

Cultural Studies in Europe: critical elements (IV)

Research Methodologies in European Cultures and Society,
Session 14

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Course outline

- I. Approaches to culture. Limits and definitions
- II. “Self” and “Other”
- III. Culture and memory
- IV. Popular culture
- V. (...)

III. Popular culture

- Popular culture and Pop Art: the dialectics of high and low, or how contemporary art is doing both
- Soccer/football as an example of popular culture.
 - The transcultural history of soccer: the example of « calcio »
 - From minimally regulated outbreak to policing and commerce
 - Pockets of resistance? Hooliganism, catastrophes and memory culture
- Wrapping up: The concept of culture

Pop art: Paolozzi, Pop! (I was a Rich man's Plaything), 1947



Pop art: Richard Hamilton, Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing, 1956



Pop art: Andy Warhol, Campbell's Tomato Juice, 1964



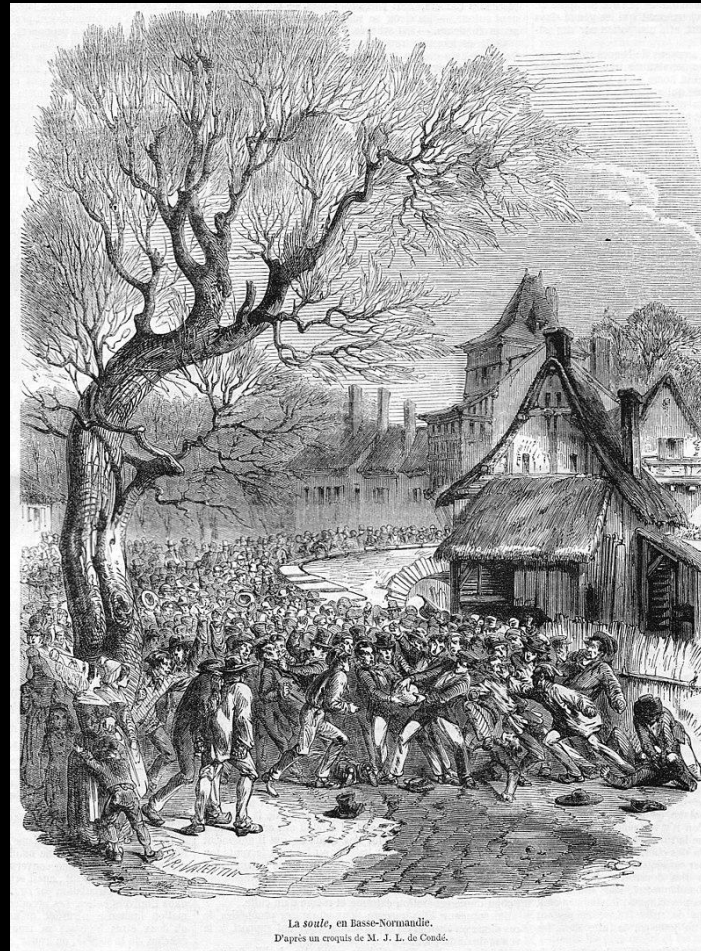
Pop art: Roy Lichtenstein, Drowning Girl, 1963



