

# Elias Canetti's counter-image of society - crowds, power, transformation

## Camden House - Elias Canetti's Counter



Description: -

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Sex role

Dependency (Psychology)

Women -- Psychology

Canetti, Elias, -- 1905-1994 -- Political and social views

Canetti, Elias, -- 1905-1994 -- Criticism and interpretation

Canetti's counter-image of society - crowds, power, transformation

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Studies in German literature, linguistics, and culture (Unnumbered)

Studies in German literature, linguistics, and culture

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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. [151]-157) and index

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### The Patience of the Hand: On Elias Canetti's Crowds and Power and Our Current Crisis

As soon as he had done he started again at the beginning.

### Arnason, Johann P. & Roberts, David. Elias Canetti's Counter

This dialectic, which contains the origin of the individual, of subjectivity, of enlightenment, already foreshadows the totalitarian reversion of the individual to the collective. The present study redresses this situation in two ways: by mapping the counter-image of human existence, history, and society that informs Canetti's critique of the modern world and its sciences; and by opening up Canetti's hermetic oeuvre by tracing his cryptic and often concealed dialogue with major figures within the Western tradition such as Hobbes, Durkheim, and Freud and contemporaries such as Adorno, Arendt, and Elias. Natural history tells the story of origins and totalitarian conclusions in relation to both domination and paranoia, the two mythical accounts of enlightenment that we must now examine more closely.

### Elias Canetti's counter

Crowds and Power, the central but uncompleted work of maturity, presents a different picture. The authors ask how Canetti's alternative vision of man and society relates to important themes of twentieth-century social and civilizational thought even as it calls into question fundamental assumptions of the social and human sciences. Of that far deeper and most special motive force of history, the desire of men to rise into a higher type of animal, the mass, and to lose themselves in it so completely as to forget that one man ever existed, they had no idea.

### Elias Canetti's Counter

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### The Patience of the Hand: On Elias Canetti's Crowds and Power and Our Current Crisis

The authors ask how Canetti's alternative vision of man and society relates to important themes of twentieth-century social and civilizational thought

even as it calls into question fundamental assumptions of the social and human sciences. Arnason, are thus perhaps best read as interconnected explorations of a thematic complex — the relations between culture and power — that by its very nature does not lend itself to exhaustive treatment.

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