A PASSIONATE INTEREST IN OTHERNESS :

AFFECTIVE ACTIVISM AS INTERVENTION IN FAMILY ABUSE

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Motif

A passionate interest in otherness

as the antithesis of violence.

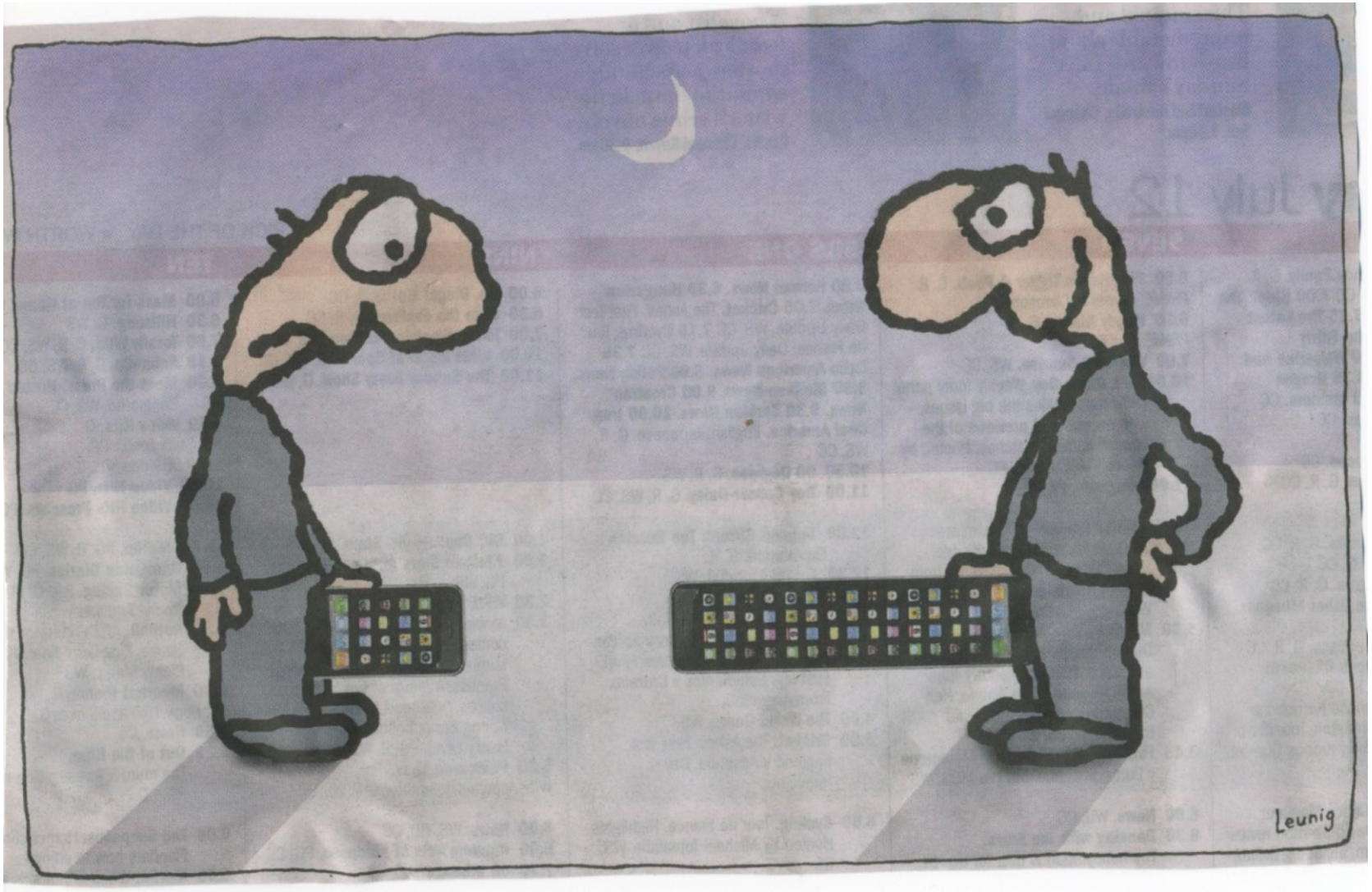

Father, what is peace?
Peace is what people kill each other for.

Motif

A passionate interest in otherness

as the antithesis of violence.

Social ordering in a world of winners and losers



Finding Agency in Stopping Violence

A truly ethical decision to cease violence?

A truly ethical form of intervention?

- **mindful of the moral / statutory imperative**
- **refuses to reproduce violence**

WHAT CAN SHAME DO?

TOM'S STORY

Agency from really *seeing* the other

TOM'S STORY

Attunement → **Becoming Responsive to SHAME**

MISTAKEN SHAME – **HUMILIATION**

(reactive shame) **(not good enough)**



DISGRACE – **REMORSE**

(responsive shame) **(seeing the other)**

REMORSE (Gaita, 2004)

‘a pained, bewildered realisation of what it means to wrong someone’

‘an awakened sense of the reality of another……through the shock of wrongdoing the other’

