

## Colloquium "Reimagining and Re-Enchanting Education"

Welcome to our collaborative colloquium hosted by the UN-affiliated University for Peace and the World Dignity University Initiative

June 6, 2023

### Description:

If we hope to create a more dignified, just, peaceful, livable world where all beings can thrive, we need to educate for it. This demands a reimagining of how we see the purpose of education, the systems and structures and learning processes we create to foster education, who we see as teachers, and where knowledge comes from and how learning happens.

In this interactive colloquium, we will hear from Stephanie Knox Steiner, Ph.D., assistant professor and coordinator of the Peace Education Master's Program at the United Nations-affiliated University for Peace in Costa Rica. Her presentation will be followed by responses from members of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies network, with room for audience reflection and comments to encourage continued dialogue.

This colloquium was introduced by HumanDHS Global Advisory Board Member Philip Brown, with Board Director Janet Gerson facilitating dialogue with distinguished contributors Chief Fonkem Achankeng I, Mara Alagic, Chipamong Chowdhury, Linda Hartling, and Evelin Lindner.

This was an interactive event exploring how education may be the most promising path toward a world of mutual dignity.

### Main Presentation:

**Stephanie Marie Knox Steiner, Ph.D.** is Assistant Professor and Academic Coordinator of the Peace Education programme at the University for Peace (UPEACE) affiliated with the United Nations. She earned her doctorate degree in the Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Ecopsychologies specialization from Pacifica Graduate Institute and holds a masters in Peace Education from the University for Peace. She has taught college-level courses on peace and conflict studies and developed peace and nonviolence education programs for organizations such as Teachers Without Borders and the Metta Center for Nonviolence. She co-founded and coordinates the Jill Knox Humor for Peace Fellowship programme, which offers professional development to peace studies scholars through the Humor Academy of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor with the intention of building peace through humor. She is a student of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, an ordained member of the Order of Interbeing, and a member of the Earth Holder Community caretaking council. Her teaching and research interests currently lie at the intersection of peace education, decolonial pedagogies, and unschooling/deschooling/self-directed education.

See:

Stephanie Steiner's dissertation titled *Decolonial, Pluriversal, Vitality-Centered Pedagogies: (Re)orienting Education Toward Serving Life*, especially the Abstract (p. iii), Decolonialization (p. 73); Decoloniality – Underlying Logic of the System That Leads to Colonialization (p. 79); Characteristics of

Decolonial Pedagogies (p. 102-117); and the sections on relationality (p. 276) and the conclusion – What’s Missing (p. 378) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ltKFhH-H1noHAesGMrhkSXpriHTTJQmR/view?ts=62a113d2>

### HumanDHS Panelists:

**Mara Alagic**, Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Belgrade, is a Professor in the School of Education and serves as the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Education in Learning and Instructional Design (LID) program at Wichita State University, USA, where she is also involved in the transdisciplinary [Disaster Resilience Analytics Center](#). She is Editor in Chief of the [Journal of Mathematics and the Arts](#), Taylor & Francis, UK. Her interest in developing intercultural communication and global learning competence has arisen from having taught internationally and in culturally diverse environments which led to co-authoring the book [Third Place Learning: Reflective Inquiry Into Intercultural & Global Cage Painting](#). Dr. Alagic’s most recent work is focused on Adaptive Scaffolding toward Transdisciplinary Collaboration, presented at the [Learning Ideas conference](#) (see Session 7A) NYC, USA. Also see: <https://www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/AlagicRimingtonDubrovnik16meetingBridgingUrbanDives.pdf>

**Bhante Revata (Chipamong Chowdhury)** is a Theravada monk, contemplative teacher, and storyteller. He teaches at the Chautauqua Institution NY. He also teaches online meditation and Dharma classes at AIC (Ambedkar International Center, Washington DC). He taught courses on “Contemporary Buddhism,” in European, American and Canadian Universities. His essays and writings have appeared in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, *Journal of Contemporary Buddhism*, *Buddhist Studies Reviews*, and *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, among other publications. He is a co-editor of the book: *Human Dignity: Practices, Discourses, and Transformations*. Originally from Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, he received traditional Buddhist education in Sri Lanka and Myanmar and also studied South Asian studies, religious studies and anthropology at the University of Toronto Canada, Arizona State University, Naropa University Colorado and was a Fellow at the Columbia University NY. Defining himself as a nomad monk or/ a global citizen, he travels extensively in North America, Europe and Asia, teaching nomad mindfulness, inner resources, active care, and human dignity. Bhante is a Member of the [HumanDHS Board of Directors](#)

See: The Crisis of Imagination is the Crisis of Dignity: (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYPr3qOrUxA>

