

Criminological implications of the process of civilisation in a post-modern context

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Elias' theory of the process of civilisation has important, although often overlooked (or at least wrongly understood) criminological implications. It is not only because it provides a historical overview of the development of one of the presumably key factors of (non)conformist behaviour, but also because it helps better understand the transformation of criminal law institutions and, ultimately, even criminology as a science of social exclusion and the "correction" of insufficiently civilised individuals.

Elias' conceptual apparatus can be also usefully applied to a post-modern context, especially for explanation of the, at first glance paradoxical, "culture of fear", altered (in fact extended) concepts of violence and new approaches used to provide the security of "civilised" groups against the most diverse "intrusions of barbarians".

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