



Forlagshuset Aschehoug
Universitetsforlaget AS
Sehesteds gate 3
Postboks 508 sentrum
0105 Oslo
"Idunn-prisen 2001".

Date: 2. april 2001

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
Dr. med. Evelin Gerda Lindner
Cross-cultural social psychologist, and Physician
P.O.B. 1094, Blindern
N-0317 Oslo
Eilert Sundts hus, 7th fl.
Moltke Moes vei 31

Idunns pris

Jeg vil gjerne sende dere forslag for et bokprosjekt med tittel *A White Woman Alone in Africa - Innovative Fieldwork* som også kan være nettbasert. Boken/webversjonen kan være på engelsk og norsk.

Lars Klemsdal, sosiolog, ved Universitet i Oslo, skrev til meg: 'Det jeg ønsker er å lese en reiseberetning av en kvinne som reiser gjennom krigsherjede land, og som på sin reise møter ulike mennesker og deres skjebner. Reisen er en historie som består av mange små og store historier. Disse historiene er dine møter med menneskene og hva de forteller om sine skjebner og hva du opplever når du møter disse skjebnene.

Samtidig er du som reiser en forsker. Du er på jakt med dine spørsmål, for å samle informasjon til et vitenskapelig prosjekt. Menneskene og historiene du møter som menneske, møter du også som forsker med den hensikt å skaffe denne informasjonen (i mer eller mindre grad; jeg går utfra at møtene dine var både mer og mindre motivert av ditt forskningsprosjekt). Gjennom denne siden av historiene møter du problemer knyttet til selve forskningsprosessen, både av praktisk, metodologisk, etisk, antropologisk og psykologisk art. Og mange erfaringer som kan legges til grunn for refleksjoner over disse problemene, refleksjoner over metodeproblemer av mer generell art.

Boken har således to sammenflettede aspekter: Reisen til en kvinne, som reiser som forsker. Som forsker er reisen en jakt etter svar på dine vitenskapelige spørsmål. Som kvinne/menneske er reisen også en annen jakt. Det vet jo ikke jeg noe om, men at historien bør formidles personlig og at hovedpersonen i beretningen bør være deg, er jeg helt viss på.

Lars'

Siden forskningsprosjektet som er bakgrunn av bokprosjektet ble skrevet på engelsk, tar jeg meg frihet til å fortsette på engelsk:

I would like to give you a short summary of the research on humiliation accomplished in the last four years. The project breaks new ground, among others, in its effort to be truly interdisciplinary, incorporating in its methodology aspects not only of cultural psychology, social psychology and anthropology, but also history, philosophy and even literary analysis. Furthermore, it features an unusual specific methodology, a reflective approach to interviewing that avoids humiliating interlocutors. The research essentially weaves a kind of tapestry around the central theme of humiliation in its many manifestations (some obvious, but some rather subtle and non-obvious) in three different genocides involving three very different cultures.

The project had the title 'The Feeling of Being Humiliated: A Central Theme in Armed Conflicts. A Study of the Role of Humiliation in Somalia, and Rwanda/Burundi, Between the Warring Parties, and in Relation to Third Intervening Parties.' 216 qualitative interviews have been carried out by the researcher,



addressing Somalia, Rwanda and Burundi and their history of genocidal killings, on the background of the Holocaust perpetrated in Hitler's Germany. From 1998 to 1999 the interviews were carried out in Africa (in Hargeisa, capital of Somaliland, in Kigali and other places in Rwanda, in Bujumbura, capital of Burundi, in Nairobi in Kenya, and in Cairo in Egypt), and from 1997 to 2001 also in Europe (in Norway, Germany, Switzerland, France, and in Belgium).

The humiliation project has been financed and supported by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and the Norwegian Research Council. It has been conducted at the Department of Psychology at the University of Oslo.

I have submitted a doctoral thesis (31st October 2000) that is entitled "The Psychology of Humiliation: Somalia, Rwanda / Burundi, and Hitler's Germany" to the University of Oslo. I am also writing a book, together with Dennis Smith, sociology professor at Loughborough University in England, entitled 'Globalisation and Humiliation,' highlighting the humiliating aspects brought about by current mechanisms of globalisation; a Handbook for the United Nations and International Organizations highlighting the importance of humiliation, especially learning about the pitfalls of unintended humiliation and how to avoid it; and 'World house'- A Vision for the Future. Several other book projects and plans for articles wait for realisation.

Among the articles written for this project and submitted to academic journals during this year and last year are the following (some pieces are published, others accepted and under revision, others under review):

1. Humiliation and the Human Condition: Mapping a Minefield (Human Rights Review in October 2001, 2/2, 46-63)
2. What Every Negotiator Ought to Know: Understanding Humiliation (under review)
3. The 'Framing Power' of International Organizations, and the Cost of Humiliation (under review)
4. Humiliation, human rights, and global corporate responsibility (under review)
5. Humiliation and Rationality in International Relations. The Role of Humiliation in North Korea, Rwanda, Somalia, Germany, and the Global Village (under review)
6. Recognition or humiliation - The Psychology of Intercultural Communication (paper presented at the ISSEI Millennium conference 'Approaching a New Millennium: Lessons from the Past - Prospects for the Future,' the 7th conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, Bergen, Norway from 14th to 18th August, later submitted to a journal, in referee process)
7. Humiliation - the Worst Form of Trauma: An Analysis Based on Fieldwork in Germany, Rwanda / Burundi, and Somalia (under review)
8. How Humiliation Creates Cultural Differences and Political Divisions: The Psychology of Intercultural Communication Germany and Somalia as Cases (under review)
9. How Research Can Humiliate: Critical Reflections On Method (under review)
10. Social Constructionism, Logical Positivism, and the Story of Humiliation (under review)



11. The Concept of Humiliation: Its Universal Core and Culture-Dependent Periphery (under review)
12. The Anatomy of Humiliation and Its Relational Character (under review)
13. Humiliation in the Flesh. Honour Is “FACE,” Arrogance Is “NOSE UP,” and Humiliation Is “TO BE PUT DOWN” (under review)
14. Humiliation, Rape and Love: Force and Fraud in the Erogenous Zones (under review)
15. How Globalisation Transforms Gender Relations: The Changing Face of Humiliation (under review)
16. Gendercide and Humiliation in Honour and Human-Rights Societies (in the process of being published in Journal of Genocide Research)
17. Were Ordinary Germans Hitler’s ‘Willing Executioners’? Or Were They Victims of Humiliating Seduction and Abandonment? The Case of Germany and Somalia, IDEA: A Journal of Social Issues in 2000, volume 5, number 1, <http://www.ideajournal.com/lindner-willing-executioners.html>)
18. Love, Holocaust, and Humiliation. The German Holocaust and the Genocides in Rwanda and Somalia (published in Norske leger mot atomvåpen, 1999)
19. Hitler, Shame and Humiliation: The Intricate Web of Feelings Among the German Population Towards Hitler (published in Norske leger mot atomvåpen, 2000)
20. Were the Germans Hitler’s ‘Willing Executioners’? (published in Norske leger mot atomvåpen, 2000)
21. Were Hitler and Siad Barre ‘Robin Hoods’ Who Felt Humiliated by Their Own Followers? (published in Norske leger mot atomvåpen, 2001)

Apart from writing articles and a thesis, I have presented the project in various settings, from seminars to radio programmes; see a list on <http://www.ub.uio.no/ubit/forskdok/> (search for Lindner, Evelin).

Jeg håper at bok prosjektet møter deres interesse og takker for veldig spennende Idunns initiativ!

Mange vennlige hilsener

Evelin