Advancing Women and Leadership Theory: Historical Perspectives on the Movement

Susan R. Madsen, Utah Valley University
Developing Women’s Leadership: Theory and Practice

25-26 May 2016
Roehampton Business School, University of Roehampton

Overview
Developing Women’s Leadership: Theory and Practice draws on expertise in theory building, developed during three previous events: 1) Advancing Theories of Women and Leadership Colloquium held at Utah Valley University, May 2014; 2) Women and Leadership Theory Think Tank at George Washington University, Washington DC. July 2015, and 3) a symposium on theorizing human resource development at the Annual European Conference on ‘HRD Research and Practice Across Europe Conference’ (Cork), June 2015.

Women and Leadership: Theory and Practice has been informed by and complements the two previous events by addressing the ways in which women’s leadership can contribute to policy and practice. Organizers of the two US colloquia – Professor Susan Madsen, Utah Valley University, and Dr Julia Storberg Walker, George Washington University - will attend the event as keynote speakers. The leaders of the symposium – Professors Carole Elliott and Sharon Mavin - will facilitate the event thus fostering the development of international networks.

Purpose
The purpose of the workshop is driven by the need to address the lack of individual and organizational theories that focus on women’s leadership. This gap in the literature means we are unable to address important leadership theories confidently, yet the demand for insights about women and leadership continues to increase. To address this gap, the organizers will host a 1.5 day workshop designed to: catalyse collaborations between early career researchers, doctoral students and leading scholars; train early career researchers and doctoral students in tools, strategies and techniques to develop theories; provide opportunities to generate theory through a supportive action learning process and to imagine, create and develop research agendas to advance the next generation of research related to women, leadership and women’s leadership development.

The workshop goals will be met by: featuring keynotes by leading international scholars, offering facilitated sessions on techniques for theorizing, integrating stimulating and rigorous scholarly research into the learning process; mobilizing early career researchers towards theory development and advancement of knowledge, and connecting scholars from different institutions, disciplines and countries.

The workshop will adopt an action learning approach to its design in order to enhance early career researchers’ and doctoral students’ theory building experience and skills. Participants will therefore be asked to engage in a set of activities, including preparatory readings, prior to the workshop. The workshop will consist of:
• keynote presentations by leading scholars;
• facilitated training sessions on theory building techniques;
• action learning sets comprising a balanced mix of early career researchers (ECRs), doctoral students, and established scholars to develop actions for theory development, and to consider implications for policy and practice; and
• plenary discussions to draw together key findings from action learning sets, to identify theoretical and conceptual needs, and to devise actions for policy and practice

**Logistics**

**Dates:** 25th May 10.00am to 5.00pm

26th May: 9.00am to 3.00pm

**Location:** University of Roehampton, Whitelands College, London

The workshop will be hosted by Roehampton Business School and held at University of Roehampton. It will follow the University of Roehampton’s 175th anniversary celebrations as the UK’s longest-running provider of higher education to women, on 24th May at Westminster Abbey.

Workshop attendees will be invited to attend the Westminster Abbey celebration service.

All lunches will be provided during the workshop. On the evening of 25th May, participants may choose to go out in groups for dinner in local pubs or restaurants, or to travel into central London.

**Further information**

For further information, or to register your interest in this event, please contact:

Professor Carole Elliott, Roehampton Business School, University of Roehampton, at Email: carole.elliott@roehampton.ac.uk

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1 The University of Roehampton, through its four constituent Colleges, has been providing higher education for women longer than any other institution in the country. 2016 and 2017 will see the 175th anniversary of the foundation of Whitelands College and of its first intake, respectively. The University, in collaboration with our four Colleges and their providing bodies, intends to mark this anniversary with a series of events and initiatives celebrating our heritage of education and providing opportunities to women. The anniversary celebrations will bring together our students, staff, alumni, friends, partners and supporters, old and new. Events will commemorate the foundation of Whitelands College, our heritage of educating women and an investment in the education of future students. The centrepiece is our service at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 24th May 2016.