

Figurations

Newsletter of the Norbert Elias Foundation

■ ALL CHANGE AT THE NORBERT ELIAS FOUNDATION!

In the course of summer 2016, the three long-serving members of the Board of the Norbert Elias Foundation decided that the time had come to hand on the torch – to use one of Elias’s favourite metaphors – to a new generation. As our successors, with effect from 1 January 2017, we nominated Johan Heilbron, Jason Hughes and Adrian Jitschin. The outgoing and incoming Board members held a joint meeting in Amsterdam on 23 October 2016.

Joop Goudsblom and Hermann Korte had been members of the Board ever since it was established by Norbert Elias in 1983. I myself became a member in 1997, following the death of Bram van Stolk. All three of us knew Elias well, and it is a mark of the new generation that only Johan Heilbron met Elias in person.

The Foundation was Elias’s sole legatee, and on his death in 1990, inherited the copyrights on his published works and unpublished manuscripts, as well as correspondence and a not inconsiderable sum of money. Looking back on the quarter of a century since then, the retiring members of the Board can feel some satisfaction with how they have used this *Nachlaß*. The first big task was to catalogue Elias’s papers, and to consign them to the care of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv at Marbach am Neckar, where they continue to be read and used by international scholars. In 1994 I was asked to edit a regular newsletter for the Foundation – and, 46 issues later, *Figurations* has proved its value as a link between scholars in many disciplines and many countries who have recognised the value of Elias’s writings.



Later, we embarked on the editing, translation and publication of Elias's collected works, first in German (completed in 2010) and then in English (completed in 2014). Perhaps the most important achievement has been to play our part in building and encouraging a now worldwide network of scholars who are inspired by Elias's ideas and are vigorously developing them in an interdisciplinary research network. For a survey of the Foundation's activities from 1990 to 2015, see Barbara Górnicka, Katie Liston and Stephen Mennell, 'Twenty-five years on: Norbert Elias's intellectual legacy 1990–2015', in *Human Figurations* 4: 3 (2015), <http://bit.ly/2jfgcvq>.

I also decided that the time had come to step down as Editor of the *Figurations* newsletter. I have edited it ever since Joop Goudsblom, Hermann Korte and the late Bram van Stolk asked me to produce the first issue for the World Congress of Sociology in Bielefeld in 1994. At its first meeting, the new Board agreed to appoint Dr Barbara Górnicka as the newsletter's new Editor. Barbara has been Managing Editor for the last few years, so the changeover is not very abrupt. I shall continue to be involved, now as Associate Editor along with Katie Liston.

We know that our successors – whose brief biographical details follow below – will bring new ideas and inspiration to the work of the Foundation, and we wish them every success in their work.

Stephen Mennell
Editor, 1994–2016

The new members of the Board

Johan Heilbron



Johan Heilbron studied sociology at the University of Amsterdam – where he wrote his doctoral thesis under Joop Goudsblom – and at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, where he worked with Pierre Bourdieu. He was affiliated with various academic institutions in Europe and held the Norbert Elias chair at Utrecht University (2000–4) and Erasmus University Rotterdam (2004–8). He was a co-editor of the collected works of Norbert Elias in German and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Collected Works in English. He is a member of the editorial or advisory board of several journals, *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales* among them. Among his research interests are the sociology of the (social) sciences, economic sociology, and the sociology of culture and transnational cultural exchange. In addition to two books on sociology in France, *The Rise of Social Theory* (1995, also in Dutch and French) and *French Sociology* (2015), he co-edited *The Rise of the Social Sciences and the Formation of Modernity* (2001) and *Pour une histoire des sciences sociales: hommage à Pierre Bourdieu* (2004). In recent years he has written on national traditions in the social sciences, processes of internationalization, and issues of (inter)disciplinarity and intellectual creativity.

A reflexive stance with regard to knowledge production has informed his research in other areas. Some of this work has concerned the 'financialisation' of contemporary economies, the rising power of shareholders, and the transformation of large firms. In the sociology of culture he has published on sportisation and desportisation of fighting sports, and on the global flows of book translations.

In 2014, Johan was awarded the George Sarton Medal for History of Science by the University of Ghent, and his book *French Sociology* won the 'Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award' of the section on the history of sociology of the American Sociological Association.

He now holds posts at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, and with the Centre Européen de Sociologie et de Science Politique (CESSP), which is affiliated with the Sorbonne, the EHSS and the CNRS.

Jason Hughes



Jason Hughes is Professor and Head of Sociology at the University of Leicester. He first developed an interest in the work of Norbert Elias after he was taught by Eric Dunning at Leicester, both as an undergraduate, and then later as a PhD candidate in the mid-1990s. His first book, *Learning to Smoke* (University of Chicago Press, 2003) was winner of the 2006 Norbert Elias Prize. The book was

based on the PhD he wrote under Eric's supervision, and consolidated his status as a 'figurational' sociologist. His first academic post was as Lecturer at the Centre for Labour Market Studies, again at Leicester, where he taught on programmes relating to Human Resource Management and training. It was there he developed an interest in the sociology of work and organisations. He has retained both of these broad interests – in consumption, particularly in relation to drugs; and in production, with a particular interest in the behavioural standards of contemporary workplaces. A common theme across his work on the sociology of production and consumption is the extension and application of Elias's ideas.

In 2013, he published, together with Eric Dunning, a treatise on the continued utility of figurational sociology to enduring topics and debates in the field entitled *Norbert Elias and Modern Sociology: Knowledge, Interdependence, Power, Process* (Bloomsbury). It was a book some twelve years in the making! Most recently he has co-authored a book with Ruth Simpson and Natasha Slutskaya, entitled *Gender, Class and Occupation: Working Class Men Doing Dirty Work* (Palgrave 2016). Other recent works include a number of edited books, including: *Visual Methods* (Sage, 2012) and *Internet Research Methods* (Sage, 2012); co-edited with John Goodwin, *Documentary and Archival Research* (Sage, 2014); with Chas Critcher, Julian Petley and Amanda Rohloff, *Moral Panics in the Contemporary World* (Bloomsbury, 2013); and with Nick Jewson and Lorna Unwin, *Communities of Practice: Critical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2007).

Jason has recently obtained funding from Cancer Research UK to return to his research on smoking through a study of the 'careers' of e-cigarette users, and the more general 'civilising' of tobacco use that the ascendancy of 'vaping' has involved.

He is honoured to become part of the Board of the Norbert Elias Foundation

and is relishing the prospect of championing the work of Elias, opening up new lines of dialogue and engagement with competing sociological approaches, and bringing together a truly global network of Eliasian scholars.

