

# Spiritual and Ethical Leadership through Transdisciplinarity

Track for  
1<sup>st</sup> Global Transdisciplinarity Conference  
at DANUBE University Krems, 27-29 September 2021

<https://www.donau-uni.ac.at/de/universitaet/fakultaeten/wirtschaft-globalisierung/news-veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen/1st-global-transdisciplinarity-conference.html>

by

*Prof. Dr. Mathias Schüz*

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The free-market economy is still considered as the most effective economic system. How free and effective is it in reality? Hasn't its freedom also caused global problems such as climate change, species extinction, littering and epidemics? Hasn't its freedom and effectiveness given us the opposite of what it promised, namely imprisonment and threats to our livelihoods?

The discipline of neo-libertarian economics has only disciplined thought and action in one direction where corporate responsibility is perceived for profit and to shareholders based on the mantra of perpetual growth and consumerism. Leaders should detach themselves from the tunnel vision of a one-sidedly focused, ultimately self-destructive economy and open themselves not only horizontally to other scientific disciplines, but above all vertically to their forgotten interconnectedness with the universe. Aware of the inner and outer interconnectedness of all forms of life with the whole, our actions become more responsible and thus necessary, that is, turning around the distress currently afflicting our planet. Transdisciplinary thinking and mindful acting thus open the minds of leaders in a new direction of ethics and spirituality.

The track at the planned conference on the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Transdisciplinarity Conference in Krems, therefore, aims to expand our awareness for the ethical and spiritual dimensions of applied transdisciplinarity by various contributions, not only in the form of lectures and discussions, but also concrete exercises.

**Contributions to this track in breakout-sessions outlined in the following pages.**

## **1. The need of transdisciplinary consciousness in a holistic perception of responsible leadership**

In view of the world problems that threaten the survival of mankind, leaders in business, politics and society should take responsibility for the consequences of their decisions and actions before all those affected. These are not only their followers in their organizations, but also societal interest groups (stakeholders) as well as the all-encompassing nature. To do this, they need different competencies based on cognitive, social and spiritual intelligence. In this context, complex problems can no longer be solved with traditional thought and solution patterns alone.

Rather, leaders should be able to transcend their paradigmatically preconceived world views in order to use information beyond individual experience - for example, in finding visions that will ensure the survival of all concerned. Only visions that serve the whole are acceptable. But how are we to find them when it can be assumed, with Einstein, that problems "can never be solved by the same way of thinking by which they arose"?

Transdisciplinary consciousness is therefore required to develop new paradigms for solving our world problems today. Methods of mindfulness or artistic activities as well as the activation of information fields, connected with groups or whole collectives, but also with the quantum-physical information field of the universe. Using the holistic model of Responsible Leadership presented by the author, different approaches to such visions can be discussed. Participants of this breakout session are invited to contribute their own insights to this process.

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## 2. New Inter-/transdisciplinary Management Paradigm as a base for the Sustainable Transformation of our Economics

Most public discussions about the future of our Economies are based on a merely rational constructed contrast between profitability and sustainability. On the one side the mostly moralizing sustainability representatives, on the other side the advocates of an outdated management thinking from the age of industrialization which still propose the idea of "anything goes". Both sides are very limited to their own perspectives and not integrating the other ways of thinking.

In this deadlocked discussion, one can now see a silver lining on the horizon. As always, the solution in the entrenched intellectual discussions comes from unconventional thinkers and change makers who do not adhere to old concepts and paradigms. Pragmatic entrepreneurs who develop new business models that are highly profitable because they benefit society. Investors who increasingly realize that investments in such sustainable companies do not achieve less, but higher returns on investment. Young business students who no longer decide between a career and purpose but want to earn good money with sense and positive social and ecological impact. And young professors who consistently question the old assumptions of business administration.

All these change makers have one thing in common: they do not construct the world in opposition or linearly along outdated theories. Instead of thinking in terms of shortages, they see the abundance of entrepreneurial opportunities and the systemic combination of economic success and sustainability to have a positive impact on others and at the same time make profits. An inter- and/or transdisciplinary approach is needed – instead of mere rational theories it needs concepts which go beyond mere cause effect thinking. In real world it is already proven that the way how the relation between business and society is seen influences the success of entrepreneurs and their business.

A real paradigm shift which builds on a relational and more holistic management science is on its way. In this stream we will discuss how this new transdisciplinary management science should look like, what we can learn from other disciplines and how traditional concepts of rationality can be enriched by new perspectives of life.

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### 3. Spaces and the art of listening as leadership premise

What makes the difference in spiritual leadership? Generally, one could say spiritual leaders put their ego aside and centre the interest of the common. Recent leadership approaches shift away from traditional concepts such as the “great man theory” or a mechanistic “transactional” view of leadership. Research focusses more on the capacity of leaders to place back their own interests, ambitions, and preferences for the sake of a higher good. “Servant leaders” are servants first, and in the shared leadership-approach it is possible that it is not always the same person leading the others.

