



## Babylon Teach-in

### “Who’s interested in ...?”:

**8 November 2013,  
11:00-12:30, room D152**

#### **“Who’s interested in ... E.P. Thompson’s “The Poverty of Theory”?**

In Marx’s “18<sup>th</sup> Brumaire”, we identified one of the central topics of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Humanities and Social Sciences: the relationship between social being and social consciousness, along with Marx’s historical methodology revolving around the notion of ‘class’. E.P. Thompson, a member of the British New Left, intervened powerfully in the 1970s, against the – then dominant – Althusserian understanding of the question. In *The Poverty of Theory*, Thompson casts the foundations of what became known as “neo-Marxism”: a humanist Marxism that argues in favor of a far more dynamic and complex view of the social being-social consciousness relationship, emphasizing the relative autonomy of “superstructure” as well as underscoring Marx’s perpetual exhortation to “do the analysis” and not to treat his theory as a deductive grid. In doing the latter, Thompson also develops one of the most convincing proposals for a hermeneutic-historiographic methodology, of critical importance for the Humanities and Social Sciences of today.

Photocopies of *The Poverty of Theory* are available upon request.