Adrian Jitschin



Since 2013 Adrian Jitschin has been head of the Frankfurt office of the German distance-learning university Fern Universität Hagen, which is the biggest German university in terms of number of students. It offers a wide range of BA and MA programs, which can be followed worldwide. It is a partner of the British Open University. Adrian holds an MA degree in Sociology and a doctoral degree in Social History from the University of Marburg. His Master's thesis was concerned with matrimonial behaviour, investigating the reasons for individual decisions to get married and what kind of social expectations were connected with this biographical step. This was foremost an empirical study, based on the theories of Durkheim and Elias.

From 2007 until 2011 he worked on his doctoral thesis on Life Assurance in India. While it was still a British colony, India developed its own insurance companies from the 1870s. Life insurance became popular there. It replaced traditional forms of social protection. That is to say, sociologically the emergence of life insurance marked the transition from the classical form of protection by the extended family to the possibility of founding a nuclear family in a modern form of the division of labour. This can be seen as a process of globalisation as well as a process of modernisation.

Adrian also has a long-term interest in the history of the East India Trade. The East India Company and the Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie were two of the most world-transforming figurations in the history of humankind. Economic historians tend to reduce them to their economic impact. In fact, the impact at their climax was enormous. About one third of the economy of Britain and the Netherlands was more or less dependent on the East India trade. The companies made possible industrialisation, established new forms of funding – like the stock exchange – and created thousands of jobs. On the other hand the companies created suffering. Colonialism, drug and slave trade are only the most visible parts of this impact. Besides of all this economic impact the East India Companies changed the direction in which humankind was developing. Until about 1600, Western and Asian civilisations were separated from by a Muslim belt Morocco to Bengal. And then unexpectedly Europeans just began travelling around the Muslim countries by sea. They brought their commodities to China, Indonesia and Japan. And in exchange they transported goods of the entire world back to Europe. Many of our present habits were created by this trade. And we as humankind have rather accepted the idea that varied interests and conflicts can be regulated by trade and the laws of capitalism. This change in the way we live together, Adrian considers to be an eminently important research area.

Adrian says that his personal fascination in Norbert Elias has its roots back in the early days of his university years. His interest was reinvigorated when he explored his own family history. His grandparents left Silesia, now part of Poland, in 1945 when the German population was expelled. Norbert Elias himself came from Silesia, and Adrian set out to learn more about his roots. Some surprising findings came to light – see the article in *Figurations* 39 (<http://bit.ly/2iW71U6>). Adrian is continuing to work on writing an intellectual biography of Norbert Elias.

New Editor of *Figurations*



Dr Barbara Górnicka comes from not very far from Wrocław, which, under its previous name of Breslau happens also to have been Norbert Elias's birthplace. In 2003, she moved to Dublin, and worked her way through her BSocSc degree at University College Dublin. She then wrote her PhD thesis under the supervision of Stephen Menell and Tom Inglis, gaining her doctorate in 2016. Her book *Nakedness, Shame and Embarrassment: A Long-term Sociological Perspective* has just been published by Springer. She is currently a teaching assistant in sociology at the University of Leicester.

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■ EDITORS' NOTE

In *Figurations* 45, the first to be sent out in digital form only, we found that most of the URLs given in the text were dead, because of a problem arising from the three-column format. In this issue, we have substituted short bit.ly URLs for long ones, and we *hope* that that will solve the problem.

■ PEOPLE

- Robert van Krieken has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australian (FASSA).
- Paddy Dolan has been elected Secretary/Treasurer of Research Committee 56, Historical Sociology, of the International Sociological Association. Robert van Krieken was re-elected as Vice-president, and Stephen Menell and Nina Baur members of the RC56 Board
- Jason Hughes has been recently awarded two research grants. The first for which he is a Principle Investigator, will explore 'Adolescent Vaping Careers'. It has a Full Economic Cost of £278,321.17. The second, for which he is a Co-Investigator (together with Dr Charlotte Smith as Principle Investigator) is on 'The Regulation of E-Cigarettes in and Around Organisational Lives'. It has a FEC of £102,246.83. Both are funded by Cancer Research UK's Tobacco Advisory Group (TAG, CRUK).

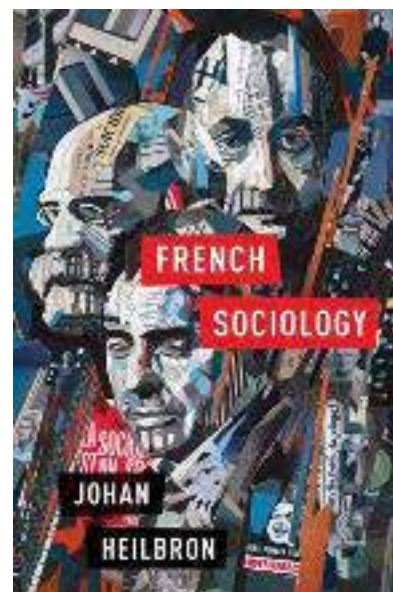
- Eric Royal Lybeck has been awarded a Leverhulme Trust grant to pursue an Eliasian study of higher education in Britain since 1800. He will be looking at different texts instructing boys, and later women, working class people and others initially excluded from HE through what they are expected to 'become' to function well in an academic environment. These expectations of course will change over time, which will give some insight into the processual development of an ideal 'academic self'. He hopes then to connect this to the concept of an 'academisation process', which he says he is 'still working on'.
- Johan Goudsblom has recently published the first part of his memoirs, titled *Geleerd: memoires 1932–1968* [Learning: Memoirs 1932–68] (Amsterdam: G. A. Van Oorschot, 2016).

'Archief' or, at the right side, on 'Op nummer'. Articles by a particular author can be found by clicking on 'Op auteur'. For thirty years, *AST* was a main platform for discussions on figurational sociology and the theory of civilising processes. See, for example, contributions by Norbert Elias, Eric Dunning, Johan Goudsblom, Abram de Swaan, Cas Wouters and Christien Brinkgreve, among others. Most articles are in Dutch, some are in English. All articles have English summaries.

Nico Wilterdink
Amsterdam



'This is a very solid contribution to the history of the development of the discipline of sociology in France, and the author's finding(s) could be used as a template for explaining the development of disciplinary sociology in general within various national traditions. Heilbron has long been one of the most sophisticated observers of French sociology, and this book cements his position as the leading authority on the topic.'



The award was presented on 21 August in Seattle, during the Annual Meeting of the ASA.

