UNIVERSITÀ DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale

2023-2027 DIPARTIMENTO DI ECCELLENZA MUR

sw&sp Unità di ricerca Social Work and Social Policy

Shame and Social Exclusion. How Inequality and Stigma Become Lived Experience



Room: meeting room 2nd floor, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, via Verdi 26, Trento

Date and time: Tuesday, 24 November 2026, 6 pm

Abstract: How do social inequalities become lived and internalised experiences? Drawing on sociological and psychosocial perspectives, the seminar explores shame as both an individual and a social experience, examining its connections with inequality, stigma, misrecognition, othering and social suffering. Particular attention will be given to the concept of "double suffering": the processes through which experiences of humiliation and exclusion may generate further isolation, rejection and weakening of social bonds. The seminar will also consider the implications of these processes for social work and other professions concerned with social vulnerability and exclusion.

Speaker: Dr Liz Frost is Associate Professor of Social Work and currently Visiting Fellow at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Her research adopts a psychosocial perspective, combining sociological and psychoanalytic approaches to explore social work, welfare systems, emotions and professional well-being. Her recent work focuses particularly on shame, recognition, stigma and resilience in social work. She is Co-editor of the *Journal of Psychosocial Studies* and has served on the Executive Committee of the European Social Work Research Association.

Moderator: Prof. Alessandro Sicora