

*Interdisciplinary
Perspectives on*

HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Edited by

**HODA MAHMOUDI
MICHAEL L. PENN**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES
ON HUMAN DIGNITY AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

EDITED BY

HODA MAHMOUDI AND MICHAEL L. PENN



United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2020

Copyright © 2020 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78973-822-3 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-78973-821-6 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-78973-823-0 (Epub)



ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Contents

About the Contributors	vii
Introduction <i>Hoda Mahmoudi</i>	1
Section One – Theory/Discourse	
Chapter 1 Universal Consciousness of Human Dignity <i>Hoda Mahmoudi</i>	17
Chapter 2 Toward a Principle of Human Dignity <i>Suheil Bushrui</i>	27
Chapter 3 Reframing Human Dignity <i>Michael Karlberg</i>	35
Chapter 4 Promoting Human Rights and Human Dignity in an Axial Age <i>Michael L. Penn and Tri Nguyen</i>	49
Chapter 5 How Does Dignity Ground Human Rights? <i>Jack Donnelly</i>	61
Section Two – Practice/Action	
Chapter 6 Honor-based Violence in Pakistan and Its Eradication through the Development of Cultural and Jurisprudential Ethos of Human Dignity <i>Sania Anwar</i>	71
Chapter 7 (In)Dignity via (Mis)Representation: Politics, Power, and Documentary Film <i>Justin de Leon</i>	103

Chapter 8 Dignifying Education: The Emergence of Teachers as Transcultural Messengers <i>Barbara Finkelstein</i>	131
Chapter 9 Cultivating Human Rights by Nurturing Altruism and a Life of Service: Integrating UN Sustainable Development Goals into School Curricula <i>Michael J. Haslip and Michael L. Penn</i>	151
Afterword <i>Michael L. Penn</i>	175
<i>Index</i>	179

About the Contributors

Editors

Hoda Mahmoudi has held the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland, College Park since 2012. As Chair, she studies structural racism, gender equality, global governance, and globalization and the environment. As Director of this endowed academic program, Professor Mahmoudi collaborates with a wide range of scholars, researchers, and practitioners to advance interdisciplinary analysis and open discourse on global peace. Before joining the University of Maryland Faculty, Professor Mahmoudi served as Coordinator of the Research Department at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa, Israel. Prior to that, Dr Mahmoudi was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern Illinois University, where she was also a Faculty Member in the Department of Sociology. Professor Mahmoudi is Co-editor of *Children and Globalization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2019).

Michael L. Penn is a Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Psychology at Franklin & Marshall College. His research interests and publications explore the application of psychological research and theory to human rights, the interpenetration of psychology and philosophy, and the epidemiology of gender-based violence.

Contributing Authors

Sania Anwar, J.D., is the Chief Executive Officer of Global Scholars Project, Inc., a non-profit organization which develops educational opportunities for young girls in remote areas of Pakistan. She has given talks in Pakistan and in the US on topics related to law and human dignity. She is also an Attorney and prior to private practice served as a Judicial Appellate Clerk at the Colorado Court of Appeals. She resides in New York City.

The late **Suheil Bushrui** was a distinguished author, poet, and translator whose extensive publications in both English and Arabic brought him renown as an authority on W.B. Yeats and Kahlil Gibran. Over the long arc of his six-decade career, he taught at leading universities in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and North America. In 2015, Suheil Bushrui retired as Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland, where he had founded and directed two endowed peace chairs and taught an award-winning course on the Spiritual Heritage of the Human Race.

Justin de Leon, Ph.D., is a Researcher with Vanderbilt University's *Global Feminism Research Collaborative* and was previously a full-time Lecturer at UC San Diego teaching courses on race, gender, and critical media production. De Leon served as Director of the 2018 Pilot Program for the Native Film and Storytelling Institute, a residential program combining feminist and Indigenous approaches to storytelling and representation with professional filmmaking. His most recent film collaboration, *More Than a Word* (2018), is a documentary on native mascots in professional sports.

Jack Donnelly is the Andrew Mellon Professor in the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He has written extensively on the theory and practice of human rights, including *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (3rd ed., Cornell University Press, 2013).

Barbara Finkelstein is Professor Emerita, Distinguished-Scholar Teacher, and Founding Director of the International Center for Transcultural Education at the University of Maryland. She is a Cultural Historian who has received an array of prestigious awards and fellowships for work that examines the historical and transcultural dimensions of education policies, processes, and practices as they impinge on the lives of children, youth, and minority groups, shaping the quality of education available to them.

Michael J. Haslip, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Drexel University. His research investigates how to develop the character strengths of teachers and children. Previously, he has explored how teachers can use positive guidance strategies to improve children's social-emotional learning and improve teacher-child relationships. At Drexel, he coordinates the expansion of the early childhood program. He is a former first- and second-grade teacher.

Michael Karlberg is a Professor of Communication Studies at Western Washington University. He examines prevailing conceptions of human nature, power, social organization, and social change – and their implications for the pursuit of peace and justice. His book *Beyond the Culture of Contest* (George Ronald, 2014) examines the consequences of organizing social institutions as contests of power. He is working on a second book reconciling perennial tensions between truth and relativism, as well as knowledge and power.

Tri Nguyen is a Doctoral Candidate in Psychology at Arizona State University. His current research explores the effect of modern technologies on human cognition and perception.