



INVITATION
Symposium *Servant-Leadership Across Disciplines*

Monday 2 May 2011, 12.30-18.00 p.m.
Auditorium, Main Building, first floor
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Now, more than ever, a leader's capacity to both direct the organization and its people, while at the same time work in their service, is being recognized as a vital capacity for creating a sustainable organization. Servant-leadership is a leadership principle embedded in a way of life, which has been recognized and expounded upon in all parts of the world from ancient times on, and across all cultures. The recent economic crisis again reminds us of its importance as an antidote to the selfish and bonus-oriented behaviours we have witnessed and the economic/societal consequences we have seen.

At its simplest, servant-leadership is driven by the motivation of *enabling others* work more effectively and be successful. Servant-leadership thus means leading a group or organisation in the service of people, be they clients, customers, employees, partners, colleagues and/or members of your network. Integrating both head and heart, servant-leadership does not stop there. It expands as a principle to serve the community and act a steward of the environment and all that inhabit it. Culturally speaking there are different ways of realizing this aspiration.

As the 21st century progresses it is clear that leaders in all areas of society are faced with increasingly complex challenges. At the personal, professional and societal level, leadership requires listening to the needs of the other to bridge different meanings and visions and create interdisciplinary solutions which are beneficial to all. What are the talents and challenges of those, working and leading in other fields and academic disciplines? Listening to other disciplines even in the close proximity of the VU community; where are one's own assumptions about leadership challenged? What have we learned so far in conducting interdisciplinary research on servant-leadership internationally and at the VU? How can VU students and scholars across the disciplines build on each other's creative ideas and talents to deepen each others insights and enrich the VU identity?

The symposium *Servant-Leadership across Disciplines* aims to explore some of these questions, comparing cases of servant-leadership practices across disciplines at home and worldwide. Using a cross-cultural approach we wish to serve the learning needs of future generations in developing servant-leaders for the corporate (non-corporate) world. For the symposium at the VU on 2 May 2011, we are delighted that we have found VU experts from different disciplines willing to present their insights about challenges of living, teaching and researching servant-leadership. For SLCRE, it is a next step from passion to action.

On behalf of the organizing team,

Prof. Fons Trompenaars & dr Sylvia van de Bunt-Kokhuis
Chairpersons of symposium and SLCRE directors

Programme

- 12.30 Meet and Greet in Foyer, Registration near Auditorium
- 13.00 Welcome in Auditorium by **Prof. dr Fons Trompenaars** co-director SLCRE
- 13.30 Introduction by **Prof. dr Harmen Verbruggen**, Dean FEWEB VU
- 13.40 Natural and servant leadership by **Prof. dr Mark van Vugt**, Department of Social and Organizational Psychology, VU Amsterdam,
www.professormarkvanvugt.com.
- 14.00 Transfer to workshop rooms
- 14.10 Servant-leadership across Disciplines will be highlighted from different perspectives by the following dedicated workshop leaders:
- WORKSHOP 1 (Room): *Leadership, reward and positive behavior support*, by **dr. Marius Rietdijk**, FEWEB, founder of ADRIBA Institute VU.
- WORKSHOP II (Room): *Conversion, sin, salvation and other crucial business concepts; an historical view on servant-leadership*, by **dr Maarten Wisse**, Faculty of Theology VU.
- WORKSHOP III (Room): *Case: community building and medical care in South-African townships*, by **Prof. dr Marceline van Furth**, Desmond Tutu chair, VUmc, www.tututum.com, www.kids-info.nl.
- WORKSHOP IV (Room): *Rethinking and redesigning the VU's commitment to its institutional social responsibility on a global scale* by **dr Kees Kouwenaar**, Director Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) VU.
- WORKSHOP V (Room.....): *Case studies on servant-leadership in organizations*, by FEWEB Master students and graduates.
- 15.10 COFFEE & TEA BREAK in Foyer near Auditorium
- 15.45 Keynote by one/two workshop speakers
- 16.15 Meeting of minds, how to connect disciplines and learn from each other? Panel discussion with an introduction of each of the panel members, and chaired by **dr Harry Wels** (FSW) and **dr Sylvia van de Bunt-Kokhuis** (SLCRE).
- 17.00 Closure and review of today's event *VU and diversity; a call for servant-leadership* by **Prof. dr Bert Musschenga**, Faculty of Philosophy, co-editor of 'Pionieren in diversiteit', with cross-disciplinary perspectives on VU diversity, VU University Press, 2011, and director Blaise Pascal Institute VU
- 17.15 Refreshments in Foyer



REGISTRATION FORM

Please send your registration form by email to Ms. Sofie van der Linden, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, FEWEB, Room 3A-40 E-mail: soofvdlinden@hotmail.com.

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Address details:.....

Postcode and city:.....

Function/position:.....

Email address:.....

Phone number:.....

Your workshop Preference

Please indicate your first and second preference. We will try to accommodate your first preference, if possible.

- ☐ WORKSHOP 1: dr. Marius Rietdijk, FEWEB
- ☐ WORKSHOP II: dr. Maarten Wisse, Theology
- ☐ WORKSHOP III: prof. dr Marceline van Furth, VUmc
- ☐ WORKSHOP IV: dr Kees Kouwenaar, CIS
- ☐ WORKSHOP V: Master students/graduates FEWEB

Deadline for registration: April 15, 2011. Maximum number of participants is < 140.

Costs: There is no participation fee. During the symposium delegates will be asked a voluntary donation for the medical care of children in South-African townships, see www.tututum.com, www.kids-info.nl , and workshop III.

Materials: Delegates receive a conference map on arrival. A copy of the book '*Servant-leadership Across Cultures*' by Fons Trompenaars & Ed Voerman, Infinite Ideas, 2009 is available in Dutch or English for 20 euro.

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