#### **KU LEUVEN**

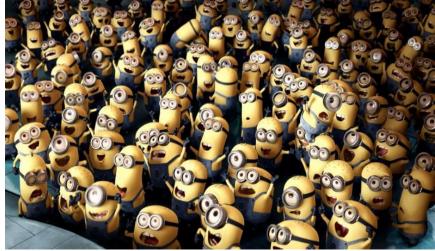


Humiliated Fury is not universal: Studying the co-occurrence of anger and shame in the US and Japan

Alexander Kirchner Michael Boiger Batja Mesquita









# Humiliated Fury: When Shame Turns Into Anger

- First coined in psychoanalytical literature (Lewis, 1971)
- Anger as a remedy for the painful experience of shame (Stosny, 1995; Miller, 1985; Lindsay-Hartz, 1984)

#### Shame positively related to:

- external blame, anger and hostility (Tangney, Wagner, Fletcher & Gramzow, 1992; Tangney, Wagner, Hill-Barlow, Marschall & Gramzow, 1996)
- agressive and abusive responses in a family context (Harper, Austin, Cercone & Arias, 2005; Dutton, van Ginkel, and Starzomski, 1995)

But: Is humiliated fury universal or is it a product of a Western view on anger and shame?

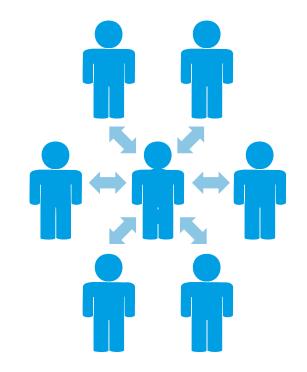


#### Relationship Ideals in the US and Japan

#### **U.S.: Autonomy**



#### Japan: Relatedness



**KU LEUVEN** 

e.g., Boiger et al. (2012); Heine et al. (1999); Kitayama & Markus (2000), Rothbaum et al, 2000)

#### Cultural differences in anger and shame

**U.S.: Autonomy** 

Japan: Relatedness



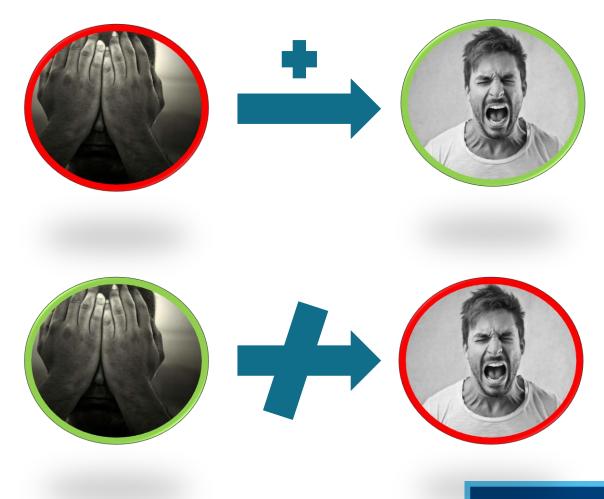
**KU LEUVEN** 

Boiger, Mesquita, Uchida, & Barrett (2013) PSPB;, Kitayama et al. (2000, 2006)

## Hypotheses







## Study 1: Daily Diary Study

• 7-day sampling period of daily life shame situations

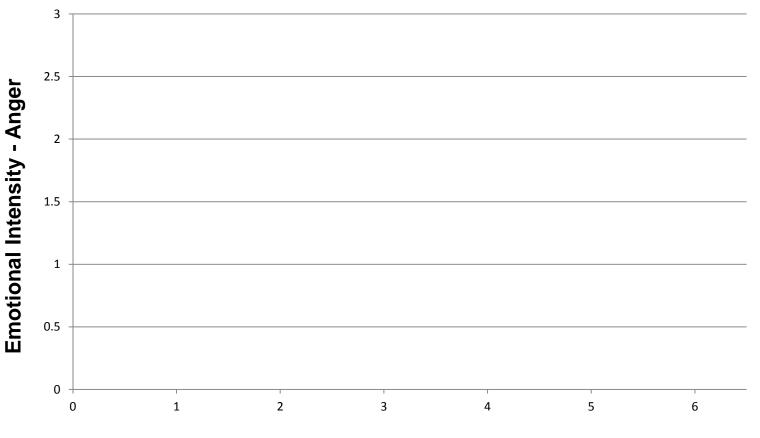
Participants	31	55
Number of situations	58	170