Young soccer players, Gloucester cathedral, 12th century



La soule in Low Normandy, 1852

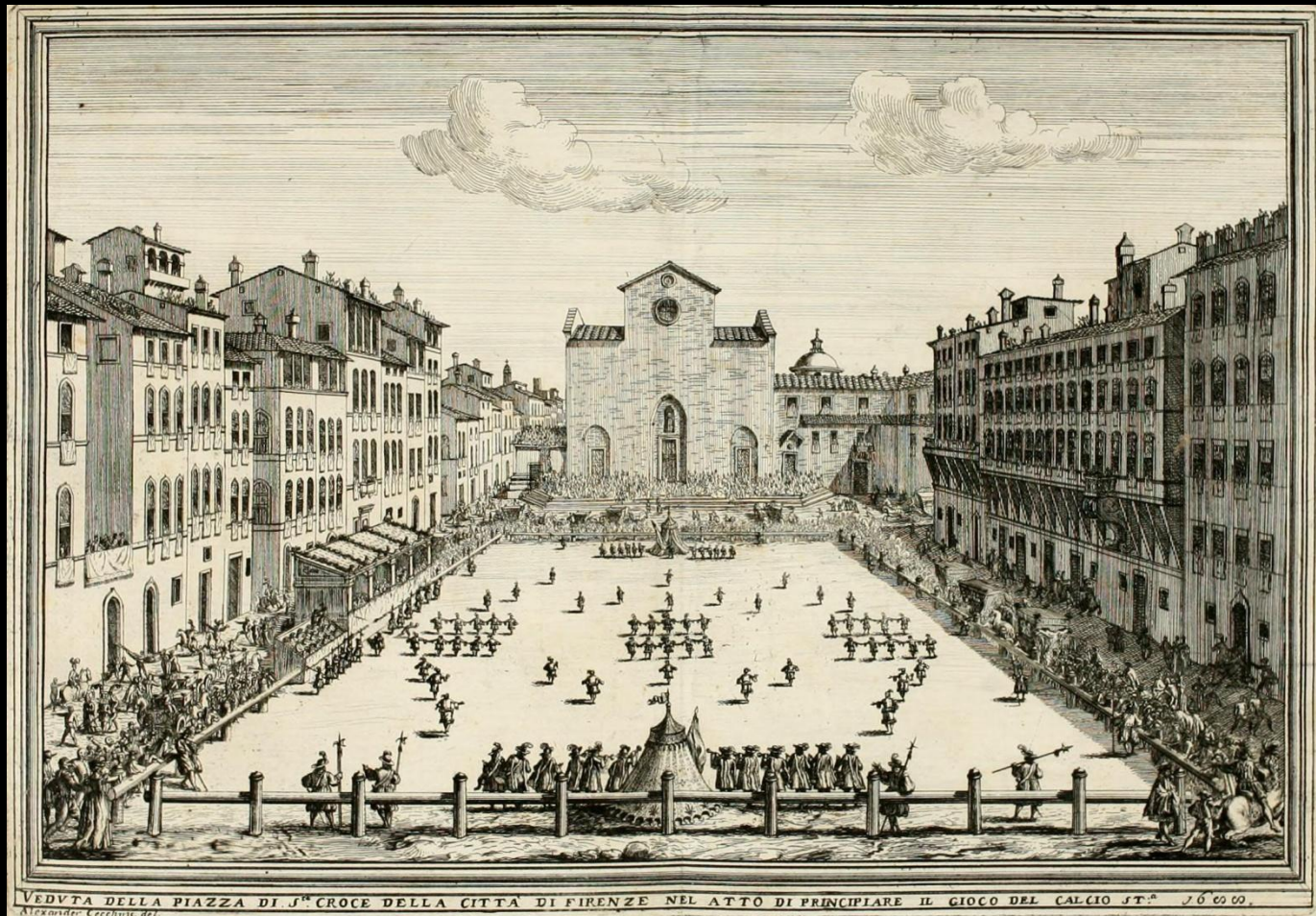


La soule, en Basse-Normandie.
D'après un croquis de M. J. L. de Cordé.

Mob playing soccer



Calcio in Florence, Italy, 1688



Modern calcio

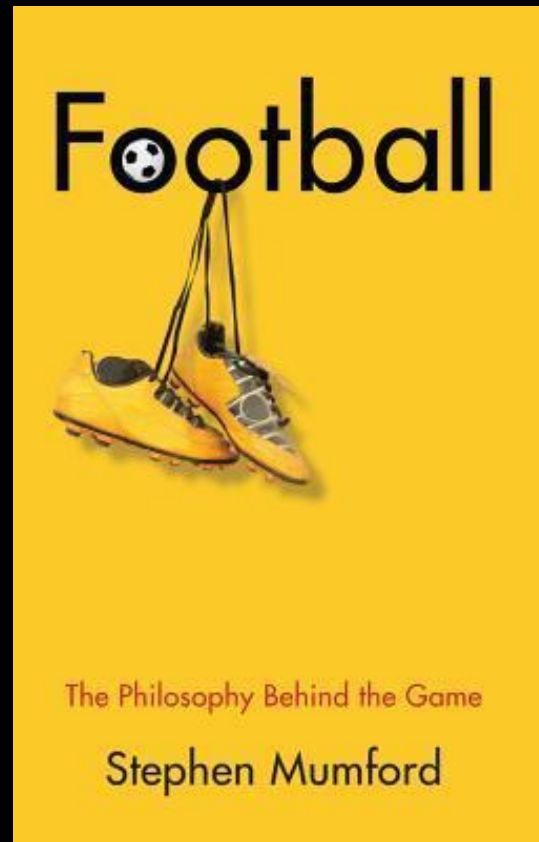


Art historian Horst Bredekamp's publication on calcio (1st edition in German 1993)

(My apologies for the bad quality of the illustration!)