■ AMSTERDAMS SOCIOLOGISCH TIJDSCHRIFT ONLINE

Good news in these difficult times: The university library of the State University of Groningen, the Netherlands, has digitalised all articles published in the *Amsterdams Sociologisch Tijdschrift (AST)*, from the first issue in 1974 to the last one 2004, and made them available for everyone. They can be seen on <http://bit.ly/2jXSoAf>. You can browse through the issues by clicking on

■ PRIZE FOR JOHAN HEILBRON'S BOOK ON FRENCH SOCIOLOGY

The 2016 'Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award' of the section on the history of sociology of the American Sociological Association was given to Johan Heilbron for his book *French Sociology* (Cornell University Press, 2015). Heilbron's book was chosen out of four short listed titles. The panel responsible for the award commented the following:

■ SPECIAL ISSUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH

Jason Hughes and John Goodwin, eds., 'Figurational Analysis as Historical and Comparative Method: Established-Outsider Relations', *Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung*, Special Issue, 41: 3 (2016)

This special issue is concerned principally with the approach to historical and comparative research developed by Norbert Elias. Previous discussions of Elias's figurational methods and problems of methodology have characteristically focused on the model of time-series analysis of informal data sources best exemplified



in his *magnum opus*, *On the Process of Civilisation*. More recently, other writers have sought to formalise Elias's methodological approach as a whole, distilling the key elements of his various methods to a number of core analytical procedures. Here our aim with this special issue is to complement and extend such existing work, considering the enduring reach and breadth of Elias's 'figurational' analysis through a focus on his study together with John Scotson of established-outsider figurations in a suburban community in the city of Leicester, UK. The model of established-outsider relations has been extended to, *inter alia*, the development of inter- and intra-state conflicts; the formation and collapse of supranational entities and authorities; and the tensions between globally distributed communities. This collection of papers explores the enduring conceptual and empirical utility of Elias and Scotson's study in relation to a range of cases which highlight its significance to historical social research.

Contents of the special issue are:

John Goodwin and Jason Hughes, Introduction: 'Established-outsider relations and "figurational" analysis'

John Goodwin, Jason Hughes & Henrietta O'Connor, 'Return to Winston Parva: Starting to reconstruct the established and the outsiders "from the margins"'

Michael Dunning, 'Established and outsiders: brutalisation processes and the development of "Jihadist terrorists"'

Gordon J. Fyfe, 'Established-outsider relations and the sociogenesis of the museum'

Aurélie Lacassagne, 'The complexities of the established-outside relations in Canada: re-integrating socio-historical analysis and engaging with some post-colonial thoughts'

Stine Frydendal Nielsen, Laila Ottesen & Lone Friis Thing, 'Established and outsider relations among students involved in a health promotion intervention in a Danish high school'

Angela Perulli, 'Everyday life in figurational approach: a meso level for sociological analysis'

Ryan Powell, 'Gypsy-Travellers/Roma and social integration: childhood, habitus and the "We-I balance"'

Michael Rees, 'From outsider to established – explaining the current popularity and acceptability of tattooing'

Inken Rommel, 'Culturalism of exclusion in an established-outsider figuration'

RECENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES

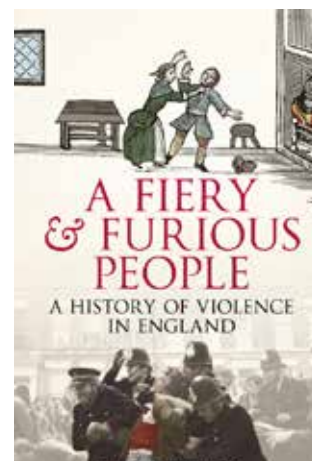
Norbert Elias, *Humana Conditio* (Paris: Éditions de l'EHESS, 2016). ISBN: 978-2-7132-2548-2

This is the first French translation of Elias's small book, written to mark the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. (In German and English, it is included together with *The Loneliness of the Dying* in volume 6 of the *Gesammelte Schriften* and *Collected Works* respectively.)



James Sharpe, *A Fiery & Furious People: A History of Violence in England* (London: Random House, 2016). 768 pp. ISBN 9781847945136.

Jim Sharpe, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of York, has taken part in several 'figurational' conferences and takes Elias's theory of civilising processes seriously if not uncritically. This enormous book, the culmination of many years of research, has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed. One easily accessible



review can be found in the *Guardian* (<http://bit.ly/2jrbVFfn>), though Jim says that is one of the less favourable ones. (The reviewer is a bit snuffy about Elias, as so many historians are!)

Nina Baur, Cristine Besio, Maria Norkus and Grit Petschick (eds), *Wissens–Organisation–Forschungspraxis: Der Makro-Meso-Mikro-Link in der Wissenschaft* [Knowledge–Organisation–Research Methods: The Macro–Meso–Mikro Link in Science]. Basel: Beltz Juventa, 2016. 754 pp. ISBN: 978-3-7799-2730-3 (pb); 978-3-7799-4483-6 (ebook).

This doorstep of a book is too large and ambitious to be easily summarised here, but it is clearly of great importance, and so we draw it to the attention of readers of *Figurations*.

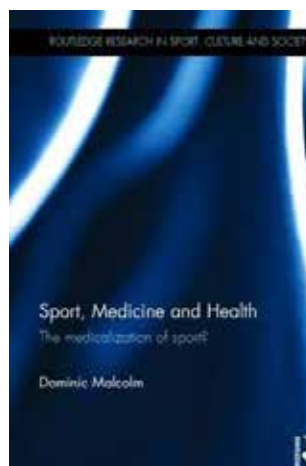


Norman Gabriel, 'Learning to mock – Challenging the teaching establishment', *Research in Comparative and International Education* 11: 4 (2016), pp. 369–79 DOI: 10.1177/1745499916679559

Abstract: There have been very few studies that apply the work of Mikhail Bakhtin and Norbert Elias to understand the underlying learning processes of young children. This article will explore the methodological similarities between Bakhtin's ideas about the carnivalesque and Norbert Elias's theory of established-outsider relations to explain how young children can undermine the authoritative

discourses of teachers in preschool classrooms. It will focus on the playful mockery that young children display within their peer-groups to challenge teaching authority. I will argue that many of the humorous events produced by young children should be viewed as an attempt to violate their teachers' expectations. Drawing attention to the utility of using humour as a special type of qualitative research tool illuminates the different ways that young children in different cultures can resist adult authority.

