

## Elements of humiliation-shame dynamics for computational modeling and analysis of real-life scenarios<sup>1</sup>

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Note prepared for the "Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict," November 18-19, 2004, at Columbia University, NY

The following reciprocally influencing variables allow for modeling as well as real-life analysis of events, both dyadic (relational) and collective (political), where humiliation dynamics are at play. Each variable requires a representation – rule (if A, then X) or function (0,1) or constant (k)-- in different combinations to develop algorithms for modeling/simulation purposes and a rather complex operationalization for the analysis of a given event. (Variables III, VIII, IX, and X affect only the intensity of the effect, not the direction of the dynamics.)

(I)

- Internalizing personal style of victim
- Externalizing personal style of victim

*The more internalizing, the more the experience of shame, while the more externalizing, the more the experience of humiliation*

(II)

- Without witness
- With hostile/neutral witness
- With friendly/empathic witness

*(In absence of witness, other variables control outcome)*

*Hostile/neutral witness of event increase shame, while friendly/empathic witness increase humiliation and hostility to source.*

(III)

- Low perceived proportionality between behavior of victim and action of perpetrator
- High perceived proportionality between behavior of victim and action of perpetrator

*The lower the perceived proportion, the more intense the effect*

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(IV)

- Isolated event
- Repetitive event

*The more repetitive the event, the more the shame and the difficulty to change mode.*

(V)

- Isolated victim
- Collective victim

*The more isolated the victim, the more likely the shame and the more difficult to change mode.*

(VI)

- Despair in co-victims
- Solidarity in co-victims

*Weakness/despair in co-victims spreads despair and shame while strength/ solidarity spreads humiliation and revenge*

(VII)

- High risk entailed in grievance
- Low risk entailed in grievance

*The higher the risk, the more likely to internalize into shame*

(VIII)

- Quick drop of legitimization
- Slow, progressive drop of legitimization

*The quicker the delegitimization of the victim(s), the more intense the effect*

(IX)

- Crisis/stress context prior to or concurrent with event
- No crisis/stress context

*The presence of a prior/concurrent crisis/stress increases the intensity of the effect of the even/rhetoric*

(X) –applicable only in political/organizational events-

- Risk-taking leader
- Risk-averse leader

*If in political/collective context, the more risk-taking the leader, the more the likelihood of humiliation and enactment of revenge*

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