

Mary Edwards
Acute Gendered Shame Demystified

School of English, Communication and Philosophy
Cardiff University
United Kingdom
e-mail: EdwardsM29@cardiff.ac.uk

It is widely accepted that the experience of persons from stigmatized groups is inflected by shame. This paper aims to elaborate on the nature of this inflection for persons who are stigmatized on the basis of their perceived gender – primarily, but not exclusively, women. It argues that acute gendered shame (AGS) exacerbates and perpetuates the chronic shame that many of those classified as women are already burdened with. It also indicates how AGS may have the potential to engender a pathological relation to the self in its subject.