

Jiří Šubrt

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Jiří Šubrt (born 1958 in Prague) studied sociology and economics at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University at 1977-1982. In 2009, he founded, in collaboration with Johann P. Arnason, the *Department of Historical Sociology* at the Faculty of Humanities, *Charles University*,¹ which he still heads.² This is the main centre of study in the Czech Republic that gives attention to the work of Norbert Elias. However, in addition to Elias' influence, other sources of inspiration are also drawn on, such as S. N. Eisenstadt, I. Wallerstein, T. Skocpol, C. Tilly and M. Mann. Contributors to this department have included Willfried Spohn and Dennis Smith. The department offers a master's and doctoral degree in historical sociology in Czech and English and researches a number of thematic areas.

Jiří Šubrt showed his primary interest in historical sociology even during his early studies, concluding with a master's thesis influenced by Durkheim, on the theme of division of labor, the historical process of individualization and the formation of the modern personality. Another historical-sociological theme that Šubrt has devoted himself to since the early period of his studies is time, in three thematic areas: a) the long-term process of development and transformation of human ideas about time; b) the forming and transforming temporal structures within social systems; c) the role of time in general sociological theory. Inspired by Patrick Baert, he understands historical sociology as a temporalized sociology. It was the theme of time that directed Šubrt to study Norbert Elias's works.³ The result of this professional interest was the book *The Civilization Theory of Norbert Elias (Civilizační teorie Norberta Eliase*, Prague: Karolinum 1996),⁴ which was the first work that brought Elias's work in a systematic form to the Czech professional public. Elias' main work, *The Civilizing Process*, would only be published in Czech translation more than 10 years later (*O procesu civilizace I-II*), in 2007-2008.

Šubrt became editor of the first extensive handbook on historical sociology in the Czech language (*Historická sociologie*, Pilsen: Ales Cenek 2007). Together with Bohuslav Šalanda, he was the founder of the journal *Historická sociologie*⁵ in 2009, which publishes texts in Czech and English. In addition to Elias' themes, Šubrt deals with the issues of historical consciousness and collective memory, Central European development, mass communication, and problems of contemporary sociological theory. He has published works in Czech, English and Russian. He summarized his views on historical sociology in the book *The Perspective of Historical Sociology: The Individual as Homo-Sociologicus Through Society and History*. (Bingley: Emerald 2017).⁶ In the book *Individualism, Holism and the Central Dilemma of Sociological Theory*, he deals with the issue of sociological theory (Bingley: Emerald 2019),⁷

¹ <https://fhs.cuni.cz/FHS-1541.html>

² <http://journals.rudn.ru/sociology/article/view/20565>

³ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781137312143_13

⁴ <https://search.mlp.cz/cz/titul/civilizacni-teorie-norberta-eliase/59141/>

⁵ <https://historicalsociology.cuni.cz/HS-1.html>

⁶ <https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/The-Perspective-of-Historical-Sociology/?k=9781787433649>

⁷ <https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Individualism-Holism-and-the-Central-Dilemma-of-Sociological-Theory/?k=9781787690387>

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inspired to an extent by Elias's concept of social figurations. Currently Šubrť is returning to the issue of time, which should be the subject of a forthcoming book.

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