

## **Humiliation and Displaced Identity**

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My discussion will focus on the issue of destructive conflict and its relevance to Humiliation, Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma and Displaced Identity. I will discuss how this relevance may have affected children whose fathers fought in the Vietnam War. My research asks the question "Did children of combat soldiers experience humiliation, and if so, was it transmitted to them as a result of the humiliation experienced by their fathers return from Vietnam? Also, if humiliation was in fact transmitted to children of combat soldiers then how may it have also displaced their social and personal identity?"

1. Humiliation is relevant to children whose fathers have fought in the Vietnam War because for many of these children it is critical to understand the shame they sometimes feel in identifying their fathers as Vietnam Veterans. It is also critical for them to understand humiliation and the war related conflict experienced by their fathers.
2. Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma is an area of research, which I hope will give insight into how humiliation may have influenced children of combat soldiers. The relevance of such trauma on these children may also have affected their ability to identify how the social humiliation and shame of their fathers may have been passed down to their generation.
3. Displaced Identity is when the description of ones identity is hinged upon the described identity of another. I propose that the identity of children of combat soldiers have been displaced in that many of them are not able to express their identity separate from that of their fathers.

The importance of this topic discussion is to understand the possibility that children of combat soldiers may have experienced humiliation through Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma. I hope that this discussion generates new ways and ideas of creating emotional support to these children in reconstructing their identity.

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Annette Anderson-Engler is a doctoral student in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Her research focuses on humiliation and displaced identity in children of combat soldiers. She is currently researching the link between children of Vietnam Veterans and humiliation as it relates to the displacement of their identity. This research will critically examine the issue of

transgenerational transmission of trauma between the identity of post war combat soldiers and their children.

Prior to continuing on to the Ph.D. program at Nova Southeastern University, Annette was first awarded her Masters degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. She also received her BSW in social work from the University of North Texas. She is currently a member of Association of Conflict Resolution and Amnesty International.