

“Thinking with Elias: Norbert Elias and Social Research”
Reading Lists Available Online

Here are the reading lists prepared for the online Ph.D. workshop “Thinking with Elias: Norbert Elias and Social Research” (7-10 June 2021)

Session 1: Thinking with Elias

Required reading:

1. Elias, Norbert (1956) 'Problems of involvement and detachment', *British Journal of Sociology* 7(3): 226-52.
2. Elias, Norbert (1987) 'The retreat of sociologists into the present', *Theory, Culture & Society* 4(2-3): 223-47.
3. Elias, Norbert (2008) 'Power and Civilisation', *Journal of Power* 1(2): 135-42.
4. Elias, Norbert (2013 [1984]) 'Knowledge and Power: Interview with Peter Ludes', pp. 202-46 in Edmund Jephcott, Richard Kilminster, Kate Liston and Stephen Mennell (eds) *Interviews and Autobiographical Reflections. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 17. Edited by Edmund Jephcott, Richard Kilminster, Katie Liston & Stephen Mennell*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press. (Also available as: Elias, Norbert (2005 [1984]) 'Knowledge and power: an interview by Peter Ludes', pp. 203-41 in Nico Stehr and Volker Meja (eds) *Society and Knowledge: Contemporary Perspectives in the Sociology of Knowledge*, 2nd ed., London: Routledge)
5. Fletcher, Jonathan (1997) *Violence and Civilization*, Cambridge: Polity, Chapter 2 'Civilization, Habitus and Civilizing Process', pp. 6-30.

Basic reading:

1. Elias, Norbert (2008) 'Civilisation', pp. 3-7 in Richard Kilminster and Stephen Mennell (eds) *Essays II: On Civilising Processes, State Formation and National Identity. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 15*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
2. Elias, Norbert (2009) 'Figuration', pp. 1-3 in Stephen Mennell and Eric Dunning (eds) *Essays III: On Sociology and the Humanities. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 16*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
3. Elias, Norbert (2009) 'Social Processes', pp. 4-8 in Richard Kilminster and Stephen Mennell (eds) *Essays III: On Sociology and the Humanities. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 16*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
4. Elias, Norbert (1978). *What Is Sociology?* New York: Columbia University Press.

Further reading:

- Bauman, Zygmunt (1979) "Book Review: The Phenomenon of Norbert Elias." *Sociology* 13.: 117-125.
- Dunning, Eric, and Jason Hughes (2012) *Norbert Elias and modern sociology: Knowledge, interdependence, power, process*. A&C Black.
- Dépelteau, François and Landini, Tatiana Savoia (eds) (2013) *Norbert Elias and Social Theory*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Elias, Norbert (2010 [1939]) 'The Society of Individuals', pp. 7-62 in Robert van Krieken (ed) *The Society of Individuals. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 10*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
- Goudsblom, Johan (1987) "The sociology of Norbert Elias: Its resonance and significance." *Theory, Culture & Society* 4.2-3: 323-337.
- Goudsblom, Johan (1995) "Elias and Cassirer, sociology and philosophy." *Theory, Culture & Society* 12.3 (1995): 121-126.

- Hughes, Jason (2010). Emotional intelligence: Elias, Foucault, and the reflexive emotional self. *Foucault Studies*, 28-52
- Hughes, Jason (2013). "Norbert Elias and the habits of good sociology." *Human Figurations* 2.1
- Kilminster, Richard (2007). *Norbert Elias: post-philosophical sociology*. Routledge, 2007.
- Linklater, Andrew and Mennell, Stephen (2010) 'Norbert Elias, The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations - an overview and assessment', *History & Theory* 49(3): 384-411.
- van Krieken, Robert (1998) 'What Does It Mean to Be Civilized? Norbert Elias on the Germans and Modern Barbarism', *Communal / Plural* 6(2): 225-233.
- van Krieken, Robert (1999) 'The barbarism of civilization: cultural genocide and the 'Stolen Generations'', *British Journal of Sociology* 50(2): 297-315
- van Krieken, Robert (2020) 'Covid-19 and the civilizing process', *Journal of Sociology* 56(4): 714-25
- Paulle, Bowen, Bart van Heerikhuizen, and Mustafa Emirbayer (2012). "Elias and Bourdieu." *Journal of Classical Sociology* 12.1: 69-93.

