

Eurospes Conference 2015

Management in the VUCA World: The Role of Spirituality

July 3-4, 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The conference aims to discuss the role of spirituality in the VUCA World of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity. In a VUCA world and the traditional competitive landscape scarcity of resources, cost-conscious consumption and short-term investors make decision-making within tight margins rationally, emotionally and spiritually demanding. In the 'Big Data' economy of the VUCA world, managers are expected to rely on data collection and rational processes. But this is not always possible at both human and knowledge resource levels. There is a need for managers to simplify business processes and organizational and team relationships for the psychological and spiritual wellbeing of themselves and their colleagues. In contexts of cultural and organizational diversification, managers also need to adapt their mindset to the rising multicultural values of their employees and customers. Many organizations have increased in scale only to lose flexibility, entrepreneurial spirit and market effectiveness. There is therefore a need for new organizational practices and governance inspired by spiritual-based values. Employees can feel alienated in their workplaces as they experience a lack of meaning and purpose. There is also a need for tools to enhance meaningful and purposeful workplaces. Many wisdom-traditions promote simplicity, frugality, empathy and interconnectedness and other spiritual values that can give support and guidance in a potentially alienating VUCA environment.

Possible topics

- What could be the contribution of ancient wisdom to understand and practice of spiritual values in management in the VUCA World?
- To what extent might the spirit of entrepreneurial leaders and firms provide tangible examples of simplicity and frugality in practice?
- What could be the role of spirituality in management education in addressing the challenges of the VUCA world?
- What are the good practices of spiritually inspired management in business operations, resource productivity, brand management strategy, diversity management and corporate behavior?
- How might company and brand reputation be developed with a spiritual perspective?
- How might the philosophical and spiritual roots of simplicity and frugality be developed to provide support for all who face the demands of living and working in a VUCA world?
- What changes can realistically be implemented in the prevailing investment paradigm which allow business to better reflect the principles of simplicity, frugality, empathy and interconnectedness in management?

This list is not exhaustive so other topics within the general theme of the conference will be considered as well.

Practitioners are invited to submit case studies of good practices, decision making dilemmas and experiences of development training in related fields.

Organizing Committee

- Sharda Nandram, conference chair (sharda@praansol.com)
- Elisabeth Hense, co-chair
- Mike Thompson, co-chair
- Luk Bouckaert, advisor
- Laszlo Zsolnai, advisor
- Danny Sandra, coordinator

Scientific Committee

- Sharda Nandram, Nyenrode Business University, the Netherlands
- Luk Bouckaert, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium
- Henri Claude de Bettignies, INSEAD, France
- Jody Fry, Texas A&M University, USA
- Bob Giacalone, University of Denver, USA
- Elisabeth Hense, Radboud University, the Netherlands
- Josep M. Lozano, ESADE Business School, Spain
- Gaetan Mourmant, IESEG School of Management, France
- Hendrik Opdebeeck, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- Ashish Pandey, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India
- Shankar Sankaran, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- Mike Thompson, CEIBS, Shanghai, China
- Laszlo Zsolnai, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Submission Deadlines

- Abstract for academic papers and professional workshops (500 words) and a short bio (150 words) should be submitted by January 31, 2015 to Sharda Nandram at sharda@praansol.com
- Notification of acceptance will be sent to participants by March 1, 2015.
- Accepted participants are asked to send their papers or presentations by June 1, 2015
- Selected papers will be considered for publication in an international journal special issue or in a book to be published by an international publisher.

Conference fees

Regular participants: 250 Euros
European SPES members: 200 Euros
Students and accompanying persons: 100 Euros
One day participants: 100 Euros

Conference venue

VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam

Travel and accommodation

Participants are responsible for organizing and financing their travel and accommodation.