




## Intrapersonal Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Women with High Trait Shame: A Qualitative Study

Zeynep. Acar<sup>1</sup>, Nino. Mchedlidze<sup>2\*</sup>, Rana. Kareem<sup>3</sup>


<sup>1</sup> Department of General Psychology, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkiye

<sup>2</sup> Department of Clinical Psychology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia



<sup>3</sup> Department of Educational Psychology, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq

\* Corresponding author email address: nino.mchedlidze@tsu.ge

### Editor

Valiollah Farzad  
Department of Psychology and  
Counseling, KMAN Research  
Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario,  
Canada  
v.farzad@kmanresce.ca

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Farideh Dokanehi Fard  
Associate Professor, Counseling Department, Roudehen Branch, Islamic Azad  
University, Roudehen, Iran. Email: f.dokaneifard@riau.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Mohammad Masoud Dayarian  
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic  
Azad University. Komeinishar/Isfahan, Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Please consider clarifying the conceptual distinction between "trait shame" and "state shame" with more precise definitions and examples. Adding a foundational citation (e.g., Tangney & Dearing) would strengthen the theoretical grounding.

Please provide more detail about inter-coder reliability: how many coders, how disagreements were resolved, and whether a kappa coefficient or audit process was employed.

Consider presenting standard deviations or age range to enhance statistical clarity and enable cross-study comparisons.

The theme is significant, but it overlaps with "rumination." Please clarify how the codes were differentiated during analysis, or whether they were grouped due to data redundancy.

Consider elaborating on whether this confusion reflects cultural conflict, trauma, or developmental factors. This could enrich the discussion on fragmented identity.

This is a strong point; however, the idea of "narrative agency" could be theoretically anchored with references to narrative therapy or identity theory.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Please provide a stronger rationale for focusing on Georgian women specifically. Is there a unique sociocultural or historical context that shapes shame in this population?

It is unclear how this exclusion criterion was assessed. Was there a screening tool or clinical judgment applied? Please elaborate to increase methodological transparency.

It would enhance rigor if the authors briefly presented the domains or sample items from the interview guide in the manuscript or an appendix.

It would be insightful to mention whether participants were familiar with self-compassion practices (e.g., mindfulness, therapy), as this might influence perceived authenticity.

This quote suggests people-pleasing, but it may also indicate attachment insecurity. Please consider discussing this overlap in the discussion section.

These coping strategies are labeled as “self-soothing,” yet some may be classified as avoidance or dissociation. A clearer typology would strengthen interpretive validity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.