Dominic Malcolm, *Sport, Medicine and Health: the medicalization of sport?* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2016) 240 pp. ISBN: 9781138826458



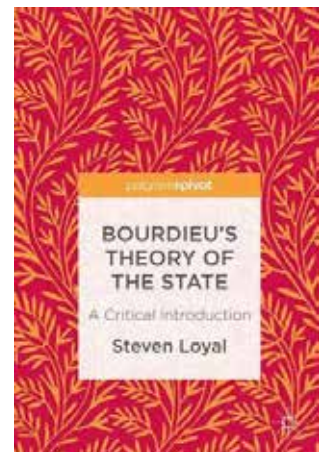
Publisher's Blurb: The relationship between sport, medicine and health in our society is becoming increasingly complex. This important and timely study explores this relationship through an analysis of changing political economies, altered perceptions of the body and science's developing contribution to the human condition. Surveying the various ways in which medicine interacts with the world of sport, it examines the changing practices and purposes of sports medicine today.

Drawing on the latest research in the sociology of sport, this book investigates the scientific discourse underlying the promotion of physical activity to reveal the political context in which medical knowledge and public policies emerge. It considers the incongruities between these policies and their attempts to regulate

the supply of, and demand for, sports medicine. Through a series of original case studies, this book exposes the social construction of sports medical knowledge and questions the potential for medicine to influence athletes' well-being both positively and negatively.

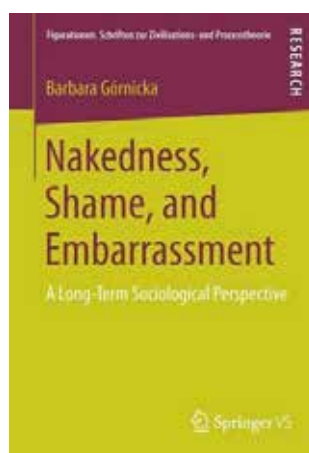
Sport, Medicine and Health: The medicalization of sport? provides valuable insights for all students and scholars interested in sports medicine, sports policy, public health and the sociology of sport.

Steven Loyal, *Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of the State: A Critical Introduction* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) 164 pp. ISBN: 9781137583499.



This book critically examines Pierre Bourdieu's theory of the state by assessing its theoretical and empirical value. Steven Loyal expertly situates Bourdieu's work within the context of both classical and modern theories of the state, providing a comprehensive frame of reference. Finally, Loyal discusses Bourdieu's theoretical limitations and projects how his theory of the state might be utilised in the future.

Barbara Górnicka, *Nakedness, Shame and Embarrassment: A Long-term Sociological Perspective* (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2016) 206 pp. ISBN: 9783658159832.



Barbara Górnicka presents a sociological investigation - both historical and contemporary - into the problems surrounding naked bodies. She draws on her own participation in a nudist swimming club and goes on to study the often very complex and paradoxical emotions that have been associated with nakedness in the Western world for centuries. The book provides answers not only to why we find exposing our naked bodies shameful, but also why we find it sexual and erotic in the first place. It looks beneath taboos surrounding nakedness today and offers a theoretical explanation for their development over time. On the basis of her historical analysis, the author demonstrates that it was not until the late nineteenth or twentieth century that we began to see nudity as erotic.

Cas Wouters, ‘¿Hacia una integración del deseo y el amor? Erotización y sexualización desde 1880’ [Has there been an integration of lust and love? Eroticisation and sexualisation since 1880], in *Educación y procesos de civilización: Miradas desde la obra de Norbert Elias* edited by Carina V. Kaplan and Magda Sarat (Buenos Aires: Editorial de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Colección Saberes, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2016), pp. 17–50. ISBN 978-987-4019-31-8

Stephen Mennell, ‘Die us–amerikanische Heuchelei – Ein

Erklärungsversuch’, trans. Heinz Sünker, *Sozialwissenschaftliche Literatur Rundschau (SLR)* 73 (2016), pp. 103–22.

This article is a German translation of the essay ‘Explaining American hypocrisy’, which was published in *Human Figurations* 4: 2 (2015).

Jocelyne Cesari, ‘Disciplining religion: the role of the state and its consequences on democracy’, *Journal of Religious and Political Practice* 2: 2 (2016), pp. 135–54.

Abstract: This article presents the concept of hegemonic religion and its relationship with democracy. This concept entails not only a certain type of institutional relation between state and religion but, more importantly, a kind of national culture with religion at its core. Utilising Norbert Elias’s figurational sociology, this article analyses how postcolonial states have built a national habitus that plays a decisive role in the politicisation of religion. It focuses on examples from Islam and Buddhism and discusses how hegemonic types of politicised religions have negative impacts on democracy.

Sean Hier, ‘Moral panic, moral regulation, and the civilizing process’, *The British Journal of Sociology* 67: 3 (2016), pp. 414–34.

Abstract: This article compares two analytical frameworks ostensibly formulated to widen the focus of moral panic studies. The comparative analysis suggests that attempts to conceptualise moral panics in terms of decivilising processes have neither substantively supplemented the explanatory gains made by conceptualising moral panic as a form of moral regulation nor provided a viable alternative framework that better explains the dynamics of contemporary moral panics. The article concludes that Elias’s meta-theory of the civilising process potentially provides explanatory resources to investigate a possible historical-structural shift towards the so-called age of (a)moral panic; the analytical demands of such a project, however, require a sufficiently different line of inquiry from the one encouraged by

both the regulatory and decivilising perspectives on moral panic.

Erik Jentges (ed.), *Das Staatsverständnis von Norbert Elias* [Norbert Elias’s Understanding of the State] (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2017) 217 pp. ISBN: 978-3-8487-3610-2.



Norbert Elias’s conception of the state derives from his interdependency theory of power and his process- and figurational sociology perspective. As a result of long-term and unplanned processes from which sovereign monopolies such as those of physical violence and taxation can arise, the state emerged as the ‘character of the supreme body for coordination and regulation for the whole of the functional processes’ (Elias). Elias insists that state-formation processes are Janus-faced: pacification on the domestic front and warfare beyond its borders are still today disturbing elements. His genuine perspective on the political and the state always takes a close look at the people and the interdependent figurations that they form as established and outsiders. The contributions of this volume discuss the most important ideas of Elias’s understanding of the state and examine the potential for more reality-congruent analyses of modern statehood.

Helmut Kuzmics, ‘Norbert Elias and cultural sociology’ [Norbert Elias und die Kulturosoziologie], *Handbuch Kulturosoziologie* 43: 1 (2016), pp. 1-15, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-08000-6.

