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FROM THE NORBERT ELIAS FOUNDATION

New email address for Figurations

Please note that Figurations now has a new email address: figurations@norbert-elias.com.

New NEF website

The old website of the Nobert Elias Foundation (www.norberteliasfoundation.nl) is now defunct, but its contents are being transferred to the new one, http://norbert-elias.com/en/, which is still under construction. The new website will be in several other languages besides English. It will also contain many new materials, and already it is linked to a YouTube channel on which you can find videos of Norbert Elias and of interviews with some leading figurationists.

Please note that, although there is already a blog on the new website, it is not yet linked to an email notification system, so you will no longer receive emails giving you the latest news. But the news itself will still be there: you can find it at http://norbert-elias.com/blog/.

Assistant Editors of Figurations

We hope to renew our team of Assistant Editors of Figurations — that is, our correspondents who take responsibility for supplying the newsletter with all the latest news about publications, conferences and other events in their country or linguistic region. The posts are honorary — that is, unpaid! Existing Assistant Editors (listed on the back page) are of course welcome to volunteer to continue, but we should also like to hear from new volunteers in order to spread our net more widely. If you are willing to take on (or continue) the task, please contact the editor at the new email address mentioned above: figurations@norbert-elias.com.

NORBERT ELIAS: THE SWEDISH TRANSLATIONS

Five books by Norbert Elias have been published in Swedish. In this short note they are listed according to year of publication and with the titles in Swedish.


The Swedish translation of Elias’s most famous work, Über den Prozess der Zivilisation, was published in two separate volumes, in 1989 and 1991:


This work, in both editions, has an Introduction by Gunnar Olofsson. Both these editions had a second printing and have been widely used in Swedish universities.

All of Elias books in Swedish translations also exist as (non-commercial) audio books, available for the visually impaired in Swedish public libraries.

Gunnar Olofsson

The term ‘anthroposphere’

Eric Jones, the economic historian who co-authored the book The Course of Human History (1996) with Joop Goudsblom and me, emailed to say ‘I am reviewing a book on economic development and environmental change which wants to deal with the period of the ‘anthropocene’, a term and concept it attributes to a Dutch scientist called P J Crutzen writing in 2001. I have it in my mind that Joop came up with “anthroposphere” before that but can only find it suddenly popping into his book Mappae Mundi of 2002. … Can you locate an earlier reference, please?’ No, we couldn’t trace an earlier usage, though we did toy with the idea of starting a new journal entitled Anthroposphere a few years before we started Human Figurations.

In the course of this discussion, though, Steve Quilley quoted a remark by EW Berry, who recalled that facetious undergraduates have often suggested that the sequence of geological eras: Eocene, Miocene, Oligocene, Pliocene etc …should be followed by ‘Obscene’ for the present era.

SJM