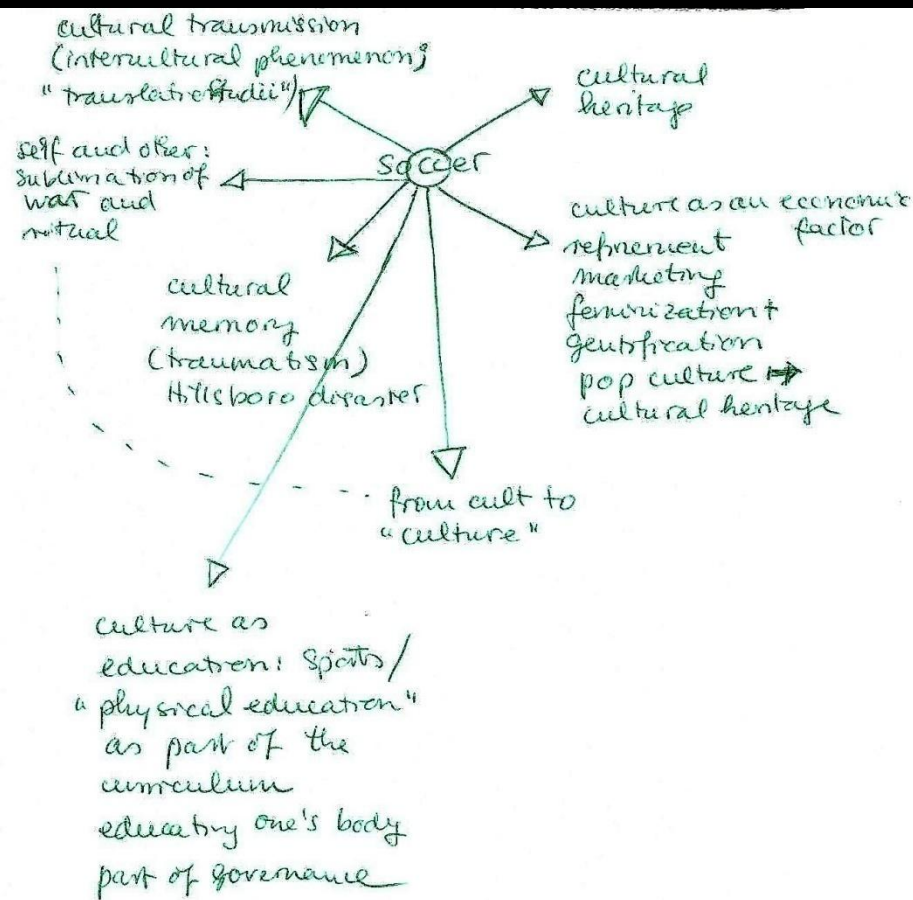


Mumford's publication on football (2019 edition)



Gerry Marsden singing « You'll never Walk alone » with Take That at Anfield, home to the FC Liverpool

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDsniwkg_vA



The concept of culture

(Elements of its analysis and critique)

- “Culture” retains from its etymology: the caring attitude that accompanies a natural development (the growth of a plant, childcare, funeral rites)
- Emerges as a concept at contact zones (result of migration, commerce, "exploration"): doing "it" differently. In history: whenever imperial expansion led to distinctions between "us" and "them". Most recently in the Early Modern Period ("discoveries") and its later theoretical outcomes (Enlightenment universalism, early anthropology)
- As a field of distinction and domination
- Culture as a factor of social and collective life - which "forms" the individual throughout its cognitive development
- A crucial factor in social politics (regulation of how to "do things", and how to do them better)

Cultural studies in Europe

- Three political contexts (examples): Great Britain, Germany, France
- Cultural analysis vs. Critical cultural studies
- Positivism and an utilitarian approaches vs. The need for critical theory. Nothing is self-evident.