

Editorial

This edition explores the theoretical notion of spirituality as well as its application in education and business. Vladimir Dimitrov draws on the science of complexity – emergence, self-organisation, autopoiesis, fractals – and the perennial wisdom of humanity to weave a fascinating account of how they support each other's understanding of spirituality. A key principle he expounds is the role of self-organisation in biological life and its role in life evolving as we know it. "The only obstacles to self-organisation are created by humans and because of this we are witnessing continuous worsening ecological conditions on the planet". The notion of complexity and the need to understand our world lies at the centre of what Dimitrov refers to as learning to lead. We need to learn how to navigate through social and ecological complexity and we need to get in touch with our inner selves.

The paper by Cochrane draws on the thoughts of philosophers Gregory Bateson, Ken Wilber, S. Chakraborty and Henryk Skowlimosky to explain a model of learning that connects consciousness with spirituality in stages or steps of development. Cochrane's paper provides an account of the application of the model on students at the University of Sydney and on the initiatives that led to the formation of the Spirituality, Leadership and Management Network.

The third refereed paper by David Gadenne takes the reader into the world of business and HRM. Gadenne's research delves into what he refers to as high-value HRM practices to demonstrate the importance of development of others rather than on "self-serving management and stakeholder objectives". Gadenne concludes that spiritual growth based on "corporate family" values, attitudes and beliefs is essential for sound corporate governance.

The papers in the general paper section of the journal make for fascinating reading. Professor Dexter Dunphy, who is Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of Business at the University of Technology, Sydney writes about his life and spirituality. The paper was presented as a keynote address at the 4th Annual Conference of Spirituality, Leadership and Management in Canberra. Frank Dixon, Managing Director of Research & Development in New York, attempts the impossible – to define and rate spirit in business. Morag Gamble, who lives at the permaculture centre Crystal Waters in Queensland, Australia introduces the notion of slow food and community sustainability.

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Note

The general papers are no longer available. (Glenn Martin, Associate Editor, 2013)