

Contents

I.	Introduction: From canine genetics to the taming of the shrew	1
	The construction of Underdog Shame	7
	Shame – an emotion?	9
	What is social constructionism?	13
	i. There is no shame without words and other linguistic attributions	18
	ii. Greek versus modern social stratification of shame	21
	iii. Shame is a product of social interaction	23
	What is a belief?	27
II.	The Aristocrat and the Underdog	
	– Two kinds of shame in Jane Austen's Emma	41
III.	What is an emotion?	61
	Problems in demarcation of class boundaries	63
	Impending conceptual and scientific reductions	71
	How many emotions are there?	74
	A case in point: Anger as an umbrella term	77
	Physiological or mad anger	80
	Object-hungry anger	82
	Anger as a disposition or character trait	89
	Anger as an attitude	90
	An angry mood	91
	Emotions – an issue for philosophers?	94
IV.	How does one know what shame is?	
	Epistemology, emotions, and forms of life in juxtaposition	99
	Reactions to a picture of shaming	100
	The inner and the outer	104
	The social construction of shame	106
	Knowledge is formed by social identity	109
	The definition of experience	113
	Feminist knowledge claims spring from Erfahrung	122
V.	Guilt and shame: Distinctions and similarities	124
	Confession	128
	Responsibility	131
	Morality	136

VI. Feelings are “patterns in the weave of our life”	
– not the basis for a feminist epistemology	140
The societal character of shame	141
A quest for a rehabilitation of the emotions	143
Private experiences versus life experiences	144
Private experiences versus public knowledge	147
A reiteration of the subjectivist fallacy of foundationalism	148
Ambiguities as to the epistemological role	151
Grief—an episodic emotion or a pattern in the weave of a life?	154
Fiction may help where ordinary words fail	156
What a picture can tell	158
VII. The social distribution of self-respect	161
Unconditioned self-respect	163
The distinction between self-respect and self-esteem	166
Moral and nonmoral self-esteem	171
The partiality to moral self-evaluation	173
Self-respect – accumulated self-esteem	177
Parental praise and self-esteem	180
Self-esteem in public education	182
Low-grade discrimination and self-esteem	187
Shame – the inversion of self-respect	189
References	193