• M<sub>Age</sub>: %<sub>female</sub>:

- 20.8 / 21.3 years 80.6 % / 50.9%
- Emotion Intensity Ratings of anger and shame in situation

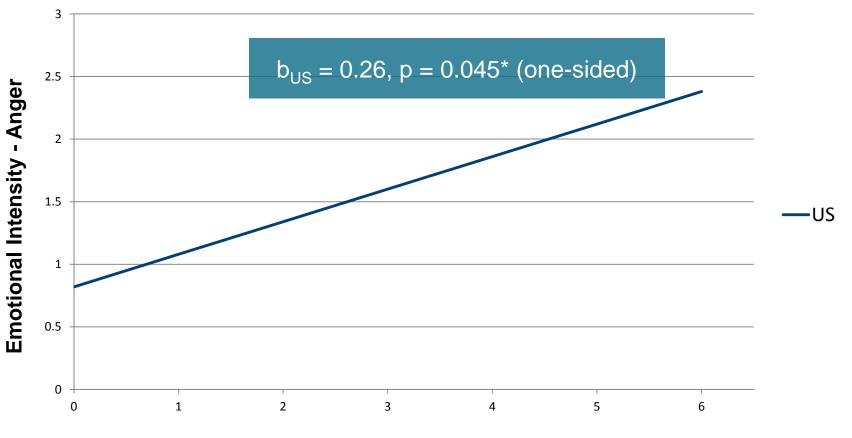


### Shame-Anger-Association in Daily Life



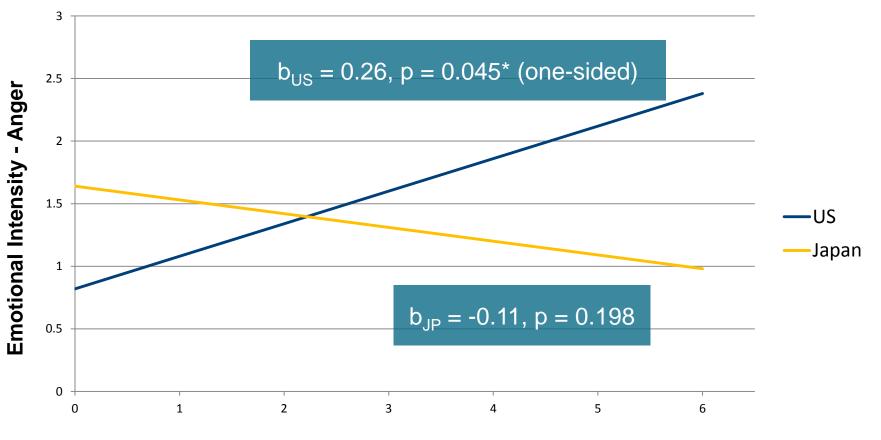
**Emotional Intensity - Shame** 

### Shame-Anger-Association in Daily Life



**Emotional Intensity - Shame** 

### Shame-Anger-Association in Daily Life



**Emotional Intensity - Shame** 

#### Study 2: Vignette Study

Situation vignettes with standardized shame situations  $\bullet$ 



• %<sub>female</sub>:

M<sub>Age</sub>: 20.8 / 20.7 years 75.5 % / 56.3 %

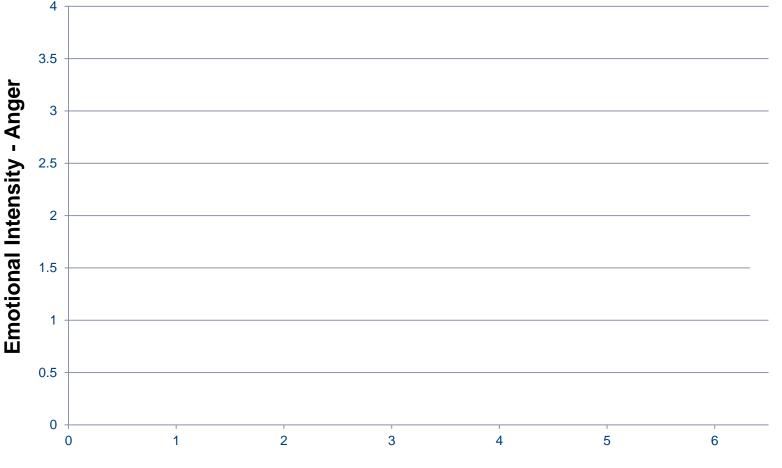
- 10 Shame situation vignettes per participant (equally sampled from US and Japan via interviews and experience sampling; for procedure see Boiger, Mesquita, et al, 2013)
- Emotion Intensity Ratings of *anger* and *shame* in situation •



