



**Doreen Massey: Space, Place and Politics**

*Professor Gillian Rose speaks on behalf of Stuart Hall*

**Professor Gillian Rose**

Our panel for this session Michael Rustin is Professor of Sociology at the University of East London and also a visiting Professor at the Tavistock Clinic. And he was the founding editor of the magazine Soundings with Doreen. Our next Speaker will be Ken Livingstone. Doreen worked with Ken both during the 1980's at the GLC as we heard a little earlier this afternoon and also again more recently when Ken was Mayor of London and last autumn Ken launched a new project "Progressive London". Chantal Mouffe our next Speaker is Professor of Political Theory at the University of Westminster and she's been engaged with Doreen over a number of years in conversations around democracy and space. And our last Speaker, Olafur Eliasson, is an artist based in Berlin, arrived from Berlin about a half an hour ago so we are grateful for him. He is probably best known here for his weather project installation at Tate Modern a few years ago which I'm sure many people here experienced. Doreen wrote in the catalogue for that installation and Olafur was also a visitor to the Geography Department at the OU as part of that project.

So that's our panel this afternoon. Those of you who've read the programme though will notice that there's one omission which is Stuart Hall who very much wanted to be here this afternoon but has been struck down by a 'flu bug and is not able to be here. I am going to start though by reading a message that I think he dictated actually to Doreen shortly to - to have a presence here even if he can't be here in person. So I will start with that and then I will hand over to Michael.

So this is from Stuart Hall – it feels very odd to be talking for him but what he says is:

"Unfortunately I'm not very well and keep breaking into a terrible cough so I'm very sorry not to be with you today to celebrate Doreen and her work and to be part of the discussion about the political present. I've learned so much from Doreen over the years though I'm not a geographer she's made me understand what a profound difference it makes that all political and social processes have a spatial dimension. I particularly appreciate the way her definition of space opens up new perspectives by running against the conventional grain. I had the pleasure of travelling with Doreen to and from the Open University, and that was when Stuart was a Professor of Sociology at the OU, and this was an opportunity for the most wide-ranging and entertaining conversations. I value the way she's maintained her commitment to politics in her intellectual work without loss of complexity. Her writing about place, especially Kilburn, where she Mike Rustin and I all live nearly persuaded us to call "Soundings" the 'Kilburn Review!' She's been an inspiration and a wise advisor on the developing of Soundings since its inception. I hope she has many creative and committed years of intellectual and political work still to come."