Abstract: Norbert Elias’s cultural-scientific work is determined by the

overcoming of the great gap between science and the philosophical treatment of mind and consciousness, which he perceived as an unbridled dualism. His central historical sociological work, his theory of civilising processes, was no longer to be understood as a ‘cultural’ sociology, but as a sociology in which the ‘cultural’ aspect is indissociable from the political, economic, and all other aspects of social processes. In addition, Elias wrote a whole series of works dealing both theoretically and empirically with ‘cultural’ phenomena in the narrower sense: painting, literature and music. This article, therefore, includes historical notes on the works of Elias as a cultural sociology, in particular his theory of civilisation, and deals with Elias’s sociology of knowledge with regard to the relationship between nature and culture, as well as his work on culture in the narrower sense. The relationship of Elias’s sociology to selected schools of cultural education also deserves special mention. The conclusion mentions further studies by sociologists from the area of the sociological and social sciences.

John Williams, “‘I didn’t even know that there was such a thing as aboriginal games’’: a figurational account of how Indigenous students experience physical education’, *Sport, Education and Society* (July 2016) <http://bit.ly/2iU59Zq>

Abstract: This article is about how Indigenous students from Year 7 to 10 at three government schools in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) experience PE. The research question being, how do Indigenous students experience PE at the schools selected for the research? A process-oriented approach was used to answer this question. In particular, figurational sociology was chosen because of its usefulness in interpreting sociological problems processually. The idea of the figuration or configuration was utilised to represent human power relationships, as well as systems and processes. The study also drew upon the complimentary figurational concept of habitus. An accompanying methodology sympathetic to figurational sociology reconstructed

the macro and micro levels of the figuration studied. This figuration being the PE provision across the three sites. The macro level depicts the contemporary social structure or ‘rules’ of the figuration and the micro level the individuals that exist within this social structure. Data were collected over a two year period using semi-structured interviews, school websites, school based documentation and wider ACT Education and Training Directorate system level documents. The research found that Indigenous students experience almost entirely Eurocentric PE that lacks acknowledgment of their own culture. The PE provided is an example of ‘superior’ knowledge characteristic of dominant groups. The research also showed that the habituses of key players such as principals, Health and Physical Education curriculum writers and teachers were pivotal as long-term processes in upholding Eurocentric PE content. The findings suggest that for Indigenous perspectives to be included in PE as stipulated in national level documentation, policy directives alone are inadequate. For meaningful change to take place alteration at the habitus level of the mentioned key players has to occur and such change requires a multi-faceted approach.

Gabriele Rosenthal, Eva Bahl and Arne Worm, ‘Illegalisierte Migrationsverläufe aus biografiethoretischer und figurationssoziologischer Perspektive: die Landgrenze zwischen Spanien und Marokko’ [Processes of illegalised migration from the perspective of biographical research and figurational sociology: The land border between Spain and Morocco], *Forum: Qualitative Social Research* 17: 3 (2016).

Abstract: In this article, we aim to clarify the benefit of perspectives derived from biographical research and figurational sociology in attempts to understand and explain illegalised migration. In addition, we intend to discuss the methodological implications of this perspective. The article is based on our research on the ‘social construction of border zones,’ which is conducted within the Spanish exclaves

Melilla and Ceuta. We will concentrate in particular on the reconstruction of the experiences of migrants who were unable to ‘legally’ cross the border between Moroccan and Spanish territory. On the basis of a *contrastive comparison* between three cases of migrants from various regions and social contexts (Syria, Mauritania, and Cameroon) with profoundly diverse migration experiences, we want to reconstruct *processual structures* of illegalised migration movements. Our assumption is that the contextualisation of migration processes within an individual’s biography (and the biography’s intertwining with wider collective and sociohistorical processes and conditions) will enable us to make an analysis of how the illegalisation and criminalisation of migration is constituted, experienced and processed. We also aim to analyse how notions of belonging are generated and used as instruments and effects of power in social settings and how changes in the sense of belonging are linked to different migration experiences. The reconstruction of migration experiences and of the dynamics of belonging demands a precise historical contextualisation and diachronic analysis of the researched cases regarding local situations and their interplay with global or transnational processes and circumstances.

Carla Penna, ‘*Homo clausus, homo sacer, homines aperti*: challenges for group analysis in the twenty-first century: A response to Haim Weinberg’s 40th Foulkes Lecture’, *Group Analysis* 49: 4 (2016), pp. 357–69.

Abstract: In this response I will refer to the historical roots of the modern individualism and Norbert Elias conceptualisations on *homo clausus* and *homines aperti* – also introducing as Agamben’s discussion on *homo sacer* and other forms of human and societal prejudice and exclusion – to criticise contemporary individualism and discuss the challenges for group analysis in the twenty-first century. I build on Haim Weinberg’s concerns about ‘Impossible groups that flourish in leaking containers’ to highlight the

importance of ‘total situations’ and ‘applied’ group analysis since 1948, from Foulkes’s tenets up to the current new challenges in Group Analysis.

Arpad Szakolczai, ‘Processes of social flourishing and their liminal collapse: elements to a genealogy of globalisation’, *The British Journal of Sociology*, 67: 3 (2016), pp. 435–55.

Abstract: This article aims at exploring a long-term historical perspective on which contemporary globalisation can be more meaningfully situated. A central problem with established approaches to globalisation is that they are even more presentist than the literature on modernisation was. Presentism not only means the ignoring of history, but also the unreflective application to history of concepts taken from the study of the modern world. In contrast, it is argued that contemporary globalisation is not a unique development, but rather is a concrete case of a historical type. Taking as its point of departure the spirit, rather than the word, of Max Weber, this article extends the scope of sociological investigation into archaeological evidence. Having a genealogical design and introducing the concept of ‘liminality’, the article approaches the modern process of globalisation through reconstructing the internal dynamics of another type of historical change called ‘social flourishing’. Taking up the Weberian approach continued by Eisenstadt in his writings on ‘axial age’, it moves away from situations of crisis as reference point, shifting attention to periods of revival by introducing the term ‘epiphany’. Through the case of early Mesopotamia, it shows how social flourishing can be transmogrified into globalising growth, gaining a new perspective concerning the kind of ‘animating spirit’ that might have driven the shift from Renaissance to Reformation, the rise of modern colonialism, or contemporary globalisation. More generally, it will retrieve the long-term historical background of the axial age and demonstrate the usefulness and importance of archaeological evidence for sociology.

David Brégaint, ‘La loi de la Hird et le Miroir du Roi. L’étiquette à la cour des rois de Norvège au XIII^e siècle’ [Civilising the ‘Viking’: A pedagogy for etiquette and courtly behaviour in thirteenth-century Norway], *Bulletin du Centre de recherche du château de Versailles* (October 2016) <http://bit.ly/2i8dx5N>.

