



Research Office

[Research Office home](#) | [About](#) | [News & funding opportunities](#) | [A-Z list](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Search](#)

RESEARCH GRANT
MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT

NRF RATINGS

PUBLICATION
COUNT

STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES

RESEARCH
COMMITTEES

RESEARCH
REPORTS

RESEARCH
INFORMATION

CALENDAR

[News](#) [Current news](#)

News

Current news

Adjust text size [A](#) [A A](#) | [Print](#)

[Funding opportunities](#)

[Current news](#)

[News archives](#)

[Research Bulletin](#)

News main

[Subscribe to RSS](#)

The House is burning – time to commit to Transdisciplinary research

11 July 2013



Evelin Lindner argues that in the context of looming planetary disaster evident in global warming and associated processes, radical thinking and action is required. For her, transdisciplinary thinking is a political imperative, necessary to address forces that are threatening the planet. Among these forces are practices of humiliation which impair the dignity of people and are a major aspect of direct and structural violence at the personal and social levels, including their ecological effects.

Evelin Lindner presented a PERC seminar on "Dignity & Humiliation Studies: Interdisciplinary Research in Practice" on 04 July at the Research Office. Evelin is attached to several universities around the globe, among them the University of Oslo, has two doctorates (medicine and psychology) and has written extensively in this emergent field. Her first book *Making Enemies: Humiliation and International Conflict* (2006) was honoured as "Outstanding Academic Title" by the journal *Choice* for 2007 in the USA. She has subsequently written three other books: *Emotion and Conflict* (2009), *Gender, Humiliation, and Global Security* (2010) and *A Dignity Economy* (2012).

Lindner takes inspiration from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." She is the Founding President of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies (HumanDHS, www.humiliationstudies.org), a global transdisciplinary fellowship of concerned academics and practitioners who promote dignity and transcend humiliation. She also co-founded the World Dignity University initiative (www.worlddignity.org), which includes Dignity Press and World Dignity University Press (www.dignitypress.org). These constitute an innovative learning organization that builds knowledge by tapping into the intellectual wisdom of an inclusive global community to study the dynamics of dignity and humiliation as a focus for educational efforts.

Lindner suggests that learning based on equal dignity and realised through 'right relationships' is not only a promising approach to interrupting cycles of humiliation, it may be a path to building knowledge that will help humankind survive on this planet. In order to develop this pedagogy, people will have to embrace transdisciplinary modes of thinking.

[Click here to view video coverage of this seminar.](#)

[back to top](#)

© University of Cape Town 2013. All rights reserved.