**Fonkem Achankeng I**, Ph.D., a Hubert Humphrey International Fellow, is [Professor at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh](#). Dr. Fonkem is the traditional Ruler of Atoabechied in the former British Southern Cameroons and served as senior official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon for 12 years. He was also founder and executive director of the Association for Nonviolence, where he helped to introduce and moderate a third voice in Cameroon in the 1990s in the wake of a very polarized introduction of multiparty politics. Following an interdisciplinary approach, he has published more than 18 titles and presented his research in various regional, national, and international conferences. His research interests encompass peace and conflict studies; postcolonial nationalism and conflict; nonviolence; identity,

culture, and conflict; human and people’s rights; refugees, migration and human services; the working poor; aging; international mediation; crisis intervention in human services; and families with children with disabilities. He is the recipient of numerous awards for peace scholarship. Recent books are, *Nationalism & Intra-State Conflicts in the Postcolonial World* (Rowman & Littlefield of Lexington Books, 2015), *British Southern Cameroons: Nationalism & Conflict in Postcolonial Africa* (BC, Canada: FriesenPress, 2014) and *Crime, Second Chances, and Human Service* (2019). Just published is: *After the Rain Began, Ilishan-Remo* (Babcock University Press, 2023).

See the Introduction and Chapter 1:

[https://books.google.com/books?id=jTKODwAAQBAJ&pg=PA1&source=gb\\_s\\_toc\\_r&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=jTKODwAAQBAJ&pg=PA1&source=gb_s_toc_r&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false)

### Panel Moderator and Lead Discussant:

**Janet C. Gerson, Ed.D.**, is the recipient of the [2018 HumanDHS Lifetime Commitment Award](#). As a Board Member of HDHS network, Janet co-hosts Dignity Now circles in New York City since 2015. She is the Education Director, [International Institute on Peace Education \(IIPE\)](#), and Co-Director Emeritus, Peace Education Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a political theorist, writer, artist, and activist educator specializing in peace education, conflict processes, transformative learning, creativity, and futures envisioning. Janet Gerson works internationally as a consultant, program designer, mediator, presenter, and educator. She has served as a consultant for the UN University of Peace in Costa Rica, UNIFEM, Community-based Institutes on Peace Education (CIPE), and the Global Campaign on Peace Education (GCPE). She organized and ran a month-long training for the Afghan Institute of Learning at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her current writing is on paradigm shifts for ecological peace and understanding justice as relational and rooted in dignity. Her recent publications: “The Door in the Rock”, Re-Enchantment Issue, *Peace Chronicles*, (Spring 2023); “Restorative Justice & Alternative Systems” *Encyclopedia of Nonviolence, Conflict & Peace*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (2022), (Ed.) Lester Kurtz; “Reclaiming Common Bases of Dignity” in *Human Dignity: Practices, Discourses, and Transformations* (Eds., Chowdhury, Britton & Hartling, 2020).

See: <http://www.infactispax.org/volume7dot2/gerson.pdf> and *Reclaimative Post-Conflict Justice: Democratizing Justice in the World Tribunal on Iraq* (2021) co-authored with Dale Snauwaert.

### Hosts:

**Linda Hartling, Ph.D.**, is the Director of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies (HumanDHS) and contributes to the leadership and development of workshops, conferences, [Dignity Press](#) publications, and the [World Dignity University initiative](#). She works in daily collaboration with HumanDHS Founding President Evelin Lindner and is the orchestrator and key creator of the [Dignity Letter](#). Until November 3, 2008, Linda Hartling was the Associate Director of the [Jean Baker Miller Training Institute \(JBMTI\)](#) at the Stone Center, which is part of the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. She worked closely with Jean Baker Miller, MD, and other colleagues on the development of Relational-Cultural Theory, which is a new model of psychological development. Dr. Hartling holds a doctoral degree in clinical/community psychology and has published papers on resilience, substance abuse prevention, shame and humiliation, relational practice in the workplace, and Relational-Cultural Theory.

**Philip Brown**, Ph.D., is a member of the HumanDHS Global Advisory Board and serves as a Coach for the National School Climate Center and President of the [International Center for Assault Prevention](#). He established and directed the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University and served for more than 25 years in various policy and program management positions in the Pennsylvania State Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education, where he created the first professional educational credential in the U.S. in the substance abuse prevention field. Early in his career he served in the Peace Corps in India and conducted training for the Peace Corps following his service. Recent publications include being guest editor for a special issue of the Indian journal, *Experiments in Education on Humiliation in the Educational Setting* which grew directly out of the HDHS Network, at the invitation from Evelin Lindner. He co-edited and authored [\*The Handbook of Prosocial Education\*](#), (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012).

See also:

- Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies: <https://www.humiliationstudies.org/>
- World Dignity University initiative: <https://www.worlddignityuniversity.org/>
- UN-affiliated University of Peace, Costa Rica: <https://www.upeace.org/>
- Dignity Press: <https://www.dignitypress.org/>
- Information about HumanDHS/WDUi December Workshop (email): [workshops@humiliationstudies.org](mailto:workshops@humiliationstudies.org)
- Signup for HumanDHS/WDUi [Email](#)