**Dignity, Face and Honour Cultures: An International Study**

The purpose of the questionnaire that you completed was to investigate differences in the ways that individuals from different parts of the world handle everyday situations. Researchers have suggested that we can learn more about this by contrasting the importance that people give to different sets of values, which have been summarised in terms of dignity, face and honour. In cultural groups where dignity is especially valued, a major priority is to conduct oneself in ways that uphold one's personal standards for good behaviour. In cultural groups where face is especially valued, a major priority is to uphold harmonious relations with those to whom one is close. In cultural groups where honour is especially valued, a major priority is to behave in ways that uphold the reputation and honour of one's group. Of course these types of values are important to all people, but there are differences of emphasis between individuals and between cultural groups.

The first part of this questionnaire examined reactions to difficult situations. When challenged by threats to dignity, do persons from dignity cultures more often report feeling bad? When challenged by threats to face, do persons from face cultures more often feel bad, and when challenged by threats to honour, do persons from honour cultures more often feel bad? Do the situations that are found to be challenging themselves a reflection of the type of culture in which they occur?

The next part of the questionnaire looks at whether saving one's own face or the face of others varies across dignity, face and honour culture types as well as the relationship between these factors and how depressed one feels and one's self-esteem.

The final sections examine what is known as the 'social cure' hypothesis. Does belonging to many groups protect one from depression and low self-esteem? How do variations in sources of social support, the strength of local norms and the possibility of moving between groups enhance or undermine the social cure? Do they have different effects on depression and self-esteem in dignity, face and honour cultures?

This study is being conducted among students in around 25 nations, sampled in order to highlight the contrast between dignity, face and honour. Canada and other Western nations are considered to be exemplars of dignity cultures, and we are testing the extent to which the results confirm this characterisation. Data collection at all of the sites is not yet completed, so that we have only provisional results. These indicate that the predicted contrasts between samples favouring dignity, honour and face are supported when using the various measures included within the survey.

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