

**Norman Gabriel**[norman.gabriel@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:norman.gabriel@plymouth.ac.uk)*Brief Profile*

I have developed an international reputation in applying the sociological work of Norbert Elias to the multi-disciplinary field of early childhood studies, focusing on the development of children's social and emotional well-being in society. I have written a distinctive sole-authored book, *The Sociology of Early Childhood - Critical Perspectives* (2017) which develops a multi-disciplinary approach to early childhood and have published in international peer-reviewed journals on the relation between developmental psychology and sociology. I was commissioned by the *Sociological Review* series to co-edit a Monograph with Professor Stephen Mennell, *Norbert Elias and Figurational Research: Processual Thinking in Sociology*, Oxford: Blackwell. This multi-disciplinary Monograph was written by a number of leading scholars in the social sciences and includes chapters on sociology, psychology, sustainability and the environment, criminology, international relations, business and research methodology. I am currently writing an original monograph with Professor Lars Bo Kaspersen, *A World of Survival Units – Norbert Elias's political sociology*, to be published by Routledge in 2020.

*Short sketch of Norbert Elias's influence in the United Kingdom*

The expansion of the influential Department of Sociology at the University of Leicester from the late 1950s onwards was based on the close working relationship between Ilya Neustadt (1915–1993) and Norbert Elias. We can understand Elias's own role in passing on the baton to the new generation by looking at some of his comments in autobiographical essays and in some of his essays published in the *Collected Works*. There are also important remarks made by the first generation of Eliasian scholars who were taught by Elias, sociologists who knew Elias, or closely worked with him on some of his publications. As he hoped, Elias's role as a teacher inspired a younger generation of sociologists, especially Eric Dunning who together with Elias established the sociology of sport as an important area for sociological research.

*Key Texts*

Stephen Mennell, *Norbert Elias: An Introduction* (Dublin: UCD Press, 1998)

Richard Kilminster *Norbert Elias: Post-Philosophical Sociology* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007)

*Introductory Books*

Robert van Krieken, *Norbert Elias* (London: Routledge, 1998).

Eric Dunning and Jason Hughes, *Norbert Elias and Modern Sociology: Knowledge, Interdependence, Power, Process* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013).

*Leading Eliasian scholars in UK/English*

Stephen Mennell, Richard Kilminster, Jason Hughes, John Goodwin, Joseph Maguire and Dennis Smith.

*Key developments, debates, controversies*

Future directions for research in figurational sociology include comparative research that explores the similarities and differences in the civilising processes of non-European developed and developing countries, especially the role of institutionalised religion in the

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formation of social habitus and the civilising processes of different human societies. For contemporary figurational sociologists, there is a growing movement and engagement with other relational approaches in sociology, particularly through the work of Bourdieu, and also the possibility of developing interdisciplinary collaboration, integrating disciplines across the natural and human sciences.

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