



Exploring the Mediating Role of Pride and Shame of Place on Place-Based Constructs and Self-Esteem in European and African Adolescent Samples

Thomas Albers, Silvia Ariccio, Silvia Cataldi, Norby Paul, Johnson Mavole, Marino Bonaiuto¹

Abstract

Introduction: In environmental psychology, the emotions of pride and shame related to place have received limited attention. This paper presents findings from two studies conducted in European and African contexts. The aim was to address a research gap by examining the mediating role of pride and shame in place attachment, place identity, and place connectedness, with individual self-esteem as the outcome.

Method: Study 1 (n=182) took place in Ireland, Italy, and Portugal, while study 2 (n=120) was conducted in Kenya. Adolescent students completed standardized scales.

Results: Nine mediation models were tested, with place identity, place connectedness, and place attachment as predictors. Authentic pride of place showed significant mediation in Study 1, and Study 2 confirmed this finding while also identifying three significant models for hubristic pride. Shame of place partially mediated the relationship between place connectedness and self-esteem.

Conclusion: The significant mediation models highlight the understudied yet impactful role of pride and shame of place in people-place processes. Cultural differences may influence emotional attributes, as evidenced by the divergent outcomes observed in both studies.

Keywords: pride of place, shame of place, place attachment, place identity, self-esteem

¹ Thomas Albers, Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy; Anatta Foundation, Aalten, the Netherlands; thomas@anattafoundation.org. Silvia Ariccio, Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy; Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Silvia Cataldi, Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy. Norby Paul, CUEA University – Catholic University of Eastern Africa - Kenya; De Paul Institute of Science and Technology, India. Johnson Mavole, CUEA University – Catholic University of Eastern Africa - Kenya; St. Augustine University of Tanzania – Tanzania. Marino Bonaiuto, Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy; CIRPA – Interuniversity Research Centre of Environmental Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.

Riassunto

Introduzione: Nella psicologia ambientale, le emozioni di orgoglio e vergogna legate al luogo hanno ricevuto scarsa attenzione. Questo articolo presenta i risultati di due studi condotti in contesti europei e africani. L'obiettivo era quello di colmare una lacuna nella ricerca esaminando il ruolo mediatore dell'orgoglio e della vergogna nell'attaccamento al luogo, nell'identità del luogo e nella connessione con il luogo, con l'autostima individuale come risultato.

Metodo: lo studio 1 (n=182) è stato condotto in Irlanda, Italia e Portogallo, mentre lo studio 2 (n=120) è stato condotto in Kenya. Gli studenti adolescenti hanno compilato scale standardizzate.

Risultati: sono stati testati nove modelli di mediazione, con l'identità del luogo, la connessione al luogo e l'attaccamento al luogo come predittori. L'orgoglio autentico per il luogo ha mostrato una mediazione significativa nello studio 1, e lo studio 2 ha confermato questo risultato, identificando anche tre modelli significativi per l'orgoglio arrogante. La vergogna per il luogo ha mediato parzialmente la relazione tra la connessione al luogo e l'autostima.

Conclusioni: I modelli di mediazione significativi evidenziano il ruolo poco studiato ma influente dell'orgoglio e della vergogna del luogo nei processi che coinvolgono le persone e il luogo. Le differenze culturali possono influenzare gli attributi emotivi, come dimostrano i risultati divergenti osservati in entrambi gli studi.

Parole chiave: orgoglio del luogo, vergogna del luogo, attaccamento al luogo, identità del luogo, autostima

■ 1. Introduction

In environmental psychology and, more specifically, in the research field of people-place bonds, the role of pride and shame has received very little attention. Pride and shame of place are the emotions that people can have for the place they identify or associate themselves with (Bonaiuto et al., 2020). Twigger-Ross & Uzzell (1996) have made some notion of pride in their marking research. Similar notions were made by Brown, Perkins, & Brown (2003) and Bonaiuto, Breakwell and Cano (1996), however, no one has systematically researched the working mechanisms of pride in relation to place. Shame of place, on the other hand, has minimally and exclusively been studied in relation to the transgression of social norms by local in-group members (e.g., Piff et al., 2012), or a kind of social injustice that characterises the place (Peacock, 2012)2012. Consequently, there is hardly any empirical evidence or theories of what pride and shame of place are, how they develop and what their consequences are for people-place bonds and for people's individual well-being. The aim of this paper is thus to investigate, in samples from different countries, the relationship pride and shame of place have with the other more common person-place constructs. However,