

Norbert Elias's View on Court Society: French Court Society as a Sociological Model

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This essay aims to emphasize the importance of Norbert Elias's *The Court Society* as a book setting a sociological model. In fact *The Court Society* should be counted as an indispensable text which helps us understand what Elias called 'figurational sociology' or 'process sociology' as well as his magnum opus *The Civilizing Process*. However, his innovative methodology developed in *The Court Society*, especially by fusing sociological and historical perspectives, has not been sufficiently appreciated by present-day sociologists. According to Elias, court society is fundamentally related with modern society in terms of self-control and rationality in human behavior and thinking, contributing to state formation. Therefore the present essay demonstrates how important it is to evaluate again this classical text in which Elias successfully created a sociological model of French court society by illuminating the dynamics of its power relations and power struggles as reflected in everyday activities, such as manners and etiquette, or even in literary creation.