# Shame-Anger-Association in hypothetical situations

INT Shame x Culture x SO: b = -0.16, t (2279.079) = -2.091,p = 0.37

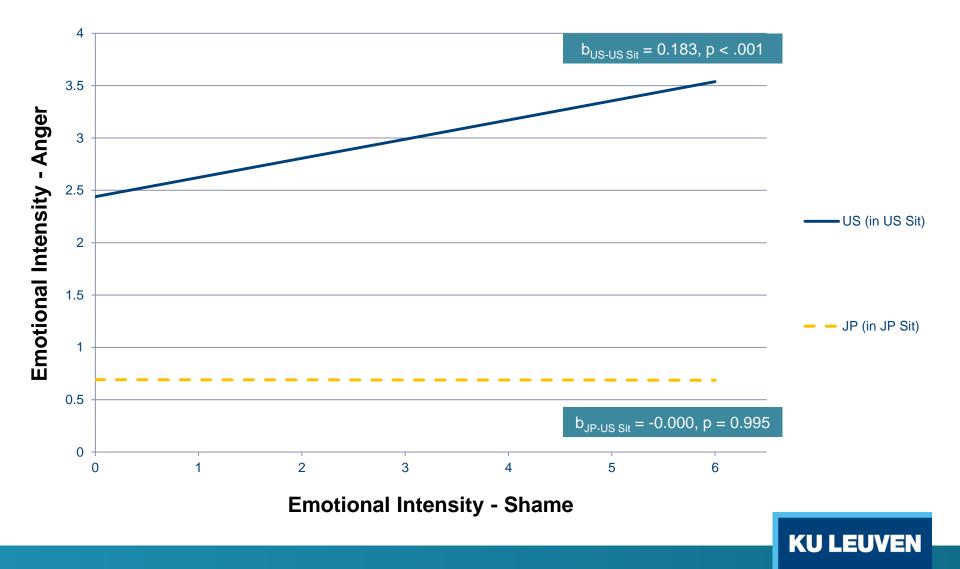
**KU LEUVEN** 



**Emotional Intensity - Shame** 

# Shame-Anger-Association in hypothetical situations

INT: b = -0.16, t (2279.079) = -2.091,p = 0.37



# Shame-Anger-Association in hypothetical situations

INT: b = -0.16, t (2279.079) = -2.091,p = 0.37



#### Summary

- Relationship between anger and shame prevalent in independent, but not interdependent cultural contexts
- Combination of both situation type and individual socialization (see also prior work by Kitayama et al, 1997; Morling, Kitayama & Miyamoto, 2002)
- Humiliated fury rather a result of the role of shame and anger in a Western cultural model (see Boiger, Mesquita, Uchida and Barrett, 2013) than universal phenomenon



#### Thank you for your attention.



#### Situations sampled from the US and Japan

• Japanese Shame situations: strongest for (1) self-agency and (2) loss of face

"Tiffany was about to pay for her groceries at the register. When the cashier told her how much she owed, she realized that she did not have enough money."

• American Shame situations: strongest for (1) other agency and (2) personal flaws

"Courtney had just started going out with a guy. Because she had dated many other guys before, her mother sat her down and asked her how she was planning to keep this one."

## The role of situational origin

#### Previous research has shown that

- the encountered situations influence our daily emotional experiences in different cultures (Boiger, Mesquita, Uchida & Barrett, 2013; Kitayama, Mesquita, & Karasawa, 2006)
- individuals show culture-typical behavior more clearly in situations from their own culture (Kitayama et al, 1997; Morling, Kitayama & Miyamoto, 2002)