Nevertheless, the complexity and challenges of today’s organizations require more than the capacity and intelligence of an individual leader. The role of a leader could therefore be understood as to create spaces in which the collective intelligence of the group may unfold. The physicist David Bohm developed a special kind of Dialogue to enable the common thinking of a group without being disturbed by competition among the participants. Another example is the “Theory U”, a model that has been developed by MIT-researcher Otto Scharmer, tries to help a group to realize a state of presence to sense the highest potential future.

These collective innovation tools have one thing in common: their key is a special way of listening. Theory U distinguishes four different modes of listening, and in Bohm’s Dialogue participants are invited to be aware to their own thoughts and emotions while others (or themselves) are speaking. The form of listening that opens into a new dimension of thinking, inventing, and creating together is different from our daily attention modus. It requires an inner state that is connected to a source. While listening in horizontal ways means considering facts, opinions or experiences, the vertical listening demands a letting go and emptiness to receive. It seems to be obvious, that apart from organizational efforts to provide these kinds of collective spaces, the individual capacity and willingness to go through such interventions, has to be given as well.

In this session we will explore the potential and experiences of these kind of spaces among participants. How can we learn to distinguish impulses from horizontal to vertical listening? How suitable are these innovation techniques for finding solutions in our working life? If leadership is not about leading others, but leading the situation (Mary Parker Follett, early 20<sup>th</sup> century!), what does this require from leaders –or does a group of all leaders emerge out of this?

The session is intended to create a space of common thinking about a burning current issue in organizations, hence an invitation to share questions and ideas and critically discuss the introduced topic.

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**Claudia Pölderl**, studied business administration and graduated at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, in Organizational Behaviour and HR-Management. She is research assistant at ZHAW Institute for Organizational Viability, Switzerland and follows her PhD-studies at VŠE in Prague. Research interests cover self-organization, leadership and human capital development. After teaching experience in a language school, she worked for years in the continuing education sector for HR-Professionals and senior manager at ZHAW. Following research and consulting projects involve topics such as corporate responsibility, New Work, career development and career paths 50+. Recently she observes curiously the introduction of non-hierarchical organizations in Switzerland. Apart from that, she learns a lot about self-organization, leadership and development as mother of two infants.



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#### 4. Quantum Entanglement and Information Technology in Spiritual Leadership

*Proposed Outcome:* To realize the distinction between the implicate and explicate, understand why it is beneficial to engage with the implicate in business setting and practice exemplary techniques and games.

Leadership and decision making is based on objectivation, considering the interaction of an organization with its environment and the implicit awareness and consciousness of the undivided real. Any Organization, being a subsystem of a global world along with many other subsystems, is necessarily involved in quantum-entanglements with nonlocal and acausal interactions, indicating the hidden implicate order, which escaped the objectivation of the explicate. This process can be considered a projection of the underlying double nature of implicit and explicit consciousness, whereby language, science and rationality are a function of the latter and holistic awareness, a feeling of connectedness to all being and the consequences of one's actions belonging to the first. The implicit consciousness has access to the implicate order through the integrated function of feeling, intuition, sensation and thought, often expressed in terms of deep feelings, intuitions and the perception of synchronicities. A model of the implicate, integrating being and consciousness, requires a multivalued logic whereas an inclusion of the implicate in Leadership and decision making is based on an internal alignment and integration of the vertical dimension of consciousness, reaching thought the quantum-brain through to unconscious and deeply integrated spiritual levels of the implicate order. David Bohm described the deeper levels of the Implicate order as more and more subtly interwoven nets of consciousness.

Based on quantum-entanglement we developed an Information Field Technology to support access to the Implicate for holistically sustainable decision making and leadership. The Information Field expresses a depth ethical standpoint based on the interrelatedness and deep oneness of all being, life and consciousness.

In the interactive and dialogical part of the Breakout-session we will choose activities that exemplify the holistic implicate/explicate integration methods and techniques and the choice itself will be also be made using such a technique.

- PEAR LAB type of mentally influencing physical random events teamwork and competition
- Creative dialogic session – with RealTimeWaver Information Field life observation
- Practical Information Field Analysis based on a situation or question of the group
- Body-Mind alignment game
- Breath/Meditation/Kirtan

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**Markus Schmiede**, studied physics and philosophy in Hannover and Heidelberg and lived as a monk in a Vedic tradition for 12 years. In 1966 he founded the Vedic Academy for the integration of science and spirituality at Weissenstein Castle. He founded the TimeWaver Group in 2007, developing, producing and distributing professional Information Field and Frequency Therapy devices, followed by the foundation of the Healy Group 2019, to bring this technology as wearable medical devices to a broader market, having sold around 300.000 devices until today. As the scientific head of the ECR-Institute and an Adjunct Professor of the Dev Sanskriti University (Haridwar/India) he focusses on fundamental, clinical and applied research around Life as the connection of the material and the immaterial.



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**Mikkel Aagaard**, B.Eng. Electrical Engineering (TU of Denmark) is the Head of the Healy and TimeWaver Research Laboratory and a leading member of the ECR-Institute (Existential Consciousness Research).

## 5. Applied Spiritual and Ethical Leadership through Transdisciplinarity in a MedTech Startup Company

The input presentation is in the format of an interview dialogue between Enrico and Patrick, complemented with a few presentation slides.

### Questions Enrico to Patrick:

- What is your vision for the medicine of the future, and what is Kugelmeiers contribution towards it?
- To what extent is your invention, the SphericalPlate 5D, an exponential Green Swan solution and sustainable game changer in accordance with John Elkington's concept - e.g. see <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/green-swans-and-exponential-decade-conversation-john-elkington>
- What transdisciplinary faculties (horizontal functions) and applications does the business model of Kugelmeiers include or embrace?
- What is the rôle of ethics in your company?
- How do you personally integrate spirituality into your life, and what rôle does the spiritual dimension (vertical function) play at Kugelmeiers?

### Questions Patrick to Enrico:

- As a parallel entrepreneur, how do you integrate «hard core» business consulting and management with your therapeutic practice? What rôle plays therapy and spirituality in your business consulting context?
- As an early champion for sustainability in finance, what were your achievements and what was your biggest challenge to drive business transformation?
- What benefits and challenges do you see in applying a horizontal and vertical transdisciplinary approach in business?
- What advantages do startup companies have when adopting transdisciplinary leadership in comparison to established firms?
- What is the rôle of education for ethical and spiritual leadership through transdisciplinary?

### Questions of the audience to Patrick and Enrico (as time permits)

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**Enrico Bauer, Dipl. Ing. ETH, MBA**, studied computer engineering at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, received later his MBA in Sustainability Management of Leuphana University Luneburg, Germany. He was co-founder and former CEO of SANTIS Executive Search and Consulting Group of Companies, Switzerland. Furthermore, he was Managing Director for Global Business Risk & Compliance at UBS, (co-)founder of WBB Gallery, Lichtgang Klang & Dialog ([www.lichtgang.ch](http://www.lichtgang.ch)) und Enrico Bauer LLC, Empathic Executive Support ([www.ebllc.ch](http://www.ebllc.ch)), investor and former COO of YAPEAL ([www.yapeal.ch](http://www.yapeal.ch)), Switzerland's first online-banking platform with a FinTech license. Contact: [eb@ebllc.ch](mailto:eb@ebllc.ch)



**Dr. med. Patrick Kugelmeier**, studied medicine and got his medical doctor diploma from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, was former senior physician at Cantonal Hospital Winterthur, Switzerland, is co-founder and medical director of Kugelmeiers Ltd ([www.kugelmeiers.com](http://www.kugelmeiers.com); [www.sp5d.com](http://www.sp5d.com)) which enables unlimited cell therapies. Contact: [patrick@kugelmeiers.com](mailto:patrick@kugelmeiers.com)



## 6. Intervening for Humanity - How prayers at the UN lead to more toilets in India and creating the City of the Future.

Science, education, economy, and religion apply methodologies and hold wisdom and knowledge which combined can form the keys to solve the challenges of our era. The resources and technologies which have been passed down by previous generations can all be applied now in a new way. Old wine in new bottles: Nothing is new but a holistic perspective is fresh and knows to implement what is required drawing from across the board. A movement is emerging to return power back to the people to affect lasting change leading from the Grassroots up to High level Leadership.

UN leaders were consistently propagating an integrative approach encompassing all Stakeholders. Alliances were created, small and big, to follow the recommendations of world leaders urging all to take urgent action. The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance is an exemplary case for such approach and was founded in 2013, in the wake of Rio+20 in 2012. Leaders of science, religion, UN, governments, economy and more came together to work on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene issues worldwide. In India, it has been most successful so far, also due to the strong role of religious leadership and the voice of its leaders in that country. Two of the main slogans of the UN system of the post 2015 Development Agenda are: „The World We want“ and „To leave no one behind“. This call is out there for any free people to act upon.

The LeCiel Foundation and what they started building is an exemplary case for United People following the call of World leaders. They gave voice to 12 spiritual leaders by making a movie called „The Twelve“. These 12 came from established religions or tribes talking about the issues of our time as the United Nations does and presenting solutions and a change of perspective. The resulting Holistic Visions Symposium held by the foundation brought 144 individuals together twice in 2018 and 2019. Participants were called in, not due to their country, religion, organisation, or company they belong to, but due to their own merit as free people. One main nexus for action emerging from the symposium is the creation of Eco-sanctuaries and protection of the Holy Lands. In ancient Holy Lands across the globe the biodiversity is often highly dense also due to the protection these lands are still under. The combination of concerned global citizens with considerable expertise, local spiritual leaders and tribes, science, the economy and policy can protect these last remaining biodiversity hotspots. In this way species on land, water and air can start to thrive again alongside a renewed humanity as part of the web of life.?

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**Patrick Nickisch**, from Cologne, Germany, is a theologian and scientist of world religions in interfaith dialogue and international relations. As a diplomat within the UN system, he is advocating for a human rights-based approach for sustainable development and works in the areas of disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and peace-building. He is specialized as an educator, councillor and scientist of world religions in East West dialogue, global studies, and international relations. Special emphasis is given on issues of water and the oceans, the indigenous peoples and cultures, women and children. He consults individuals, companies and organizations in strategy, internationalization, finance and project development.



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