Critical Perspectives on Leadership (7.5 ects credits)

Organized by: Dan Kärreman and Sverre Spoelstra
8-12 May, 2017
30 hours of lectures, teaching and seminars
Cost: The course fee is 5000 Swedish Krona. VAT (25%) will also be charged to students from outside Sweden and Swedish students paying for the course personally.

We live in a culture that is increasingly preoccupied with leadership: managers are forced to follow leadership courses, more and more jobs require ‘leadership skills’, and we are frequently presented with alternative forms of leadership and better ways to achieve leadership success. Leadership is often presented as a solution to all sorts of social problems, and some even argue that leadership is on the brink of substituting management in contemporary organizations. In sum, we are experiencing a leadership moment in contemporary culture, which arguably leads to a need to question and problematize the leadership phenomenon.

In contrast to mainstream courses on leadership, the central question in this course is not ‘how to lead’, but how leadership ideas play out in our cultural context, at the organizational and societal level. The course lecturers and participants ask and discuss what is interesting and problematic about these ideas, for example by discussing the ideological and religious aspects of contemporary infatuations with leadership.

The premise of the course is that an adequate understanding of what we might call today’s ‘culture of business leadership’ requires the combination of three different studies: a study of organizational practice of leadership phenomena, a study of the construction of leadership concepts in both scholarly work and popular literature, and a study of the cultural and historical contexts in which leadership is variously understood. The purpose of this course is to bring these empirical, conceptual and cultural perspectives on leadership together. Much space will be given for participants to present and get feedback on their ideas and projects.

Content
- Leadership and ideology
- Followership
- Leadership and gender
- The leadership industry
- Critical leadership studies
- Reflexive leadership
- Metaphors of leadership
- Leadership, authority and religion
- Leadership and identity
- Leaderless forms of ‘leadership’
- Studying leadership

Examination
A final course paper critically discussing and applying relevant parts of the course literature (max 4000 words). Due end of August, 2017.
Literature
A selection of articles.

Teachers
Dan Kärreman (Copenhagen Business School/Lund University) and Sverre Spoelstra (Lund University) will supervise the course. Other teachers include Mats Alvesson (Lund University), Yiannis Gabriel (University of Bath), Minna Paunova (Copenhagen Business School), and Stefan Sveningsson (Lund University). More teachers will be announced.

Applications for Critical Perspectives on Leadership
Applicants should submit a short bio on their motivation for joining the course as well as a short description of their own research project (the latter will be distributed to other students of the course). Please send this document along with the completed application form (attached as appendix) to Sverre Spoelstra (sverre.spoelstra@fek.lu.se) by March 31st, 2017, for provisional acceptance. (We can give earlier notification of provisional acceptance if needed). Students who are provisionally accepted will be forwarded details of a Critical Leadership bank account number held by the host department. The course fee will need to be paid into this account by April 17th, 2017, to ensure a spot in the course. In certain cases, such as when students come from partner universities, course fees may be waived.
Course application for external PhD students

All our compulsory courses are free of charge.

Our optional courses are free of charge for PhD students belonging to Lund University School of Economics and Management, the department of Business Administration at a U6 university (i.e. the universities of Gothenburg, Linköping, Stockholm, Umeå and Uppsala) and the Doctoral School of Organization and Management Studies (OMS), CBS, Denmark.

If nothing else is stated in the course information, the course fee for PhD students not belonging to any of the above departments is SEK 5,000 (+ 25% VAT).

For more information, please see http://www.fek.lu.se/en/phd-studies/courses

Course:

Name:

Personal ID number (personnr) / Date of birth:

Telephone and mail:

Admitted to PhD studies at (please state department, university, address)

Invoice address and contact person (if applicable):

Director of PhD studies (or equivalent):

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Signature of director of PhD studies (or equivalent) at the applicant’s home department

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Clarification of signature (readable)