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Dublin Gastronomy Symposium Fellowship Citation: Professor Stephen Mennell

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Citation

Professor Stephen Menzell

Stephen Menzell is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at University College Dublin (UCD). His book *All Manners of Food: Eating and Taste in England and France from the Middle Ages to the Present* (1985) awarded the 'Grand prix international de littérature gastronomique' in 1986 (the first English-language recipient), and the Prix Marco Polo in 1988 for the French translation 'Français et Anglais à Table'.



Professor Menzell gained his BA in Economics from the University of Cambridge (1966) followed by a MA (1970) where he was a scholar of St. Catharine's College. He was a Frank Knox Memorial Fellow (1966–67)

at Harvard University where he gained a good grounding in sociology, social psychology and anthropology. After returning from America, he taught at the University of Exeter, England, from 1967 to 1990. He gained a doctorate from the University of Amsterdam in 1985. In 1990 he became Professor of Sociology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Monash University in Australia, before returning to Europe as Professor at UCD in 1993.

At UCD, along with his wife Barbara, he founded UCD Press on behalf of the university, serving as Chairman of its Editorial Committee 1995–2006. He also served as first Director (1999–2002) of what is now the Geary Institute, a new social scientific research institute established with Irish government support.

Professor Menzell's major intellectual influence is Norbert Elias, and from 1997 to 2016 he was a member of the Board of the Norbert Elias Foundation, Amsterdam - in effect one of Elias's executors. He is General Editor of the *Collected Works of Norbert Elias* in English, publication of which in 18 volumes by UCD Press began in 2006 and was completed in 2014. Elias's influence is especially evident in Menzell's book 'All Manners Food', and in 'The American Civilizing Process' (2007). His other books include 'Sociological Theory: Uses and Unities' (1974; rev. edn 1980), 'Alexis de Tocqueville on Democracy', 'Revolution and Society' (edited with John Stone, 1980), and two selections of Elias's writings edited with Johan Goudsblom.

Professor Menzell was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Cambridge in 2004. He was elected a Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004, of the Royal Irish Academy in 2009, and of the Academia Europaea in 2011. From 2010 to 2016, he served as President of Working Group 02, Historical and Comparative Sociology, of the International Sociological Association; in 2016 this was upgraded to the status of a full Research Committee, under the title RC 56, Historical Sociology. On 7–8 January 2016, a conference on the theme of 'Social Character and Historical Processes' was held in Dublin in his honour.

The Dublin Gastronomy Symposium Fellowship Award is being presented to Professor Menzell in recognition of his contribution to gastronomy, food studies and culinary arts, which began at a time when, as he says, little attention was given to 'food and eating as topics of serious intellectual interest'. His engagement with the Dublin Institute of Technology, Cathal Brugha Street during the mid-1990s was fundamental to the establishment of the BA (Hons) Culinary Arts. His book 'All Manners of Food' has been one of the cornerstones of recommended reading for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at School of Culinary Arts & Food Technology since that time, supplemented by further publications such as 'On the Civilizing of Appetite' (1987), 'The Sociology of Food: Eating, Diet and Culture' co-edited with Anne Murcott and Anneke van Otterloo (1992), 'Eating in the Public Sphere in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries' (2003), 'Taste, Culture and History' (2005), 'Culinary transitions in Europe - an overview' (2005) and the Introduction to the special issue 'Food and Drink in Ireland' of the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy (2015). In more recent times, and at the School's invitation, he participated in the Irish-French Forum on Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Training during which he gave a presentation entitled 'All Manners of Food' during the seminar 'Tree of Knowledge: Growth Through Cooking'. In 2019 he made the generous donation of the gastronomy and food-related books from his private library to TU Dublin. Professor Menzell's work is well-known to researchers in the fields of gastronomy and food studies where food history has become, as he wrote 'a booming business. It attracts cooks, connoisseurs, cranks and serious chroniclers of culinary taste, casual dilettantism and deep delving into dusty archives.' The Dublin Gastronomy Symposium is delighted to present the 2022 Fellowship Award to Professor Stephen Menzell.