

Norbert Elias as Sport Sociologist

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This paper aims to emphasize the importance of Norbert Elias as a sport sociologist. At the University of Leicester he launched his sport studies from sociological, historical and psychological perspectives with Eric Dunning in the 1960s and 1970s, publishing a monumental book, *Quest for Excitement* in 1986. This has encouraged sociologists to have wide-ranging discussions on sport. Here Elias used what is called “figurational theory” to elucidate the development of sport over time from antiquity through the Middle Ages up to the present time, thus successfully making his own theoretical model for sport sociology. What he insists here is that sport should not be separated from human society because the two have clear interdependencies. The present paper tries to go deeply into some of these aspects of his sociological thinking. It also deals with the problem of the occurrence of violence in modern sport, particularly among recent young soccer fans in Britain called “hooligans,” whose behavior and conduct are said to have something to do with a male-oriented cultural reaction against modernity and rationality. The paper will finally note the fact that sport has in fact played an important role in preventing violence and constructing a peaceful society.