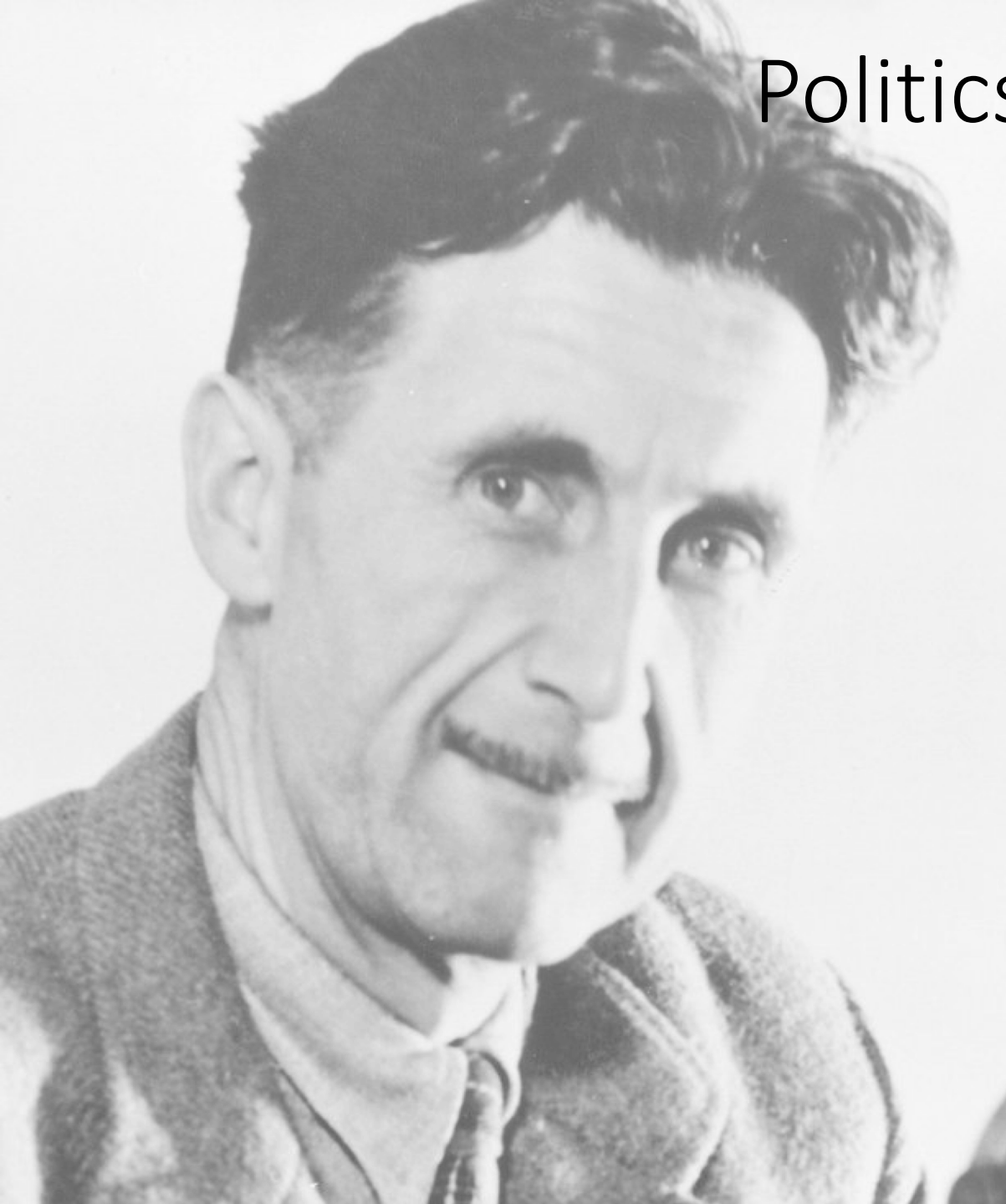


Y1
Individual Practice

Week 5

Politics and Power



Politics & Power

“In our age there is no such thing as
'keeping out of politics.'”

“All issues are political issues, and politics
itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred
and schizophrenia.”

“The opinion that art should have nothing
to do with politics is itself a political
attitude.”

George Orwell

Politics & Power

‘Who controls the past...controls the future...
...who controls the present controls the past.’

