Associate Professor  
Department of English  
Sacred Heart College, Kochi

# Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms

- Stuart Hall talks about two major paradigms in cultural studies
- Culturalist paradigm
- Structuralist paradigm

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- He examines four major writers/cultural theorists to establish the culturalist paradigm
- Richard Hoggart- *The Uses of Literacy*
- Hoggart analyses the English society of the centuries from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century
- He deals with the massification of society
- How popular culture is different from mass culture
- How mass culture reduces the individuals to mere consumers and negates their identity

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- E P Thomson: The Making of the English Society
- Examines the English working class culture
- How the camaraderie of artisans and workers developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> England
- How the working class people created a culture of their own and started claiming an identity of their own.

# Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms

- Raymond Williams: *Culture and Society*
- *The Long Revolution*
- One of the most prominent among founding fathers of cultural studies
- According to him “culture is ordinary”
- He critiques the Arnoldian and Leavisite notions of culture
- For them “culture is the best that is thought and spoken in the world”

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- For Williams, culture is ordinary
- He challenges the division between high/low, popular/mass culture
- According to him culture is the “whole way of life”
- It is the result of a sensuous human activity
- It creates a structure of feeling
- It is constituted by every individual in the society and is the result of every day life.