

Ryan S Powell

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Ryan Powell is a Reader in Urban Studies in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Sheffield, UK. His interest in figurational sociology was kindled as a pupil of Richard Kilminster at the University of Leeds in the early 2000s. The central theme of his research is seeking to combine empirical investigation and theory in understanding the socio-dynamics of unequal power relations and their consequences in terms of urban marginalisation, both contemporary and historical. This includes access to housing and employment as well as wider questions of citizenship, urbanization, and the stigmatisation of "outsider" groups. He has utilized the work of Norbert Elias in understanding the long-term stigmatisation of outsider groups such as Gypsy-Travellers in the UK and Roma across Europe, as well as applying Elias's ideas to the politics of behaviour and urban incivility in the UK. Currently he is developing research on youth which is informed by Elias's ideas, among others, in seeking to develop a longer-term relational approach to childhood-adulthood transitions in understanding the present "youth crisis".

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