

Subject: Guest Talk: Gender, Humiliation, & Global Security, with Evelin Lindner, Wednesday, 12/8, 4-5:30pm

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To: "TC Community" <abcdTeachersCollege@exchange.tc.columbia.edu>



Dr. [Evelin Lindner](#), Founding President of [Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies](#), will speak about honor, dignity, and humiliation as themes that are salient at the individual micro level, as much as at the macro level, and that have a profound connection with the gender dimension. From domestic violence and bullying in schools to the economic crisis and global terrorism, honor and dignity, and the burning sense of humiliation that is felt at their violation, are involved in many ways and on many levels. What makes Lindner's approach particularly interesting is that she uses a large-scale geo-historical lens to understand these dynamics.

The human rights ideal of equality in dignity for all represents a profound historical shift in the ways humiliation is being defined and felt. It is crucial for academics and practitioners in many fields, from conflict resolution at the individual level, to public policy planning at the global level, to have a deep understanding of how people feel. A particularly stark example is honor killing: on the one hand there is appreciation of the need to defend humiliated family honor, and on the other, belief that taking the life of a family member represents a case of double humiliation, rather than a remedy. To even include this example here, may have humiliating effects. As a way out of this conundrum, which is replicated in myriad variants and in otherwise diverse contexts throughout the world, Lindner advocates the principle of unity in diversity, the "Gandhi way" of respecting-but-not-appeasing, or the "Mandela way" of understanding-but-not-condoning.

[Evelin Lindner](#)

is a transdisciplinary social scientist and humanist, in a wide range of fields from neuroscience to political science and philosophy. She holds two Ph.D.s, one in medicine and the other in psychology. She is the Founding President of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies, a global network of academics and practitioners (HumanDHS), and a professor at the upcoming World Dignity University. Lindner lives and teaches globally, affiliated, among others, with Columbia University in New York, the University of Oslo, Norway, and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in

Paris.

In 1996, she designed her doctoral research project on the concept of humiliation and its role in war and genocide. German history served as starting point. It is often assumed that the humiliation of the Germans through the Versailles Treaties after World War I was partly responsible for World War II and the Holocaust. It seemed therefore important to understand the nature of humiliation and how it is related to the occurrence of war and mass violence.

>From 1997-2001, Lindner carried out this research, interviewing over 200 people who were either implicated in or knowledgeable about the mass killings in Rwanda, Somalia, and Nazi Germany. Since 2001, Lindner has developed HumanDHS as an international platform for further work on dignity and humiliation. She continues with her personal research and is working on a theory of humiliation. Her research indicates that, indeed, dynamics of honor, dignity, and humiliation may be at the core of not only terrorism, war, and genocide, but also of global social and ecological unsustainability. Understanding the role of humiliation is crucial if the world community is to succeed in overcoming the crises it currently faces.

Lindner is the author of [*Making Enemies: Humiliation and International Conflict*](#) (Praeger, 2006; foreword by [Morton Deutsch](#), Professor Emeritus of Teachers College), characterized as path-breaking and honored as a *Choice* 2007 Outstanding Academic Title; [*Emotion and Conflict: How Human Rights Can Dignify Emotion and Help Us Wage Good Conflict*](#) (Praeger, 2009; foreword by Morton Deutsch); and [*Gender, Humiliation, and Global Security: Dignifying Relationships from Love, Sex, and Parenthood to World Affairs*](#) (Praeger, 2010; foreword by Archbishop [Desmond Mpilo Tutu](#)).

Following her guest talk, Dr. Lindner will conduct a two day workshop, [*Transforming Humiliation and Violent Conflict*](#), starting December 9th. Further details about the workshop can be found at [Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies](#) or by contacting [Evelin Lindner](#).

Where: 306 Russell

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