How Humiliation and Shame May Undermine Education Reform Efforts

Nicholas Kappelhof

Note prepared for the 2006 Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, Columbia University, New York, December 14-15, 2006.

Nicholas Kappelhof is an Ed.M. student at Teachers College in the department of Organization and Leadership. His concentration is in public school leadership with a specific concern for urban school reform. For the past five years he has taught English Language Arts grades 7-12 in Brooklyn and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Nicholas comes to this workshop looking to explore how issues of humiliation and shame may undermine contemporary education reform efforts and how a greater sense of dignity can be cultivated in struggling urban communities through compassionate educational opportunities.