

Social, business, and academic leadership: a short introduction

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Abstract Leadership, either social, business, or academic leadership, has a lot in common. It is all about looking for the new and innovative ideas, unconventional approaches, novel solutions, as well as showing one's initiative and commitment. Moreover, it is about leading approaches, leading ideas, and leading aspects in virtually every field of science.

This paper constitutes a short introduction for the Proceedings from the 4th International Conference on Social, business, and academic leadership (ICSBAL 2019) that was organized by our Prague Institute for Qualification Enhancement in Prague, Czech Republic, on the 21st-22nd of June 2019 and accommodated together professors, researchers, graduate students, and businessmen from 10 countries.

1 Introduction

Leadership is an interesting and almost endless topic. I know that now after organising at least three international conferences on the topics associated with leadership and having read and checked more than two hundred papers on the leadership and leadership-related topics. Moreover, by interacting with leadership one can see and understand how many topics in social and natural sciences might be viewed and analysed through the prism of leadership (Dickson et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2016).

If one had to describe the Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Social, business, and academic leadership (ICSBAL 2019) in just one sentence, the best description would surely be something along the lines of: *"You are holding a volume of proceedings that is both international, multi-cultural, and leadership-driven"*.

These Proceedings originated from the materials of the international conference that took place in Prague, Czech Republic, on the 22st and 22nd of June 2019 (see PRIZK 2019). The ICSBAL 2019 conference was envisaged as the next conference in the line of successive events following the 1st International Conference "Social, economic, and academic leadership for the future sustainable development of business and education" held in Prague during from 12th to 15th of September 2017 (see Strielkowski and Chigisheva 2018). Subsequent events and conferences on the same topic held in 2018 and 2019 also resulted in very timely publications by Atlantis Press (see e.g. Strielkowski 2018; or Strielkowski 2019).

I am happy to report that the 4th International Conference on Social, business, and academic leadership once again succeeded in bringing together academics and stakeholders from the fields of business, economics, education, social sciences, psychology, anthropology, pedagogy, history, and international relations. Together, we managed to create an interesting volume of proceedings that is worth reading and consulting for everyone interested in leadership in all its realms.

2 Structure and tracks

The 4th International Conference on social, business, and academic leadership (ICSBAL 2019) organized in Prague by the Prague Institute for Qualification Enhancement in June 2019 featured a several keynote addresses, oral presentations and poster presentations that sparked vivid discussions.

After a long, careful and balanced selection of papers submitted to our conference, those that were found compiling with rigorous academic and ethical standards, underwent rigorous double-blind peer-review. In total, 48 papers were selected to be published in a form of online proceedings with Atlantis Press. The selected papers represent a number of fields. However, all of them have one unifying topic being the leadership in its social, business and academic areas and approaches.

All the papers were collected and clustered into the five Conference tracks covering similar thematic areas which allowed the organizers to present the contributions in a logical and structured way. Thence, the overall final structure of the Proceedings from the ICSBAL 2019 Conference can be described as arranged along the five main tracks:

- Leadership as a social and cultural paradigm

- Leadership in business
- Leadership in education
- Leadership in energy economics and policy
- Leadership in international relations

Apart from all the above, it was really a pleasure for the conference organisers to host an international mix of outstanding contributors from 10 countries including China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. Most of the papers are interdisciplinary in their nature and scope and are co-written by the groups of up to three of researchers from several countries. This fact increases the relevance and the multidisciplinary nature of our contribution.

3 Conclusions and remarks

Overall, everyone would probably agree with me that the Proceedings that originated from the 4th International Conference on social, business, and academic leadership (ICSBAL 2019) succeeded in producing a remarkable blend of multidisciplinary research from many academic fields connected together by the idea of leadership in all its areas.

Our Proceedings bear the views of scientists, businessmen and practitioners from 10 countries and have a cross-country applicability. These Proceedings can be of interest for policymakers, stakeholders, researchers, academics, and students alike. Furthermore, they might become an interesting source of inspiration for the general public who might be keen on learning a thing or two about leadership in business, education, or various aspects of social life.

Last but not least, I believe that our Proceedings would be capable not only to deliver information one-way, but to induce the discussion on various forms of leadership at workplaces, universities, school, and homes. I also hope that they will be able to spark many interesting ideas and endeavours among various groups of readers regardless of their occupation, education, or social status.

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