Abstract: This paper examines the pedagogical strategies developed by the authors of two Norwegian thirteenth-century court books, *The King’s Mirror* and the *Law of the Hird*, in order to implement Western etiquette and rules of courtly behaviour at the court of the Norwegian kings. Inculcating new modes of behaviour, displaying self-restraint and courtesy to an aristocratic elite of a peripheral kingdom indulging in excesses of all kinds was challenging. In order to encourage Norwegian retainers to adopt new rules of speech, gestures, dress and table manners, our authors developed a threefold strategy emphasising voluntary commitment and its beneficial character, and providing several highly practical advice easy to put into practice in many situations. The article concludes in stressing the decisive role of mediators of foreign culture into the Norse elite in underscoring their own knowledge and perception of both foreign and local cultures.

Ryan Powell, ‘Gypsy-travellers/Roma and social integration: childhood, habitus and the “we-I balance”’, *Historical Social Research* 41: 3 (2016), pp. 134–56.

Abstract: Norbert Elias provides a very useful theoretical framework for understanding long-term changes in childhood-adulthood relations at the societal level. Key processes central to this theorisation include: the increasing separation of the social worlds of children and adults; the increasing distance between childhood and adulthood; the partial defunctionalisation of the family; the civilising of parents; changes in the ‘we-I balance’ towards the ‘I’; and the gradual conversion of social constraints into self-restraints. Yet variable trajectories are under-developed in

Elias’s work: the differing nature of these interrelated social processes for different ‘outsider’ groups in society were not systematically addressed by him. However, this paper argues that Elias’s theories on childhood do provide us with a very useful conceptual framework from which to understand these variable trajectories. It applies his theories on childhood and individualisation to Gypsy-Traveller/Roma groups in Europe. The paper argues that the above processes differ markedly for many groups and, coupled with the existence of a very strong group orientation and long-term stigmatisation, are central to accounting for their relative lack of social integration. That is, differing processes of childhood and family socialisation are crucial in explaining how Gypsy-Traveller/Roma groups have maintained their own group identity and cultural continuity under intense pressures to assimilation and conformity. [See full list of contributions to this special issue above.]

Gláucio Campos Gomes de Matos, *Ethos e figurações na hinterlândia amazônica* [Ethos and Figurations on the Amazonian Hinterland] (Manaua: Valer/FAPEAM, 2015) 432 pp. ISBN 978-85-7512-796-4.

The book is an extension of the thesis originally named ‘Sociocultural practices, figuration, power, differentiation in Bicó, Cuiamucu and Canela-Fina – Amazonian Communities’, submitted in 2008, at the Faculdade de Educação Física/UNICAMP (<http://bit.ly/2iUPKu8>). It is an example of ethnographic field research that refers, among other authors, to the theory of Norbert Elias and the premises of Johan Goudsblom. Under the influence of figural or processual sociology, I studied three rural communities and then widened the view towards the broader Amazonas state, without, however, having pretensions to universality. I comprehend the pair of opposites – rural and urban – in a transitional process, because the rural does not always delay in becoming urban.

Roberto Marin Viestel, ‘Educação Ambiental e Processo Civilizador: Apontamentos’ [Environmental

education and civilising process: environmental behaviour], *Boletim do Observatório Ambiental Alberto Rineiro Lamego* 6: 1 (2012) pp. 139–49. <http://bit.ly/2iZfHZW>

The text deals with what we defend as environmental behaviour; it is a relationship that occurs between biologically constituted individuals and socially sharing ways of relating to the physical environment, as a matter of non-survival and symbolic representation of ways of interpreting the environment, as well as their social settings.

Andreas P. Herrmann, Burkhard Liebsch and Martin Klüners, ‘Das Unbewusste in Individuum und Gesellschaft: Zur Anwendbarkeit psychoanalytischer Kategorien in der Geschichtswissenschaft’ [The Unconscious in individuals and society: On the relevance of psychoanalytic categories for the study of history], *Psyche – Z Psychoanal* 70: (2016), pp. 644–673.

Within Germany and at a theoretical level, the most influential piece of work on the relations between history and psychoanalysis has long been the eponymous essay by historian Hans-Ulrich Wehler. Wehler’s remarks are based on the highly contestable premise that because psychoanalysis is based exclusively on the psychology of the individual, whereas historical social studies are inevitably geared to collective diagnoses, the two disciplines can only have very little to say to one another. Norbert Elias’s figurational sociology could have indicated a way for sociologically-orientated historical research to investigate the relations between individual and «collective» psychic processes without recourse to artificial dichotomies. But Elias’s theory of civilisation itself pays scant attention to the phenomenon of a collective or social unconscious. After a critique of Wehler’s assertions and an appreciation of Elias’s model, the authors turn their attention to approaches that attempt to investigate and conceptualise the supra-individual unconscious.

Stine Frydendal Nielsen, Laila Ottesen and Lone Friis Thing, ‘Established and outsider relations

among students involved in a health promotion intervention in a Danish high school’, *Historical Social Research* 41:3 (2016), pp.101–119.

Abstract: The paper considers a study in a Danish high school in which students were involved in enhancing physical activity in their own school. International research points out that adolescents are not as physically active as recommended. Moreover, studies show that maintaining health promotion interventions is difficult. Consequently, there is an increasing demand for active participation by the target groups. The study is based on the interpretative, process-oriented methodology developed by Baur and Ernst. They base this approach on Norbert Elias’ argument on involvement and detachment and the importance of theoretical pointers to insure that the researcher does not lose herself in the research field. Elias unfolds this methodological approach in *The Established and the Outsiders*. By applying this conceptualisation, this study shows that some of the students involved found their role and their identity as ‘sports-students’ difficult, and it compromised their social life in the school, which relates to aspects that do not always correspond with the current health norms. The paper discusses the relations between the involved students and the other students in the school, and what consequences this may have for health and physical activity.

Kristian Frisk, “‘But when I tell them about heroes, then they listen’”: The soldier hero and transformations of the Danish welfare state’, *Acta Sociologica* (2016), DOI: 2347408016.

Abstract: This paper explores the rise of the soldier hero in Denmark. From the analysis of Prime Ministers’ New Year addresses between 1940–2015, it is evident that the ‘heroification’ of Danish soldiers has been linked to the elevation of professionalism, self-motivation, individual responsibility, and global outlook as civic virtues since the 1990s. Utilising the concept of a survival unit developed by Norbert Elias, it argues that this elevation is a result of the gradual

emergence of ‘competition state’ and ‘security state’ strategies for protecting the Danish welfare state in the wake of growing international interdependency. On this basis, the paper seeks to contribute to the literature on the social construction of heroes within a theoretical perspective that takes the dynamic relations between states into account, and to explain why specific notions of a hero develop.

