## Handout for Stuart Hall and Judith Butler

### Residual, Emergent, Dominant

We have certainly still to speak of the ‘dominant’ and the ‘effective’, and in these senses of the hegemonic.  
[…]

By ‘residual’ I mean something different from the ‘archaic’, though in practices these are often very difficult to distinguish. Any culture includes available elements of the past, but their place in the contemporary cultural process is profoundly variable. I would call the ‘archaic’ that which is wholly recognized as an element of the past, to be observed, to be examined, or even on occasion to be consciously ‘revived’ in a deliberately specializing way. What I mean by the ‘residual’ is very different. The residual, by definition, has been effectively formed in the past, but it is still active in the cultural process, not only and often not at all as an element of the past, but as an effective element of the present.  
[…]  
By ‘emergent’ I mean, first, that new meanings and values, ne practices, new relationships and kinds of relationship are continually being created. But it is exceptionally difficult to distinguish between those which are really elements of some new phase of the dominant culture […] and those which are substantially alternative or oppositional to it: emergent in the strict sense, rather than merely novel. Since we are always considering relations within a cultural process, definitions of the emergent, as of the residual, can be made only in relation to a full sense of the dominant.

-- from Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1977), pp. 121-3.

### Glossary

Hegemony: the method of securing an ideological consensus; the way in which ideology is disseminated.

*Différance*: referring both to the idea of ‘difference’ and ‘deferral’. That is, we cannot grasp ideas in and of themselves; instead we note their difference to other things (so ‘red’ is not ‘blue’), but we do so by ‘deferring’ our consciousness on to the ‘other’ ideas (so I can only think of ‘red’ by holding ‘blue’ in my mind). *Différance* is at the heart of Derridean post-structuralist deconstruction.