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**The Dignity of the Commons: Re-imagining Life Experiences from the Poor & Homeless to
International Politics**

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Abstract

Ubuntu, the African thought that “I am because you are,” which forms the basis of our work in the human dignity and humiliation framework requires that as a human value we all care, share, and respect one another. Unfortunately, in most of the globe other considerations are prioritized in the everyday relationships between individuals, groups, and even nation-states. This paper examines the daily experiences and their motivations in a global world from the standpoint of the perceptions and meaning(s) of human dignity to different people and different societies. On the basis of a universal psychology of human values, I argue that different values and interests appear to be dominant in human relationships and question the meaning of human dignity to different people and different societies. The methodology incorporates stories of everyday life in the relationships between individuals, groups, and nation-states. I make the claim that achieving global dignity will require reimagining a world in which we see the 'humanity of others' in our relationships, a world in which 'I am what I am because of who we all are.' The recommendation will be to assess the generalizability of human dignity as a value found in different societies.

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