Additional materials:

Video lectures by Bart van Heerikhuizen.

Lectures 8.1-8.8 of his course on classical sociology deal with Elias and figurational sociology. The full course is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkZdzA0ANRdeUAjnJu_r6DzPRBUraxGhW

Robert van Krieken, The civilizing process and sustainability

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReSKg7D5rpw>

Session 2: Doing Sociology

Required reading:

1. Baur, Nina (2017): Process-oriented Micro-Macro-Analysis. Methodological Reflections on Elias and Bourdieu. In: *Historical Social Research (HSR)* 42 (4). 43-74. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12759/hsr.42.2017.4.43-742>.
2. Dunning, E. and Hughes, J. (2013) *Norbert Elias and Modern Sociology*. London: Bloomsbury. Chapters 4 and 5. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/97817809334053>.
3. Hergesell, Jannis, Nina Baur, and Lilli Braunsch. "Process-Oriented Sampling." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie* 57.2 (2020): 265-285

Session 3: Communicative figurations

Required reading:

1. Elias, Norbert (1995) 'Technization and civilization', *Theory, Culture & Society* 12(3): 7-42.
2. Hepp, Andreas (2020). *Deep mediatisation*. London: Routledge, Chapter 4.
3. van Krieken, Robert (2019) *Celebrity Society: The Struggle for Attention*. London: Routledge. Chapter 1: 'Individualism, media, and the public sphere, theatre, court society', pp. 27-54.
4. Hepp, Andreas (2021). 'Agency, Social Relations and Order: Media sociology's shift into the digital.' *Communications. The European Journal of Communication Research*, accepted for publication.

Further Reading:

Binkley, Sam (2009) 'The civilizing brand: Shifting shame thresholds and the dissemination of consumer lifestyles', *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 12(1): 21-39.

- Couldry, Nick, and Andreas Hepp (2018). *The Mediated Construction of Reality*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Cowan, Brian (2012) 'Public Spaces, Knowledge, and Sociability', pp. 251-66 in Frank Trentmann (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Consumption*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Elias, Norbert (2006 [1969]) *The Court Society. The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 2. Edited by Stephen Mennell*. Dublin: UCD Press.
- Elias, Norbert. 2012 [1978]. *What Is Sociology? The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 5, edited by Artur Bogner, Katie Liston and Stephen Mennell*. Dublin: UCD Press.
- Hepp, Andreas (2020). *Deep mediatisation*. London: Routledge.
- Kuipers, Giseline (2018). 'Communicative figurations: towards a new Paradigm for the media age?.' In Andreas Hepp, Andreas Hasebrink and Uwe Breitner (eds.), *Communicative figurations*, pp. 425-436. Palgrave Macmillan. <https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/27916/1002083.pdf?sequence=1#page=435>
- Rojek, Chris (2006) 'Sports Celebrity and the Civilizing Process', *Sport in Society* 9(4): 674-690.
- Vallas, Steven P. and Cummins, Emily R. (2015) 'Personal Branding and Identity Norms in the Popular Business Press: Enterprise Culture in an Age of Precarity', *Organization Studies* 36(3): 293-319.
- van Krieken, Robert (2019) *Celebrity Society: The Struggle for Attention*. London: Routledge.
- van Krieken, Robert (2019) 'Georg Franck's "The Economy of Attention": Mental capitalism and the struggle for attention', *Journal of Sociology* 55(1): 3-7.

