

Ximing Fan

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Brief Profile

Ximing Fan is currently a doctoral researcher at Loughborough University. Her key fields of interest are sociology of sport, diaspora identity, social inequalities and the various connection between sport and social sciences. She initially encountered Elias's work on *The Established-Outsiders*, which then drew her attention to Elias's other pieces, such as *Civilising Process* and *Quest for Excitement*. Fan's current PhD research focuses on the Chinese communities in the UK, and how their leisure behaviour shapes their established and outsider identity within the British society. Fan believes that Elias's figurational and processual insights should receive more attention by scholars of diaspora identities and sociology of sport.

Short Sketch of Norbert Elias's Influence in China

For the Chinese scholars and the general public, the thinking of Elias is still relatively new, and much of it is still not available or were only recently translated. In this case, Chinese readers largely understand Elias through his *Civilising Process*, and his ideas are discussed among sociologists, anthropologists and philosophy scholars at universities.

Availability of Norbert Elias' Work in Chinese

The translated version of *The Civilising Process* in Chinese was first published in 1999. Until today, other pieces of Elias's work translated into the Chinese language are shown below in the order of the publication year.

The Society of Individuals in 2003

Mozart in 2006

What is Sociology in 2008

The Loneliness of the Dying in 2008

Time: An Essay in 2014

The Symbol Theory in 2018

On Civilisation, Power and Knowledge, edited by Stephen Mennell and Johan Goudsblom, was also made available in Chinese in 2004. Dennis Smith's *Norbert Elias and Modern Social Theory* in Chinese was published in 2011.

Leading Eliasian Scholars in China/Chinese Language

Few identified Eliasian scholars are known to the academic world in China, but an increased number of researchers have employed Elias's thinking in their studies. Kang Li in the Department of Sociology, Peking University, wrote a chapter introducing Norbert Elias in 2006 and translated *Norbert Elias and Modern Social Theory*. Yudong Yang in the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Nanjing University, used the *Society of Individuals* to analyse Chinese rural individuals and clans as well as the *Established-Outsiders* in Chinese community contexts. Outside of Mainland China, I-Kai Zheng in the Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University and Hon-fai Chen in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, Lingnan University are also scholars who have expanded Elias's ideas to explore social issues that emerged in the Chinese society.

The key developments, debates and controversies of the figurational approach in China focus mainly on the topics of European and Chinese civilising process and Western philosophy. Scholars have explained communities in rural and urban areas, the historical transformations of the Chinese society, philosophical issues such as symbols and many more with Elias's thinking. At this stage, Norbert Elias in Chinese academia remains to be relatively unknown, that is also why there is not yet a major debate or controversy.

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