

# Human Dignity

and  
Humiliation Studies



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World Dignity University  
Bringing dignity to learning, globally and locally



Dignity Press  
World Dignity University Press

An Introduction

[www.humiliationstudies.org](http://www.humiliationstudies.org)

# Introducing HumanDHS

**Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies** (HumanDHS) is a global transdisciplinary fellowship of concerned academics and practitioners who wish to promote dignity and transcend humiliation.



## Envisioning Equal Dignity

Initiated in 2001, HumanDHS envisions a world without humiliation that dignifies the lives of all people. We realize this vision by putting relationships first, by striving to build “right relationships” in every aspect of our collaborative efforts, that is, relationships characterized by equality in dignity, unity in diversity, mutuality, and growth that supports the growth of all involved.

## Co-Creating Change

We wish to stimulate systemic change, globally and locally, to open space for mutual respect and esteem to take root and grow, thus ending humiliating practices and breaking cycles of humiliation throughout the world. The efforts of the HumanDHS network focus on generating research, disseminating information, applying creative educational methods, and devising pilot projects and policy strategies that further our vision of dignity for all. With these initiatives we strive to promote a new level of consciousness that is characterized by caring, mutual respect and sensitivity to dignity, thereby fertilizing new and constructive community action.



## Getting Involved

We grow by attraction, rather than promotion. Membership in the HumanDHS community is a “relational-bridge-building” process that culminates in an invitation to join the community.

More than 1000 members have been invited into the network and more than 2000 others support the work. Among the 1000 members, there is a Global Advisory Board of nearly 300 distinguished scholars and practitioners, as well as a 120-person-strong Core Team of active members, helping with specific activities on a continuous or intermittent basis. Other teams are the Global Education Team and Global Research Team. Many team members work in academic settings, but the teams also include artists, journalists, government officials, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and a diverse set of other professionals.

The best way to get involved is by joining us for an event, in particular, one of our two meetings a year:

- Our annual *Workshop on Transforming Humiliation and Violent Conflict*, at Columbia University in New York City, and
- Our annual HumanDHS conference, which takes place in a different global location every year. We have hosted conferences in Paris, Berlin, Oslo, Costa Rica, Hawaii, China, New Zealand, and South Africa.



Unlike events that emphasize lectures and presentations, HumanDHS events emphasize participation, conversation, and collaboration. Each meeting is designed to maximize the group's opportunity to engage in dialogue — a *Dignilogue* approach — to share research, describe projects, and discuss papers. But most of all it is about developing human-to-human connections that strengthen global understanding of the dynamics of humiliation and dignity.

## Turning Ideas into Action

Our work is realized through the deeds of dedicate members of our network who turn ideas into action. Over the last decade, our collaborative community has contributed to

the following achievements, which we share as a resource for all who are working for dignity in the world:

- **Website:** The HumanDHS website (<http://www.humiliationstudies.org>) is the world's leading source of information on "humiliation studies" according to the search engine Google. Our website is visited by people from more than 180 countries.

- **Newsletters:** HumanDHS reaches out to friends through the electronic newsletters and the electronic publication, Take a Look, which is sent to more than 5,000 subscribers around the world. Please see:

<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/publications/publications.php>

- **Education:** In 2011, HumanDHS launched the World Dignity University (WDU) initiative to bring dignity to learning, globally and locally. It recognizes that "Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights" (UNESCO). Its first step is to invite like-minded people to contribute to its *video library of ideas* of how to promote equal dignity throughout the world.

Please see more at:

<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/education/education.php>

- **Publishing:** Under the leadership of Ulrich Spalthoff, HumanDHS established Dignity Press (<http://www.dignitypress.org>) to publish books relevant to building dignity throughout the world, including:

- *Dignity Economy* – Evelin Lindner
- *The Pearl* – Ragnhild Nilsen
- *The Nurturing of Time Future* – Howard Richards
- *Rare Flower* – Ada Aharoni
- *Decolonizing Peace* – Victoria Fontan
- *Afghanistan* – Pierre Amal Kana (in French)
- *Gandhi and the Future of Economics* – Howard Richards
- *A Journey Through Turbulence* – Deepak Tripathi
- *Finding Cross-Cultural Common Ground* – Michael H. Prosser, Mansoureh Sharifzadeh, and Zhang Shengyong

