

**Rubén Flores**[ruben.flores@ucd.ie](mailto:ruben.flores@ucd.ie)**Brief profile**

Rubén Flores has held visiting posts at University College Dublin (School of Sociology) and at Maynooth University (Department of Sociology). He previously worked at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Together with Patrick Brown and Andy Alaszewski, he recently published a trilogy of papers reconsidering healthcare in light of process sociology. See: <https://socialpolicyblog.com/2019/07/22/why-historical-perspectives-matter-for-understanding-social-policy/>

**Process Sociology in Russia: Report for the Norbert Elias Foundation****About this report**

This brief report is based on an exploratory survey among a small number of Russian social researchers, mostly from the Higher School of Economics and the Russian Academy of Sciences. For some more information about the survey, please see below (acknowledgements, survey information, and caveats).

**Norbert Elias's influence in Russian sociology/social research**

While some respondents considered Norbert Elias's influence in Russian social research to be almost non-existent or very weak, others noted that Elias's work has exerted some significant influence among qualitative researchers, sociologists interested in historical sociology and the sociology and history of emotions. Some of this influence may be indirect, for example through the work of the likes of Pierre Bourdieu and Jeffrey Olick. At the same time, however, some of Elias's books (e.g. the *On the Process of Civilisation*) have found their way into social science syllabi, including in "must read" book lists. And this not only in universities from Moscow and St. Petersburg, but also in cities such as Krasnodar. Still, as some respondents remarked, Elias's oeuvre has not been yet fully translated into Russian.

**Leading Eliasian scholars in your country/language**

Can we speak of the existence of an 'Elias community' in Russia (i.e. a community of scholars interested in the work of Norbert Elias)? To this question, five respondents said they did not know, four said "no", one said "yes" and one refrained from responding. These responses may suggest a gloomy picture regarding the state of process sociology in Russia. In spite of this, respondents were able to identify a number of Russian-speaking scholars whose work has been influenced by Elias's thought: Oleg Khorkhordin, Michail Sokolov, Vadim Volkov, Olga Tkach, Olga Brednikova, Victor Kaplun, Georgi Derlugian, A. M. Rutkevitch, Vladimir. Kozlovsky, Alexander Filippov and Rostislav Gergilov. The following publications were mentioned as particularly salient in this context:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> When possible I have included the details of these publications in Cyrillic, indicating the author's name first in Latin letters and then in Cyrillic characters, thus: Kozlova, N. N. / Козлова Н.Н.

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Kozlovsky, V. / Козловский, В.В. (2000) Фигуративная социология Норберта Элиаса (Norbert Elias's Figural Sociology). *Журнал социологии и социальной антропологии*, 3(3): 40-59. Available at: <http://ecsocman.hse.ru/jssa/msg/184115.html>

Kozlova, N. N. / Козлова, Н.Н. (1999) *Социально-историческая антропология* (Socio-Historial Anthropology). Издательский дом Ключ-С.

Gergilov, R. / Гергилов, Р. (2007) Теория цивилизации Н. Элиаса: Критика и перспективы (Norbert Elias's Individualization Theory: Critique and Perspectives). *Вопросы культурологии*, (5): 16-19.

Gergilov, R. / Гергилов, Р.Е. (2007) Пространство европейской цивилизации (The Space of European Civilization (On Norbert Elias's The Process of Civilization)). *Обсерватория культуры*, (4): 13-20.

Kostetskii, M. / Костецкий, М.И. (2011) Понятие фигурации у Норберта Элиаса (The Concept of Figuration in Norbert Elias). *Социологические исследования*, (12): 126-131.

Petrova, P. / Петрова, П.К. (2007) Концепция «социальной фигурации» Норберта Элиаса (Norbert Elias's Notion of "Social Figuration"). *Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: Социология*, (2).

Sokolov, M. (2005) Der Kult der Geheimdienste im heutigen Russland. *Berliner Journal für Soziologie*, 15(3): pp.351-359. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11609-005-0204-5>

Sokolov, M. / Соколов, М. (2012) О процессе академической (де) цивилизации (On the Process of academic civilisation). *Социологические исследования*, (8): 21-30.

Volkov, V. / Волков, В.В. (1997) Советская цивилизация как повседневная практика: возможности и пределы трансформации (Soviet civilisation as everyday practice: possibilities and limits of transformations). *Куда идет Россия? Общее и особенное в современном развитии*. Москва, p. 323-333.

Volkov, V. (2000) Gewaltunternehmer im postkommunistischen Russland. *Leviathan*, 28(2): pp.173-191.

Volkov, V. and Charkhordin, O. / Волков, В.В. and Хархордин, О.В. (2008) "Норберт Элиас: история практик (Norbert Elias: The History of Practice)". In: Volkov V. and Oleg Charkhordin. *Теория практик (Theory of Practice)*. Saint Petersburg: European University of Saint Petersburg. Available at: [https://eupress.ru/uploads/ebooks/praktiki\\_e.pdf](https://eupress.ru/uploads/ebooks/praktiki_e.pdf)

### **Key developments, debates, controversies**

Judging from the above literature, one important development is connected to efforts to make sense of the post-Soviet era. Worth noting here are also studies on Russian history influenced by Elias. For example:

*Bestuur / Board: Johan Heilbron, Jason Hughes, Adrian Jitschin*

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Gabriele Scheidegger. (1993) *Perverses Abendland – barbarisches Russland Begegnungen des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts im Schatten kultureller Missverständnisse*. Zürich: Chronos Verlag.

Renner, A. (2007) Medizinische Aufklärung und die „Zivilisierung“ Russlands im 18. Jahrhundert. *Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung*, 34(1): 33-65.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43570526>

### **Availability of NE’s work in Russian (key texts, introductory volumes)**

A list of Elias’s books translated into Russian is available [here](#).

### **Acknowledgements, survey information, and caveats**

I would like to thank the eleven scholars who accepted to participate in the (very exploratory) survey on which this report is based. A number of them gave consent for their names to be mentioned here: Olessia Kirtchik (IGITI, Higher School of Economics), Alexander Chepureenko (Sociology, Higher School of Economics), Nona Shakhnazaryan (Archeology and Ethnography Institute, Armenian Academy of Science) Boris Stepanov (IGITI, Higher School of Economics), Alexandra Vanke (Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences), and Alexandr Antonovsky (Philology Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences). I would also like to thank those colleagues who helped me circulate the survey: Leon Kosals, Evgeniya Golman, and Arsenii Khitrov.

A caveat. Since I am no longer based in Moscow, I am not too well placed to assess the evolution of process sociology in Russia. I very much hope that someone in a better position than me will soon be able to take the role of “Russian correspondent” for the Foundation.

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