Ruth Simpson, Jason Hughes and Natasha Slutskaya, *Gender, Class and Occupation: Working Class Men Doing Dirty Work*, (Basingstoke, Palgrave MacMillan, 2016) 284 pp. ISBN: 9781137439673.

This insightful new study explores an emerging and growing interest within Sociology and Organisation Studies in the meanings and experiences of ‘dirty’ work. Based on a unique study of male street cleaners, refuse collectors, graffiti removers and butchers, and drawing on Bourdieu as a theoretical frame, it presents an ‘embodied’ understanding of ‘dirty’ work. *Gender, Work and Occupation* explores new avenues of workplace studies, highlighting how material conditions both support and constrain processes of occupation-based ideological constructions. Using original field research, the authors put forward a different agenda in terms of how we think about dirty work, and how we can explore and understand the ‘lived experiences’ of dirty workers.

Ludivine Damay and Florence Delmotte, ‘Les droits de l’homme entre ruptures et continuité : un éclairage historico-sociologique’ [Human rights between disruption and continuity: an historical-sociological clarification], *Journal européen des droits de l’homme* 2016: 2, pp. 161–78.

Abstract: Are ‘human rights’ just the ‘last utopia’ of our times? Are they disconnected from the eighteenth century’s rights of man or is there a profound philosophical continuity between them? This article seeks to clarify that question from a sociological perspective. Sociology has for a long time shown a certain scepticism vis-à-vis human rights. The article first revisits the reasons for this indifference,

and provides an overview of the numerous studies devoted to human rights in contemporary sociology. Secondly, it explores more specifically the path opened by the long-term approach developed by Norbert Elias. According to Norbert Elias, in the era of global interdependencies, the development of human rights provides a fragile indication of the construction of a political community at the level of mankind. More broadly, the examination of human rights claims reveals at the same time a strong continuity and profound transformations since the eighteenth century, in connection with the evolution of the central role played by the State.

Laura Gilliam and Eva Gullov, *Children of the Welfare State. Civilising Practices in Schools, Childcare and Families* (London, Pluto Press, 2017) 304 pp. ISBN:



9780745336046.

This original ethnographic study looks at how children are 'civilised' within child institutions, such as schools, day care centres and families, under the auspices of the welfare state. As part of a general discussion on civilising projects and the role of state institutions, the authors focus on Denmark, a country characterised by the extent of time children use in public institutions from an early age. They look at the extraordinary amount of attention and effort put into the process of upbringing by the state, as well as the widespread co-operation in this by parents across the social spectrum.

Taking as its point of departure the sociologist Norbert Elias's concept of civilising, *Children of the Welfare State* explores the ideals of civilised conduct expressed through institutional upbringing and examine how children of different age, gender, ethnicity and social backgrounds experience and react to these norms and efforts. The analysis demonstrates that welfare state institutions, though characterised by a strong egalitarian ideal, create distinctions between social groups, teach children about moral hierarchies in society and prompts them to identify as more or less civilised citizens of the state.

■ RECENT EVENTS

Changing Power Relations and the Drag Effects of Habitus: Theoretical and Empirical Approaches in the Twenty-First Century

8–10 September, 2016, University of Münster

The international conference 'Changing Power Relations and the Drag Effects of Habitus', organised by Stefanie Ernst, Christoph Weischer, Behrouz Alikhani and Inken Rommel from the Institute of Sociology at the University of Muenster, focused and integrated the works of the sociologists Norbert Elias (1897–1990) and Pierre Bourdieu (1930–2002). The aim was to discuss differences and similarities with regard to current changes in power relations and habitus, and to develop further perspectives for a sociology of transformation on the macro-, meso- and micro-sociological level. According to the organisers, the present transformations are accompanied by dynamic asynchronies: changing power relations and shifts can imply both a reduction and an increase in social participation opportunities. At the individual as well as the institutional level, more or less pronounced inertial effects can be identified, which can be considered as drag effects and adaptation difficulties. However, the structures, dynamics and directions of these relatively long-term transformation processes and the

problems of uneven developments between their different institutional, functional and habitual levels are relatively little explored in relation to frequently researched short-term temporal diagnoses. To approach these various levels, the conference was structured in different panels, each addressing complex changes at a global, national and regional level, thus contributing to a 'sociology of medium to long-term transformation' linked to the concepts of Elias and Bourdieu.

Janina Evers

On the first day, plenary lectures were given as follows:

Peter Ludes, 'State transformations and habitus shifts' – a comparative view of China, Brazil, Germany, the USA and the effect of multi-national corporations)

Nina Baur, 'Methodological and theoretical approaches'

Nico Wilterdink, 'The dynamics of inequality'

The conference was structured into panels on changing power relations and habitus in various fields: 'Work, unemployment and lifestyle', 'Education and social inequalities', 'Social conflicts, immigration and democratisation', 'Environment and health' and 'Global, national and local identities'. Topics included:

Natasha Slutskaya, Paradoxes of choice in dirty work

Matthias Schneider, Manhood and the negotiation of habitual insecurity

Yasemin Yilma, Employability, habitus and interaction

Sandra Matthäus, Self-worth as a key for the understanding of habitus-transformation processes

Marta Bucholc, The constitutional crisis in Poland

John Connolly and Paddy Dolan, Habitus and Irish hunger strikes

Jan Haut, Social inequalities and sport

Paddy Dolan and John Connolly, National habitus, sport and hybridisation

Angela Perulli and Filippo Buccarelli, Emotions, everyday life and habitus

Miklos Hadas, Bourdieu's masculine domination and historicity

Francisco Toledo Ortiz, Sport habitus and young professionals
Anja Schmidt-Kleinert, Palestinian Israelis, citizenship and the ‘Discourse of loyalty’
Norman Gabriel, Elias and Bourdieu’s approaches to childhood compared
Ane Refshaug Hoyrup Trust and trust work in nursery schools
Stephen Vertigans, Processes of democratization in sub-Saharan African states
Behrouz Alikhani, The US political system, functional democratisation, liberal democracy and socialism
Inken Rommel, Right-wing populist movements in contemporary Germany
Laura Gilliam, Civilising lessons for privileged pupils in Denmark
Ane Refshaug Høyrup, Trust in Danish nurseries
Magdalena Nowicka, Polish immigration to the United Kingdom, habitus, power relations and mechanisms of exclusion
Florence Delmotte, Heidi Mercenier and Virginie van Ingelgom, European citizenship and feelings of belonging and indifference
Florence Di Bonaventura, Lega Nord, habitus and national engineers