Session 4: Norbert Elias and the 'relational turn'

Required reading:

1. Depelteau, F. (2013) 'Comparing Elias and Bourdieu as Relational Thinkers', chapter 16 of F. Depelteau and T. Landini (eds) *Norbert Elias and Social Theory*. London: Palgrave.
2. Emirbayer, M. (1997) 'Manifesto for a relational sociology'. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(2): 281-317.
3. Paulle, B., van Heerikhuizen, B., & Emirbayer, M. (2012) 'Elias and Bourdieu'. *Journal of Classical Sociology*, 12(1):69-93.

Session 5: International Relations & Human Rights

Required reading:

1. de Swaan, Abram (1995) 'Widening Circles of Identification: Emotional Concerns in Sociogenetic Perspective', *Theory, Culture & Society* 12(2): 25-39.
2. Elias, Norbert (2012 [1978]) *What is Sociology? The Collected Works of Norbert Elias, Vol. 5*. Edited by Artur Bogner, Katie Liston & Stephen Mennell. Dublin: University College Dublin Press, Chapter 5, 'Human interdependencies: problems of social bonds', pp. 129-52. Also: Elias, Norbert (1978) *What is Sociology?* London: Hutchinson, pp. 134-57.
3. Kaspersen, Lars Bo and Gabriel, Norman (2008) 'The importance of survival units for Norbert Elias's figurational perspective', *Sociological Review* 56(3): 370-87.
4. Linklater, Andrew (2004) 'Norbert Elias, The 'Civilizing Process' and the Sociology of International Relations', *International Politics* 41(1): 3-35.

Further Reading:

- Bucher, Bernd (2015) 'Moving beyond the substantialist foundations of the agency-structure dichotomy: figurational thinking in international relations', *Journal of International Relations & Development*, 20: 408-33.
- Bucholc, Marta (2013) 'Outside the Moral Circle: Polish Political Refugees in Norway: Between the Established and the Outsiders', *Human Figurations* 2(3).

- (2015) *A Global Community of Self-Defense: Norbert Elias on Normativity, Culture and Involvement*. Frankfurt a.M.: Vittorio Klostermann.
- (2016) 'The Polish Constitutional crisis 2015-16: A Figurational Perspective', *Human Figurations* 5(2).
- Buzan, Barry (2014) 'The Standard of Civilization as an English School concept', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 42(3), pp. 576-594.
- Delmotte, Florence (2012) 'About Post-National Integration in Norbert Elias's Work Towards a Socio-Historical Approach', *Human Figurations* 1(2).
- Donnelly, Jack (1998) 'Human rights: a new standard of civilization?', *International Affairs* 74(1): 1-24.
- Hobson, John (2012) 'Reconfiguring Elias: Historical Sociology, the English School, and the Challenge of International Relations', *Human Figurations* 1(2).
- Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus and Daniel Nexon (1999) 'Relations before States: Substance, Process and the Study of World Politics', *European Journal of International Relations* 5(3): 291-332.
- Lacassagne, Aurélie (2012) 'Cultures of Anarchy as Figurations: Reflections on Wendt, Elias and the English School', *Human Figurations* 1(2).
- Linklater, Andrew (2004) 'Norbert Elias, The 'Civilizing Process' and the Sociology of International Relations', *International Politics* 41(1): 3-35.
- (2010) 'Global civilizing processes and the ambiguities of human interconnectedness', *European Journal of International Relations* 16(2): 155-78.
- (2011) 'International Society and the Civilizing Process', *Ritsumeikan International Affairs* 9: 1-26.
- (2012) 'Long-Term Patterns of Change in Human Interconnectedness: A View from International Relations', *Human Figurations* 1(1).
- Mennell, Stephen (2017) 'Norbert Elias's contribution to Andrew Linklater's contribution to International Relations', *Review of International Studies* 43(4): 654-70.
- O'Hagan, Jacinta (2017) 'The role of civilization in the globalization of international society', in Tim Dunne and Christian Reus-Smit [eds.] *The Globalization of International Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Cap. 10, pp. 185-203.
- Suzuki, Shogo (2012) Viewing the development of human society from Asia, *Human Figurations: Long-term perspectives on the human condition* 1(2).
- van Krieken, Robert (1999) 'The Barbarism of Civilization: Cultural Genocide and the 'Stolen Generations'', *British Journal of Sociology* 50(2): 297-315.
- van Krieken, Robert (2019) 'Law and Civilization: Norbert Elias as a Regulation Theorist', *Annual Review of Law & Social Science* 15: 267-88.