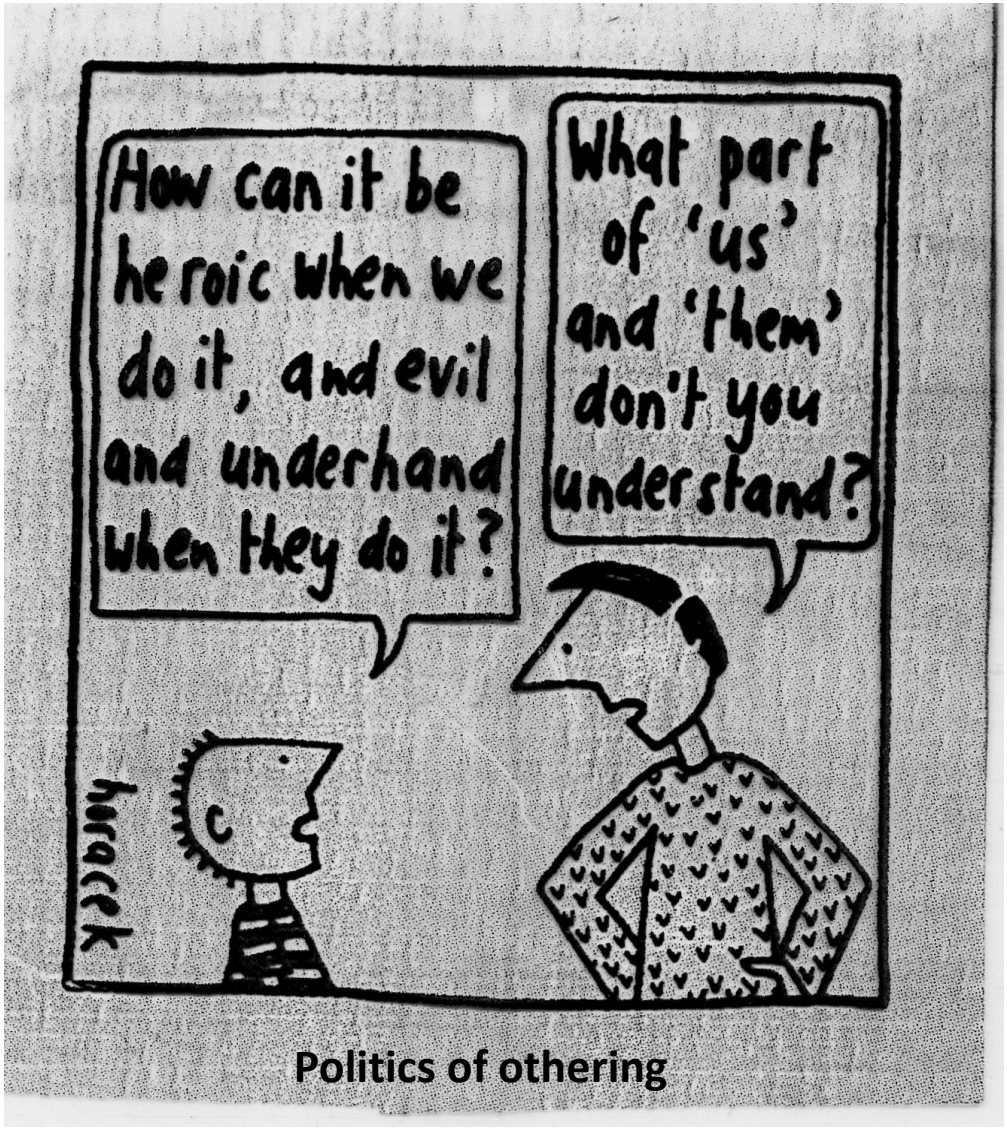
‘When it is lucid, remorse ……. is an astonished encounter with the reality of the ethical.’

EXPLANATORY MOTIF

Abusive, coercive and controlling behaviours as a consequence of *our* problematic relationships with Shame

OTHERING → SHAMING

SHAME AVOIDANCE



Politics of othering

A POLITICS FOR AFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

ATTUNEMENT ⟷ **EMPATHIC UNSETTLEMENT**

Co-regulation => **(resonance – rupture – repair)**

Affective Curiosity

- ***What is driving this reactive behaviour?***

- ***What else might there be?***

Fostering Ethical Protest & Resistance

A Proper Relationship with SHAME

GEORGE'S STORY

Transforming SHAME through PROTEST

'I exploded again'

GEORGE'S PRESENTATION

Sense of humiliated defeat – resignation

I can't bear it

I know what I'm doing is wrong

It's killing (my wife & children) ***It's killing me***

What I'm doing is destroying everything that matters but I just can't stop it

I seem to stuff up everything I do

GEORGE'S PRESENTATION

I can't bear it

What I'm doing is destroying everything

that matters but I just can't stop it

I seem to stuff up everything I do

Humiliated defeat





She never gave me a chance

Contemptuous blame

She just ups and leaves like that

GEORGE'S PRESENTATION – SOCIAL THREAT

AFFECTIVE POLITICS OF SHAME

I can't bear it
It's killing Stevie & Ricky
I'm doing destroying everything
that matters but I just can't stop it



I seem to stuff up everything I do



She never gave me a chance
She just ups and leaves like that

[You guys always take the woman's view]
[No-one believes the man these days]

Desperate panic
PANIC – LOSS



Humiliated despair
REACTIVE SHAME



Contemptuous blame
CONTEMPT

AFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

ATTUNEMENT → **Co-regulation**

Affective Curiosity

- ***What is driving this reactive behaviour?***
- ***What else might there be?***

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CONTEMPT

ETHICS => AFFECTIVE AGENCY

FAIRNESS	Reactive to Responsive Protest
↓	
REMORSE	Self-centred to Other-centred
↓	
LOVE	Seeking the Same to Interest in Difference
↕	
COLLABORATION	We are in this together

ACTIVIST HUNTING

