



Greater Manchester 
Business School



The 14th Developing Leadership Capacity Conference (DLCC)

24–25 June 2024

Centre for Leadership and Empowerment

Greater Manchester Business School, University of Bolton, Bolton, UK

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Theme:

Developing leadership for enterprise, innovation and creativity

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The Centre for Leadership and Empowerment (CLE) is proud to host the 14th Developing Leadership Capacity Conference (DLCC) on its beautiful campus at Bolton. The Centre for Leadership and Empowerment is one of the four research centres for excellence in the Greater Manchester Business School that provides new insights and approaches to leading, managing and empowering people. We research new forms of leadership and management with a focus on ensuring gender equality, inclusivity, diversity, wellbeing and empowerment.

We are a diverse community of academics and practitioners with expertise in a range of fields including leadership, human resource management, organisation studies, organisational behaviour, culture, psychology, philosophy, gender, organisational sustainability, resilience, management education, anthropology and mainstream management studies. Drawing on our extensive research and evidence-based practice, we support individuals, teams, groups and organisations looking to develop their ability to thrive and succeed in a dynamic and turbulent environment.

For DLCC 2024, we are keen on developing leadership for enterprise, innovation and creativity. Amidst extensive exploration in the realms of leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity, these fields continue to harbour elusive qualities. Over time, scholars have uncovered significant intersections and correlations, in historical context and conceptual frameworks (Cogliser and Brigham, 2004; Galloway et al., 2015; Harrison et al., 2023). Notably, certain researchers have even defined entrepreneurship as a form of leadership within a specific context (Vecchio, 2003) and some have put forward that leaders must understand the cognitive requirements of creativity and innovation (Reiter-Palmon and Illies, 2004). Indeed, creativity and innovation drive progress and allow organisations to maintain competitive advantage (Anderson et al., 2004)

In today's ever evolving and intricate environment, organisations face unprecedented challenges. To thrive amidst this complexity, leaders have to be entrepreneurial, innovative and creative. Scholars (Ahmed and Harrison, 2021; Flamholtz and Kannan-Narasimhan 2013; Hejazi et al., 2012; Renko et al., 2015) have significantly expanded upon this perspective, emphasising the criticality of recognising and capitalising on entrepreneurial opportunities. These visionary leaders, with their unwavering focus on innovation and adeptness in identifying opportunities within highly complex, turbulent, and uncertain landscapes, not only generate groundbreaking ideas to tackle business challenges but also guide the entire process of innovation and opportunity recognition within their organisations (Bagheri and Harrison, 2020; Chen, 2007; Flamholtz, 2011; Flamholtz and Kannan-Narasimhan 2013; Harrison et al., 2018; Harrison et al., 2016; Karol, 2015; Swiercz and Lydon, 2002).

While interest in leadership continues to grow, the empirical advancement from the lens of enterprise, innovation and creativity is limited (Renko et al., 2015). Although leadership has been routinely covered within past reviews of enterprise, creativity and innovation, it is usually covered briefly, in a descriptive manner, or noted as an area for future research (Anderson et al., 2004, Anderson et al., 2014; Hughes et al., 2018). Even with a burgeoning body of literature on leadership development, a lack of consensus persists regarding the form of leadership required for enterprise, innovation and creativity. Thus, it becomes imperative to delve deeper into this subject, bridging the research and practice gaps.

Moreover, limited attention has been given to the exploration of how small business entrepreneurs develop their leadership skills (Kempster and Cope, 2010). Some scholars argue that entrepreneurs are automatically considered leaders due to their position (Jensen and Luthans, 2006; Vecchio, 2003). However, it is crucial to examine the dynamic between entrepreneurs and leadership and understand the extent to which they actively perceive themselves as leaders.

This 14th Developing Leadership Capacity Conference (DLCC) therefore seeks to expand our understanding of leadership for enterprise, innovation and creativity. In this conference, we encourage submissions that contribute to our current and future perspectives on leadership development within this context. This conference is also designed for practitioners, business owners, managers, executives and employees within organisations. It will provide more insights on the important skill set required for leaders to succeed. It challenges conventional wisdom by applying the entrepreneurial and innovative mind-set within the domain of leadership. It encourages such a mind-set and behaviour which is important in the creation of social, environmental and economic value within organisations.

Submissions to this conference are encouraged to address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Leading in an entrepreneurial context
- Leadership and innovation
- Leadership and creativity
- The impact of leadership on creativity and innovation
- Entrepreneurial leadership education
- Leadership development in SMEs
- Entrepreneurial leadership learning
- Management and growth of entrepreneurial organisations
- Characteristics and motivations of leaders
- Gender and leadership
- How do entrepreneurship processes facilitate leadership development? To what extent?
- New approaches to leadership

SUBMISSIONS

This conference is for academics and practitioners who are interested in developing the leadership capacity to succeed within a dynamic environment. Our purpose is to create a meaningful dialogue between academics and practitioners by creating space for debate in the following three formats. However, participation in the conference is also possible without a submission.

1. **Leadership Learning and Development (LLD) Research and Theory:** Submissions to this stream should make contributions towards research and/or theory in leadership learning, development and education. In this stream, we would like to particularly encourage early career researchers and PhD students to submit their work.
2. **LLD Practical Workshops:** Submissions to this stream should be practically orientated and should be small workshops that explore innovative and creative techniques and tools used in leadership learning, development and education. Space and resources will be provided for explorations, so requirements, such as room size and time, should be made clear in the abstract/summary submitted.
3. **LLD Case Studies:** This submission stream is dedicated to those wishing to describe and explore examples of innovative and creative leadership learning, development and education.

While we encourage submissions linked to the conference theme, we also welcome work on any theme linked to research on leadership and allied fields.

Submissions to the conference should be in the form of a 750-word (excluding references) abstract and should be forwarded to the conference organisers from 1 January to 31 March 2024 at c.harrison2@bolton.ac.uk. The conference committee will consider abstracts after the deadline, and decisions are communicated within two weeks.

All submissions should include the following details on the cover page:

- Title
- Name of author(s)
- Organisation affiliation/position(s)
- Address
- Email address
- Topic area and stream
- Word count (excluding references)

All submissions should consist of:

- an abstract of 750 words
- a Word or PDF file

There will be provision for research posters and please let us know if you intend to present a poster rather than an abstract. We will also offer a research incubator workshop, where participants can present early research ideas and get feedback on the idea, suggestions for relevant related work and possible journals from senior faculty.

KEY CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Venue:

Greater Manchester Business School, University of Bolton, Bolton, UK

Conference Registration Fee:

- Early bird rate (including conference dinner) until 15 April 2024 – £325 per person
- Standard registration (including conference dinner) from 16 April 2024 – £375 per person
- Student fee (subject to availability) – £245 per person

Conference Contact:

Please refer all initial queries regarding the conference and your abstract submission to Prof Christian Harrison, c.harrison2@bolton.ac.uk

KEYNOTE AND PANEL SPEAKERS

DLCC 2024 bring together in key notes and panel discussions some of the top academics and practitioners in their field who share and discuss their work and leadership challenges. See the conference website for more details.

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