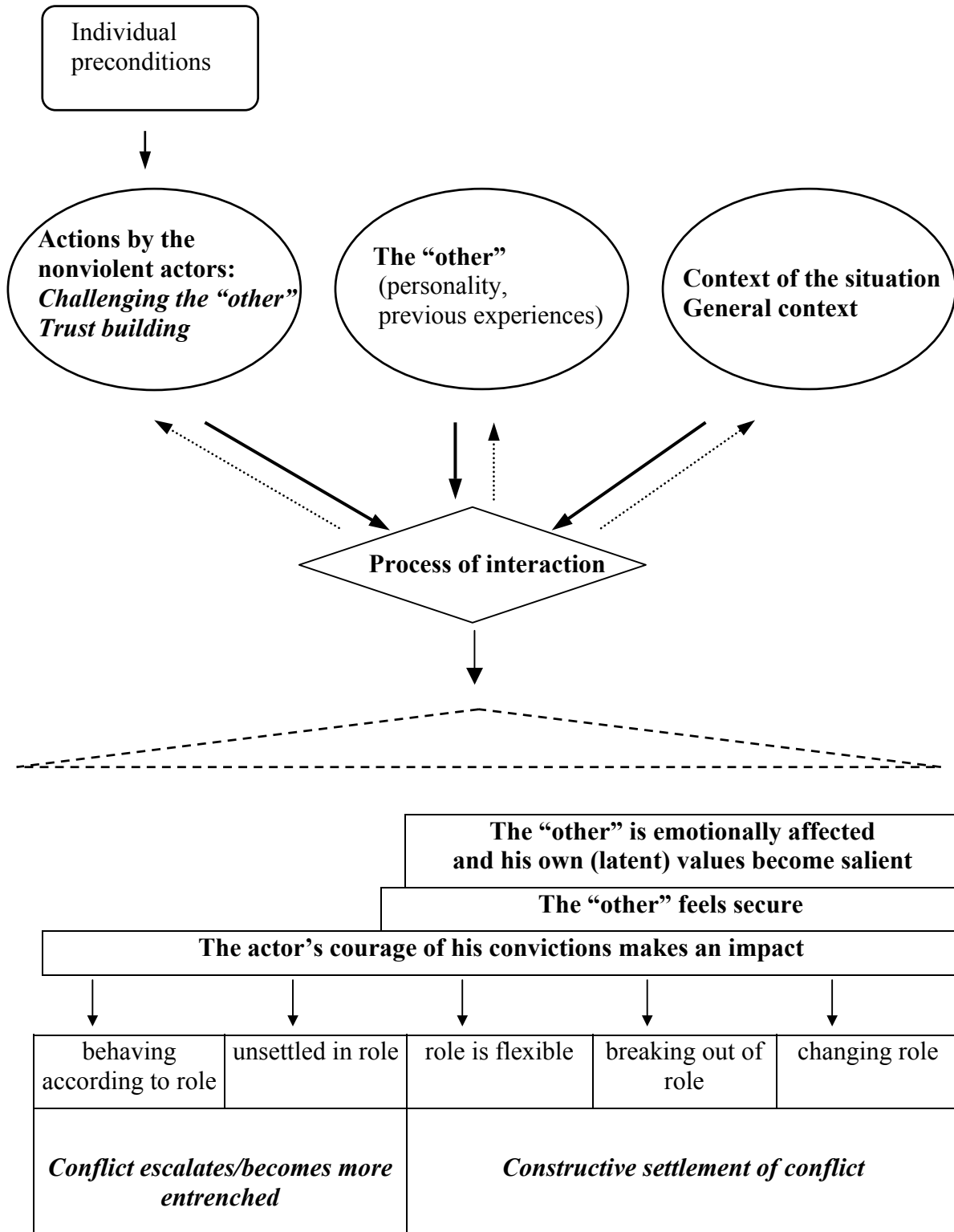


Report of a study on Nonviolence / truthforce - Translation of excerpts from:  
**BLÄSI, BURKHARD (2001): Konflikttransformation durch Gütekraft. Interpersonale Veränderungsprozesse. Lit: Münster. [Conflict-transformation through Truthforce. Interpersonal processes of change.] p 93 – 98**

The whole process of Conflict-transformation may be designed as follows:



*Model of the transformation of asymmetric interpersonal conflicts*

The mode of behaviour of the person being interviewed, who acts nonviolently, can be categorised as both *challenging* and *trust building*.

*Challenging* entails relentless and persistent representation of one's own point of view and the willingness to accept personal loss for the sake of one's convictions.

*Trust-building attitudes and behaviour* include the following: respect for the „other“, empathy, encouraging the „other“ to see things from a different perspective, pointing out shared concerns, openness, and creation of a positive atmosphere.

*It is characteristic of the behaviour of nonviolent actors that they engage in both challenging and trust-building forms of behaviour at the same time and in the same conflict situation. Particular personal conditions seem to help nonviolent actors to engage in this type of behaviour. Indeed some of them seem to be essential.*

The various ways in which the “*other*” may respond can be placed on a continuum starting from the role which the „other“ plays at the beginning of the conflict. The typical responses may be characterised as follows: *behaving according to role - unsettled in role - role is flexible - breaking out of role - changing role*. On the basis of available data, it is possible to state the hypothesis that constructive resolution of conflict is only possible if the „other“ responds in one of the last three of these ways.

The factors which make transformation of a conflict possible for the „other“ are called change factors. The analysis of the interviews indicates that the following change processes are of major significance: *The actor's courage of his convictions makes an impact*. This means that the unshakeable conviction of the nonviolent actor makes a great impression on the „other“. *The „other“ feels secure*. This means that the „other“ has the subjective impression that he is not himself personally threatened by the actions of the nonviolent actor. *The “other” is emotionally affected and his own (latent) values become salient*. This takes the form of a sudden experience of emotional feeling on the part of the „other“ in response to an experienced event. Salience of his own latent values means that the „other“ becomes increasingly aware of his own values which may have lain dormant. This often seems to happen in conjunction with an emotional affect.

It is not in the nonviolent actor's power to bring about these change processes on their own, but their behaviour has a considerable influence.

There seems to be the following connection between the operation of these change factors and the response of the „other“ as regards his role: It is a necessary but not sufficient condition for constructive conflict resolution that the „other“ be impressed by the actor's courage of their convictions. Only when the „other“ also feels secure and/or the „other“ is emotionally affected and his own latent values are salient, is constructive transformation of a conflict possible.

Research work in related fields seems to corroborate the results of this research.

I hope that my analysis can contribute to a clearer understanding and explanation of the conditions which are necessary for conflict transformation and of the associated processes. But there is still a long way to go beyond the results of this research before we can arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the possibilities and limitations of the nonviolent resolution of interpersonal conflict. The theory which has been developed here is therefore by no means final in any way: “A grounded theory is not a finished product, but rather is subject to continuous development.” (Glaser & Strauss, 1998, p. 41) Nevertheless, this research could serve as some kind of discovery process for future research work in this field. I would therefore like to conclude this work with some questions which have either remained unanswered in the course of the research or have been thrown up as a result of the analysis. These questions should serve to encourage further development of the model described here....

**From the foreword by Johan Galtung:** “Let one thousand such studies blossom!”