

**Behrouz Alikhani**[behrouz.alikhani@uni-muenster.de](mailto:behrouz.alikhani@uni-muenster.de)

Behrouz Alikhani came across Norbert Elias theories in summer 2004 after his emigration from Iran to Germany to start a PhD at the University of Hanover. His PhD supervisor Dawud Gholamasad had already been familiar with the theories of Elias since 1985. Gholamasad developed a three-dimensional theory of democratisation and de-democratisation, based on his reading of Elias, trying to explain the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979. The empirical investigation of the habitual dimension of processes of democratisation and de-democratisation was the focus of the PhD thesis of Alikhani by taking the empirical example of the failure of the Constitutional Monarchy (1906-1925) and the following rise of Reza Khan in Iran in 1921. In 2017 Alikhani published a summary of his PhD thesis in the Iranian Journal of Sociology in Persian language.

In this language the name of Elias appeared for the first time in 2002 in a paper written by Youssef Abazari, a professor at the Institute of Sociology at the Tehran University, on “Norbert Elias and the Process of Civilization” in the journal “name olum ejtemayi”, No. 19. Years later, in 2010, Mehdi Faraji, a PhD student of Abazari defended his thesis applying the Civilizing theory of Elias to the modern Iranian history. The title of this thesis was “The study of the spreading of the western civilization in Iran from the time of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar to the end of the first Pahlavi period”. In 2016 Faraji published the theoretical part of this thesis with some expansion in a book titled *Norbert Elias and Civilizational Analysis*. This is the only published manuscript on Norbert Elias in Persian language.

Regarding the translation of Norbert Elias’ writings, one could find three different books. The first translation took place in 2006 from the tinny book of *The Loneliness of the Dying* carried out by Omid Mehregan and Saleh Najafi with the publishing house “game no”. The translations of *What is Sociology* and *The Civilising Process* appeared in 2013 and 2016 both in the publishing house “jameeshnasan”. Gholamreza Khadivi, an assistant professor at the Privat University of Mashhad, is the translator of these two books. Khadivi did his master’s degree at the University of Hamburg and probably became familiar with Elias’ theories in Germany. He is seen as one of the few experts on Norbert Elias in Iran.

In addition to the translation of the introductory book of Nathalie Heinrich “La sociologie de Norbert Elias” in 2010 by Abdolhosseyn Nikgozar in the publishing house of “nashr ney”, there are various papers in different journals on Norbert Elias ideas.

29 August 2019