- **Online Learning Partnership:** As a step toward developing courses for the WDU initiative, HumanDHS offers online graduate and professional courses through The



University of Massachusetts Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters called *Human Dignity, Human Rights, and Sustainable Post-Disaster Reconstruction*. It is the only course completely designed and taught by a team of instructors from the HumanDHS network! For more information, please visit:

[http://www.umb.edu/crscad/academic\\_programs/courses](http://www.umb.edu/crscad/academic_programs/courses)

- **Interventions:** HumanDHS is primarily grounded in academic work. However, we wish to bring academic work into "real life" through interventions that promote the use of appreciative and affirming approaches in interpersonal, intergroup, and international relations, interventions that encourage a sense of shared humanity, global community, and joint global responsibility. Please visit:

<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/intervention/intervention.php>

- **Research:** HumanDHS aims to increase understanding of the nature of the humiliation dynamic, destructive outcomes resulting from humiliating strategies and tactics, and factors contributing to its use in international affairs. We encourage and carry out research that increases awareness of and insights into the traps of humiliation, insights that subsequently give us the tools we need to co-create new practices, both globally and locally, that lead to sustainable peace and dignity for all. For more information, please see:

<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/research/research.php>



## Dignity in Every Step

The concept of equal dignity is expressed in the first sentence of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." In order to promote a community culture of equal dignity, HumanDHS has developed an approach based on three key tenets: (1) acknowledging the equality in dignity of all humans; (2) using appreciative enquiry as a method for cultivating dignifying dialogue; and (3) adhering to an ethic of walking the talk, which encourages all members of HumanDHS to develop dignifying relationships in all of their work.

## An Invitation to You

If you are able to join our network of friends, we invite you to look at the opportunities and collaborative activities on our website and let us know what you think, or let us know how you would like to get involved: [joinus@humiliationstudies.org](mailto:joinus@humiliationstudies.org)

*“To protect our planet for future generations, we need to hold hands in equal dignity and move toward a peaceful, sustainable, and richly diverse global community. Your knowledge, your experience, your creativity and inspiration is needed, whatever it might be, as without your help the journey to peace and sustainability would take so much longer.”*

~ **Evelin Lindner, Founding President**

See: <http://youtu.be/vqDYgRpcy94>



## HumanDHS Leadership

The leaders of HumanDHS strive to be the organizational *gardeners and guardians* who nurture the growth of all involved with the community's global efforts.

**Founding President Evelin Lindner, M.D., Ph.D. (Dr. med.), Ph.D. (Dr. psych.).** Dr. Lindner chooses to live as a world citizen to develop a global understanding of dignity. She is without a doubt the world's leading scholar on the experience of humiliation and humiliation theory.

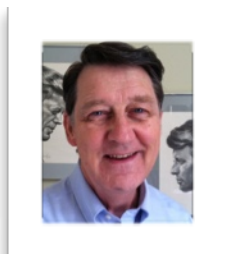


**Director Linda Hartling, Ph.D.,** conducted the earliest research assessing the experience of humiliation and is an expert on relational theory. She is the past Associate Director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, Boston, Massachusetts.



**Ulrich (Uli) Spalthoff, Ph.D.,** Director of Operations for Dignity Press and Director of Project Development and Systems Administration for Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies. He is the former Director of Advanced Technologies at Alcatel-Lucent in Germany and France.

**Michael Britton, Ed.D., Ph.D.,** Board Member, is a practicing psychologist and consultant who has lectured internationally on the implications of neuroscience for our global future. He provides training for conflict resolution specialists on applications of neuroscience to their efforts.



**Richard L. Slaven, Ph.D.,** Business Director. Until 2008, Rick Slaven was the business administrator of the Martin Fisher School of Physics at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. He holds a B.S. degree in Physics and Mathematics, a M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration.

### Board of Directors

Evelin G. Lindner (Founding President), Linda M. Hartling (Director), Richard Slaven (Business Director), Bertram Wyatt-Brown, Ulrich Spalthoff, Eric Van Grasdorff, Victoria C. Fontan, Maggie O'Neill, Grace Feuerverger, Arie Nadler, Michael Britton, Anne Wyatt-Brown, Donald C. Klein

Global Advisory Board  
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