

Keywords – A Weekend of Discussion

Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential at Wortley Hall (WHall),

Fri-Sun 21st – 23rd August 2015

Provisional Programme

This residential will partly follow the pattern of recent RW events at WHall and elsewhere. However, this will not feature external expert speakers; there will be a facilitator (Joseph Boughey) for each session, but the progress of discussion will depend on individual participants. As with sessions in *Philosophy in Pubs*, or *Discussions in Pubs*, the aim will be a series of democratic discussion in which all can feel able to take part, although no one need feel that they *must*!

A *facilitator* ‘...contributes structure and process to help take the discussion forward...’, rather than supplies expert presentations.

Perhaps in a slight departure from PiPs, Dips, or previous Raymond Williams sessions, this weekend will feature a task that may, hopefully, be fulfilled by the end of the weekend. This is to develop a new keyword, one that of considerable relevance to political discourse – “aspirational”.

We aim to be flexible, anticipating 8-15 participants (with more part-time on the Saturday). If over 12 participants, we may split into two parallel sessions.

This programme will remain provisional, open to some minor modifications.

Fri 21st August

14.00 onwards: **Arrival and registration.**

16.00 **Tea and biscuits**

17.00 **Welcome:** Introductions, and review of programme.

17.15 Warm-up discussion **Session 1: Raymond Williams, Keywords book and key words - work, status, class, – why study?**

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Session 2: **Plans for construction of new keyword “aspirational” outlined and discussed.**

21.15 **Bar** or further reading!

Sat 22nd August

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 3: “**Class**”

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Session 4: “**Status**”

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Session 5: “**Work**”

16.00 Tea

16.30 **Free-time** or further reading!!

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Session 6: “**Aspirational**” – **the story so far!**

21.15 **Bar, and/or** further reading !!

Sun 23rd August

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 7: “**Hard-working families**”: class, status and aspirational?

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Session 8: “**Aspirational**” – attempts at a new Keyword

12.30 Forum: **Review, and What Next in Keywords?**

12.50 **Soup and sandwich** lunch, and heading home...

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Suggested reading, viewing or listening : any books, web references and broadcasts mentioned, or relevant to, above;

Useful Links: http://keywords.pitt.edu/williams_keywords.html

Raymond Williams **Keywords** (1976 and 1983)

New Keywords (Ed by Tony Bennett 2005) – session on “desire” will prove useful.

Joseph Boughey is placed some thoughts on this part of his personal website:

<https://josephboughey.wordpress.com/raymond-williams-work/>

Visit www.opendemocracy.net for latest articles on a number of central issues.

Keep up-to-date with notes posted on RWF web-site. Advance preparation - by all - for discussion sessions is, we know from experience, hugely helpful.

Feed-back on earlier discussions/seminars/workshops indicates that participants are critical of dominance, digression and dogma.

The facilitator need have no special knowledge of the subject, and, apart from an intense interest in Raymond Williams’ work, your main facilitator has no special expertise in this area. We hope obviously that expert opinion will have been consulted by participants beforehand.

If you have a lap-tap or i-pad/tablet/phone with you at Wortley these may be useful during and between the sessions.

For newcomers - if you are nervous or sceptical about any of the above, fearing confusion and chaos... it is suggested you look at the evaluations on earlier similar residential on the RWF website...

Any queries/issues contact: derektatton@btinternet.com or phone 01538 528178

JB 5th July 2015 www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk