

**John Lever**

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I have been working with Elias's ideas for over fifteen years at institutions in Bristol, Cardiff and Huddersfield, often at the interfaces of sociology and human geography, and latterly management.

Along with a number of other UK scholars, my work has explored a range of contemporary issues within an Eliasian framework (see [Lever and Powell 2017](#)). This work does not *retreat to the present*, as Elias would have it, rather it situates past and current orientations to outsider groups within the current period.

In this context, my work has focussed on exclusionary public policies within urban regeneration ([Lever 2011](#)); the place of migrant labour in the meat processing industry ([Lever and Milbourne 2017](#)); Jewish and Muslim (outsider) food practices ([Lever 2018](#)); and latterly, the exclusionary nature of local food governance ([Lever et al. 2019](#)).

Elias's work is widely available in the UK, but it is still often poorly received by mainstream journals, unless of course, the work concerned is situated in a contemporary context, which is of course controversial within the Eliasian school (see Linklater 2019, forthcoming). Nevertheless, this approach helps to overcome some of the recent critiques of Eliasian work, primarily that it bypasses questions of policy and the political.

Contemporary scholars from across a wide range of disciplines make use of Elias's ideas. Liz Stanley, Alex Law and Ryan Powell are currently doing some of the most innovative Eliasian inspired work.

29 August 2019