

The ‘Non-linearity’ of Civilising Processes: A Conversation about the Life and Work of Norbert Elias with Michael Dunning

Sponsored by the BSA Theory Study Group

13 January 2021 (13:00-14:00 GMT)
Online

About the Event

Norbert Elias’s understanding of civilising processes is not a ‘linear’ one, but marked by multi-directional tendencies that may to paradoxical outcomes. This statement about non-linearity is, perhaps, also an apt description of Elias’s career. His first academic post was at the University of Leicester at the age of 57, followed by a post at the University of Ghana in the early 1960s. It was not before the republication of his book *On the Process of Civilisation* (again in German) in 1969 that he would become a common trope in sociological theory leading to the label of ‘The greatest social thinker you’ve never heard of’ (Pinker 2011).

The University of Leicester has played a crucial role in the development of figurational sociology in the United Kingdom, hosting a major Elias conference in 2014 marking the completion of the *Collected Works of Elias*. We are therefore pleased to announce a conversation with Michael Dunning (University of Leicester) as part of the series on influential sociological thinkers. Dr Dunning will talk with us about Elias’s career, his standing as a grand sociological theorist and his own application of figurational thinking on topics like terrorism, community relations and the Dark Web.

Biography

Michael Dunning is Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Leicester. He has recently edited a book with Cas Wouters called *Civilisation and Informalisation: Connecting Long-Term Social and Psychic Processes* and another forthcoming monograph with the title: *Britain and Terrorism: A Sociological Investigation*.

Registration

This event is free of charge, however, registration is required. A zoom link will be circulated to attendees prior to the event.