Session 6. State formation, national habitus, national we-feelings, populism (tba)

Required reading:

1. Norbert Elias, 'The formation of states and changes in restraint', conference paper from 1984, to be published in Artur Bogner and Stephen Mennell (eds), *Civilisations, Civilising Processes and Modernity: A Debate* [between Norbert Elias, Immanuel Wallerstein, William H. McNeill, Hans-Dieter Evers, Keith Hopkins, Johann P. Arnason, Johan Goudsblom and others] (New York: Palgrave, forthcoming 2021). Typescript will be made available on Workshop website (**for the sole use of participants in this workshop: not to be copied and circulated**).
2. Helmut Kuzmics, Dieter Reicher and Jason Hughes, 'State, emotion, authority, and national habitus: state-related problems of our time and methodological discourses in sociology and historical sociology', Editors' Introduction to Special Issue on Emotion,

- Authority, and National Character, *Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung*, 45: 1 (2020), pp. 7–41.
3. Helmut Kuzmics, ‘The fall of the Habsburg monarchy and the crisis of modern Europe: a historical–sociological comparison’, in: Johann P. Arnason (ed.), *European Integration. Historical Trajectories, Geopolitical Contexts* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2019), pp. 64–88.
 4. Stephen Mennell, ‘Power, individualism and collective self-perception in the USA’, *Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung*, 45: 1 (2020), pp. 309–29.
 5. Stephen Mennell, ‘Postscript’ – unpublished postscript, written in the light of Trump, to the forthcoming French translation of *The American Civilizing Process*. Typescript will be made available on Workshop website (for the sole use of participants in this workshop: not to be copied and circulated).

Basic reading:

1. Norbert Elias, ‘On the monopoly mechanism’, in *On the Process of Civilisation* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2012 [Collected Works, vol. 3]), pp. 301–11 (or pp. 268–77 in earlier one-volume edition, *The Civilizing Process*). German text: ‘Über den Monopolmechanismus’, *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1997 [Gesammelte Schriften, Bd. 3: 2]), pp. 151–68.
2. Norbert Elias, ‘Introduction’, pp. 3–25, and ‘A digression on nationalism’, pp. 135–85, both in *Studies on the Germans: Power Struggles and the Development of Habitus in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2013 [Collected Works, vol. 11]). German text: ‘Einleitung’, pp. 7–33, and ‘Ein Excurs über Nationalismus’, pp. 179–251 in *Studien über die Deutschen* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2005 [Gesammelte Schriften, Bd. 11]. 2

Further reading:

Lars Bo Kaspersen and Norman Gabriel, 'The importance of survival units for Norbert Elias's figurational perspective', *Sociological Review*, 56:3 (2008), pp. 370–87.

Pieter Spierenburg, 'Democracy came too early: a tentative explanation for the problem of American homicide', *American Historical Review*, 111: 1 (2006), pp. 104–14.

Additional material:

Videos available on Norbert Elias Foundation website:

Stephen Mennell, 'The Superpower' (2008): <http://norbert-elias.com/videos/#BF2JaViZuWg>

Helmut Kuzmics and Marta Bucholc, lectures on 'Norbert Elias and the European Union' (2018): <http://norbert-elias.com/videos/#Qsn1m3qpIjo>