

# Norbert Elias and Figural Sociology: Prospects for the Future

**Copenhagen, 2–4 April 2012**

## Call for papers

The focus of this two-day conference will be on the development of figural sociology in relation to other disciplines. In *‘What is Sociology?’*, Elias argues that sociology needs to develop new ways of ‘thinking’ about its relationship with other disciplines like biology and physics. But since that time, we have seen a rapid expansion of these academic disciplines, yet there has not been sufficient time to consider the theoretical implications of what this would mean for the future development of a figural sociology.

This conference will bring together sociologists, together with other important and relevant cognate disciplines – such as history, political science and economics – to explore attempts that integrate different disciplinary perspectives. Keynote speakers include Richard Kilminster, University of Leeds (confirmed), Abram de Swaan, University of Amsterdam (confirmed), Stephen Mennell, University College Dublin (confirmed), Andrew Linklater, Aberystwyth University (tbc), Nina Baur, TU Berlin, Institute of Sociology (tbc), Stefanie Ernst, Universität Hamburg (tbc), Steven Quilley, Keele University (confirmed)

It will address these issues by focusing on the following themes:

The first day will explore the ‘boundaries’ and relationships between figural sociology and the following disciplines:

- 1) Politics
- 2) Economics
- 3) History
- 4) Psychology
- 5) Biology
- 6) Anthropology

The second day will further discuss the major themes that emerge from this ‘boundary’ work across disciplines, considering some of their strengths and limitations in relation to the following

- 1) Survival Units
- 2) Organisational Sociology and Economic Sociology

- 3) Civilizing Processes
- 4) Informalising Processes
- 5) The expanding Anthroposphere (Environmental issues)

The conference will consist of plenary sessions with keynote speakers, followed by themed parallel sessions. *The deadline for submitting abstracts of papers is 16 December 2011.* These should be no more than 150 words and submitted to the conference email address: [mcs@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:mcs@ifs.ku.dk)

We look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen!

Lars Bo Kaspersen, University of Copenhagen, [LBK@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:LBK@ifs.ku.dk)

Norman Gabriel, University of Plymouth, [norman.r.gabriel@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:norman.r.gabriel@plymouth.ac.uk)

## **Practicalities and formalities**

**Registration:** Please, register by sending a mail to Mette Cruse Skou [mcs@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:mcs@ifs.ku.dk) with your name, affiliation, address, phone number and email address. Deadline is February 15 2012.

**Conference fee:** 50 euro covering lunches, coffee/tea and fruit. Students: 15 euro. The conference fee needs to be paid at the conference venue /registration desk when the conference starts.

**Venue:** University of Copenhagen, CSS (Social Science campus), Øster Farimagsgade 5, Copenhagen K – see [http://polsci.ku.dk/english/contact/How\\_to\\_find\\_us/](http://polsci.ku.dk/english/contact/How_to_find_us/)

**Accommodation:** There are plenty of hotels in Copenhagen. However, we have reserved rooms at two hotels close to the venue and the city. You need to book your own hotel room by mail or phone.

### **Ibsens Hotel**

Vendersgade 23

DK-1363 København K.

T: 33 13 19 13

F: 33 13 19 16

E: [hotel@ibsenhotel.dk](mailto:hotel@ibsenhotel.dk)

Reservation: +45 33 95 77 44

### **Prices:**

Single Room: 985 DKK per room per night (includes breakfast).

Double Room: 1.240 DKK per room per night (includes breakfast).

**Hotel Kong Arthur**

Nørre Søgade 11

DK-1370 København K.

T: +45 33 11 12 12

F: +45 33 32 61 30

E: [hotel@kongarthur.dk](mailto:hotel@kongarthur.dk)

Reservation: +45 33 95 77 22

**Prices:**

Single Room: 1.225 DKK per room per night (includes breakfast).

Double Room: 1.520 DKK per room per night (includes breakfast).

Don't forget to mention that you are participating in the conference organized by University of Copenhagen (Department of Political Science/ Sociology)

**Organizers:**

The Norbert Elias Foundation, Amsterdam

The Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen

The Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen