



EURAM 2009 Round Table Aesthetics, Leadership, and Arts Management

Organisers

Associate Professor Grete Wennes*

Trondheim Business School, Norway

grete.wennes@hist.no

Associate Professor Beate Eldstad

Oslo University College, Norway,

Associate Professor Donatella De Paoli

Norwegian School of Management,
Norway

*Key contact

We are here interested in contributions that highlight the “aesthetic renaissance and renewal in management studies”. This means that we are interesting in contributions that address intertwining and exchanges between aesthetics, art and leadership and challenges related to the management of organizations in the art sector. Papers concerning Arts Management and Aesthetic Leadership are welcome to this “aesthetic round table”.

The growing importance of the art sector implies challenges related to the management of art organizations (e.g. Köping, 2003; Koivunen, 2003; Stenström, 2000; Wennes, 2002; Eldstad, 2000). New and more adequate systems for organisation and management are being systematically developed and improved in many art organisations such as festivals, orchestras, theatres, operas, jazz clubs etc. We are interested in papers in the field of leadership, strategy, human resource management, organizational behaviour etc. that address the challenges related to the management of organizations in the arts sector. What can the art sector learn from general management theory? What can management theory learn from the art sector?

Promising approaches in leadership studies such as aesthetic leadership seem to make their way into new leadership knowledge. Aesthetics relates to felt meaning generated from sensory perception, and involves subjective, tacit knowledge rooted in feeling and emotions (Hansen, Ropo and Sauer, 2007). An aesthetic approach recognizes that rational analysis neglects important aspects of everyday organisational life. It enables us to study and talk about the subtle, underlying qualities which we sense, but cannot quite put our finger on (Sauer, 2005; Strati, 2000a; 2000b; 2000c). Aesthetic leadership takes a relational and embodied perspective. We are therefore interested in contributions that raise questions such as: are there aesthetic leaders who are especially good in managing felt meanings? Which aesthetics are guiding leaders as they make decisions? What makes aesthetic leaders distinct (Hansen, Ropo and Sauer, 2007)? How does aesthetic leadership make a difference?

But there is no limitation in questions asked. We welcome any contribution that highlights aspects related to art, aesthetics and leadership.

Key words: Art, Aesthetics, Leadership, Arts management