George Orwell

The Personal is Political

One of the first things we discover in these groups is that personal problems are political problems. There are no personal solutions at this time. There is only collective action for a collective solution.

Notes:

Hanisch sought to rebut the idea that sex, appearance, abortion, childcare, and the division of household labor were merely personal issues without political importance.

An opening of "private" or "social" matters to political analysis and discussion.

An explanation of the systematic nature of women's oppression. As summarized by Heidi Hartmann, "Women's discontent, radical feminists argued, is not the neurotic lament of the maladjusted, but a response to a social structure in which women are systematically dominated, exploited, and oppressed.

Q. Are you political?

A. Yes!

....How and why?

B. No!

...How and why not?

Can we avoid being political?

What is capitalism?

Capitalism is an economic, political, and social system in which property, business, and industry are privately owned, directed towards making the greatest possible profits for successful organizations and people



https://www.google.com/search?q=capitalism+school+of+life&rlz=1C5CHFA_enGB744GB745&oq=capitalism+school+of+life&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.4511j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/01/world/gallery/iconic-images/index.html>

How do we de-construct images looking at
power/politics?

8 reasons to get excited for Radio 1's Big Weekend 2019



What's wrong with this image..?

The most political decision you make is where you direct people's eyes.
In other words, what you show people, day in and day out, is political.”

Wim Wenders, The Art of Seeing, Essays and Conversations

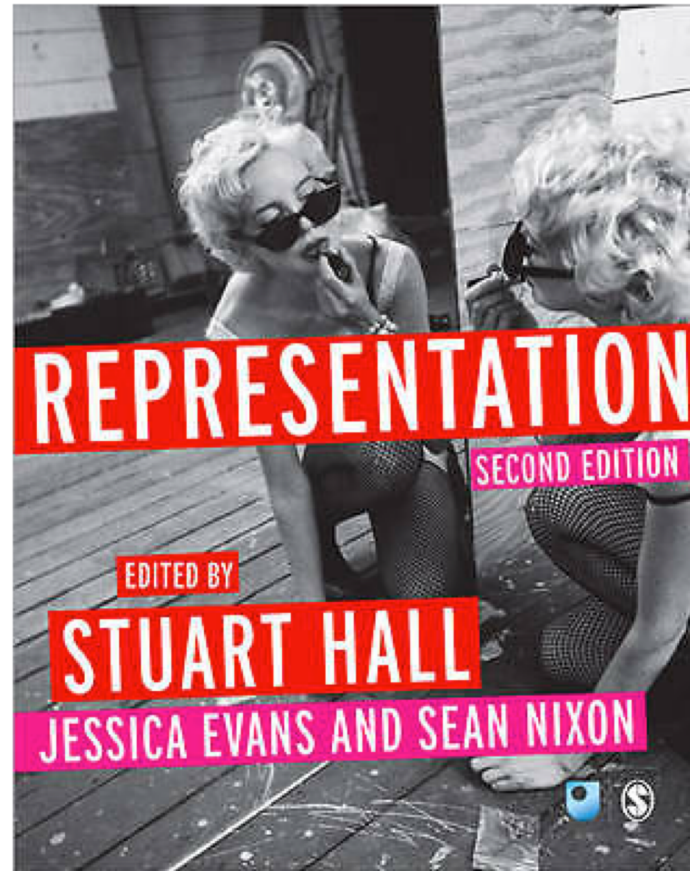
Power of Representation

- Giving Voice to a subject
- Thinking beyond the photo

Martha Rosler claimed that documentary doesn't change anything – it simply transfers information about a “group of powerless people” (the subjects who otherwise wouldn't be photographed) to a much more powerful group (the elite gallery goers or viewers)

- **The Politics of Photojournalism**
- Activism and photography is thinking beyond the photograph – where does the image go next? Activism photography is about solutions.

The Politics of Representation



Jacob Riis, Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange



Writers/thinkers who deconstruct 'power':

- Noam Chomsky
- Naomi Klein
- John Pilger
- Owen Jones

Further reading:

Books

- Photography as Activism – Michelle Bogre
- How to be an Activist in the age of defiance – Michael Segalov
- Civil Imagination – A Political Ontology of Photography – Ariella Azoulay