

## *Ubuntu, Dignity, and Humiliation*

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### Abstract

This paper locates the ethics of *ubuntu*, the African notion of interdependence and human intersubjectivity, within the discourse of dignity and humiliation (Waddell, 2005). I use recognition ethics theory, or the Hegelian idea of (*Anerkennung*) (Williams, 1998; Ricoeur, 2005), as a starting point for a conversation about how recognition of difference can strengthen multiculturalism (Taylor, 1992, 1994) and redistribution (Fraser & Honneth, 2003) to the end of reducing humiliation and shame and buttressing dignity. I argue that incorporating Africanist and other and non-Western ideologies into the discourse both complicates Western notions of shame and humiliation and broadens the circle of inclusion to the end of democratizing the study of humiliation and promotion of human dignity.

### Bibliography

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