

Special Edition of *Leadership* 'Communication and Leadership'

Leadership can be viewed as a process dependent on the exercise of reciprocal influence between leaders and followers, in the context of a sometimes contested struggle for meaning. Communication, in all its multifaceted forms, is therefore at the heart of the leadership process. This special edition seeks to explore the relationship between a variety of communication processes and leadership. The following key themes indicate the breadth and relevance of the topics that will be considered:

- *The discursive processes by which leadership is constructed and enacted.* These include the conversational practices among leaders which seeks to explain, justify, enact or otherwise make sense of the leadership role; parallel conversational practices among non-leaders; and conversational interaction between leaders and non-leaders.
- *Information exchange, broadly conceived, between leaders and followers.* For example, how does each attempt to exert influence on the other? How do they respond to the communicative acts to which they are subjected, and to the communications of fellow leaders and non-leaders?
- *Communication networks and their impact on leadership processes.* The construction of such networks impact dramatically on leader-follower perceptions of themselves and each other.
- *The measurement and evaluation of communication between leaders and followers.* This may include, but is not limited to, how communication audit processes and measurement tools can illuminate the communicative dynamics that underpin the leadership process.
- *The interpersonal communication dynamics that characterise the exercise of leadership.* For example, impression management by leaders may be calculated to convey an air of certainty where little or none exists, or to justify particular courses of action to both leaders and followers where this is deemed vital to face saving.
- *Charisma as a socially constructed communicative process.* While many scholars have argued that charisma can be theorized as an attributional phenomena, there has been relatively little examination of the communicative processes whereby charismatic leaders activate attributional processes, through the skilled use of rhetoric, image manipulation, and message design.
- *The role of 'vision' in the exercise of transformational leadership.* From a communication perspective, what are the ingredients of 'visions' articulated by leaders that have a greater or lesser effect on followers, and which engage or fail to engage their attention, interest and commitment?
- *Critical perspective on leadership communication practices.* This may include such issues as leadership rhetoric, and how such rhetoric is situated within particular relationships of power and coercion that constrain or define the leadership function.

The special issue is not be restricted to these issues, but is open to *all* communication perspectives that illuminate the leadership function. It is also open to both empirical and theoretical papers, and is receptive to a wide variety of methodological approaches.

Deadline for submissions

All submissions for the Special Edition should adhere to the standard guidelines for papers published in *Leadership*. They should be submitted to the Guest Editors via email, at the addresses listed below, no later than September 30th 2007. Informal inquiries about the relevance of possible topics are also welcome. The Special Edition will be published in August 2008.

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