International Sociological Association, Research Committee 33
 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology (RC33)

11–16 September 2016, College Court, University of Leicester (United Kingdom)

Eliasian sociologists have until recently had a reputation for taking little interest in questions of ‘research methods’. Not so any more. Since Nina Baur became President of the ISA RC33, Logic and Methodology in Sociology, she has been leading a drive to broaden the conception of ‘methods’ beyond the conventional categories of the ‘quantitative’ ‘qualitative’. In particular, with colleagues including John Goodwin, Jason Hughes and Stefanie Ernst, she has been developing more processual and long-term approaches. So, in this big RC33 conference hosted by Goodwin and Hughes, there was a

whole day’s sessions on ‘Researching Social Processes’, as well as a plenary lecture by Stephen Menzell entitled ‘History is not bunk’. One of the sessions, remarkably, was composed entirely of speakers – Saramago, Linklater, Mack – from the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University.

The papers given were

Katie Liston and Joe Maguire, ‘On being “Irish”’: negotiating identity and the involvement–detachment balance in archival research’
Barbara Górnicka, Nudism, *homines aperti* and the methodology behind my study of emotions
Patrick Murphy, A reappraisal of Elias’s “Scenes from the life of a knight”: a case study in the influence of heteronomous preoccupations on methodology
Andre Saramago, ‘Social scientific orientation in the next phase of humankind’s global development’
Andrew Linklater, ‘Political symbols and civilising processes in long-term perspective’

Michael Dunning, ‘Social processes and the development of “jihadist terrorists”’

Zynap Turhan, ‘Conceptual framework and reflexivity for the examination of the engagement process in sensitive qualitative research’

Rozlyn Rudd and Giuseppe Veltri, ‘The analysis of cultural processes and social identity formation in the Re.Cri. Re project’

Julia Szabó, ‘Youngsters’ leisure time and social stratification of cultural consumption in an Eastern European festival’

Anina Schwarzenbach, ‘Youth–police interaction in a multi-ethnic society’

Petra Stein and Dawid Bekalarczyk, ‘Longitudinal modelling of the future development of occupational status in the third generation of migrants’

At the end of a long day, Jason Hughes somehow wangled exclusive out-of-hours admission to the University of Leicester Botanic Garden for the figurational contingent. See the relaxed scene below!



Alexander Mack, ‘The process of migration: identity, affect and established–outsider relations’

Jan Green and Ben Binsardi, ‘Frontier rescinding in classic grounded theory’

Linda Hering, ‘How to trace the intrinsic logic of cities using historical material’

Andre Saramago, Alexander Mack, Barbara Górnicka, Andrew Linklater, Stephen Menzell, Jason Hughes (photo: Alexander Mack)

■ FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Eric Dunning's 80th birthday: celebratory symposium

4 March, 2017, College Court, Leicester

This event will be a relaxed and informal gathering to celebrate Eric Dunning's 80th birthday, and also to use it as an event recognising his outstanding contribution to sociology. Sessions will be relatively short, allowing plenty of opportunities for informal chats over coffee (there's a breakout coffee lounge) and of course, food and drinks together in the evening.

Among other things, it is hoped to show a DVD of a lecture by Eric on varieties of catharsis and other aspects of sport, and perhaps the 1975 Dutch documentary about Norbert Elias.

Provisional programme:

Friday 3rd March (For those who wish to stay Friday night. Evening arrival, College Court, drinks and bite to eat in the Craddock).

Saturday 4th March
Breakfast at College Court (for those who stayed over Friday evening).

11.00–1.00 Informal Meeting

1.00–2.30 Lunch and Coffee

2.30–5.00 Informal Meeting

6.00 Evening Meal and Drinks

Sunday 5th March
Breakfast at College Court and depart.

1st RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology (Asia): 'Process-Oriented Micro-Macro-Analysis: Mixing Methods in Longitudinal Analysis and Historical Sociology'

11–14 September, 2017, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Submission Deadline for Papers:

Please submit abstracts via the conference online system by **January 31st 2017**.

Conference Website:

<http://survey.sinica.edu.tw/rc33-taipei>

Please find further information on ISA RC33 (Research Committee on Logic & Methodology of the International Sociology Association) on <http://www.rc33.org/>

Call for papers:

Social theory is often interested in how social meso- and macro- phenomena or social contexts (e.g. organisations, markets, cities, regions, societies), and micro phenomena (e.g. everyday practices, interaction, communicative action, individual action) interact, causally influence and change each other.

However, analysing such questions empirically poses methodological problems which have to be solved simultaneously: Not only is a (1) multi-level analysis needed, but (2) meso- and macro- phenomena typically change only in the *longue durée*, thus requiring either longitudinal analysis, historical methods or archival methods which typically make use of QUAL documentary analysis or QUANT public administrative data, structural or trend data. Although today many sources of secondary data are available, typically these data were produced continuously in their respective historical times and face the problems of selectivity and availability. (3) In contrast, micro- phenomena either address the individual life-course or biographies which are typically either analysed with QUANT survey data or QUAL narrative interviews. Alternatively, very short-term social processes are addressed, which are typically grasped by methods such as ethnography and video analysis. Data are collected today and any past events are

reconstructed from the perspective of the present – which poses the particular problem of how to reconstruct past events and social practices on the micro level.

In summary, process-oriented micro-macro-analyses typically combine or mix different data sorts (e.g. ethnography and public administrative data) which address different time layers. Based on these observations and building on the prior debates at the RC33 Conferences in Naples and Sydney as well the HSR Special Issues on 'Linking Theory and Data: Process-Generated and Longitudinal Data for Analysing Long-Term Social Processes' and 'Social Bookkeeping Data: Data Quality and Data Management' (both 2009), the session asks how to conduct process-oriented micro-macro analyses. While papers can also discuss general methodological questions and problems in process-oriented micro-macro analysis (e.g. sampling, linking data, data analysis), papers discussing specific methodological problems using a concrete mix or combination of data in a specific research project are especially welcome.

Session Convenors:

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■ CONTRIBUTIONS TO *FIGURATIONS*

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Contributions should preferably be e-mailed to the Editor in the form of MS Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text (.rtf), plain text (.txt) or Open Office Text (.odt) files. Do not use embedded footnotes. Hard copy is accepted reluctantly. Photographs should be submitted in JPEG format.

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