



## Shaping the field

*Management Learning*

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In our 2010 and 2011 editorials, we emphasized the distinct contribution that we believe *Management Learning* offers, not just to the management learning community but also to the broader field of organization and management studies. This is evidenced in the range of topics, perspectives and methodologies embraced by our authors. For example, in 2012, we published articles on topics ranging from Daoism and reflexivity (Xing and Sims, 2012) to the ‘state of unawareness’ (Faran and Wijnhoven, 2012), on issues of relevance to pedagogy, research and management practice (e.g. Kakavelakis and Edwards, 2012; MacLean et al., 2012; Mazen, 2012), encompassing an eclectic range of theoretical lenses including postcolonial and Foucauldian (Fougère and Moulettes, 2012; Harman, 2012), Bourdieu’s notion of ‘habitus’ (MacLean et al., 2012) and psychoanalytic (Gilmore and Anderson, 2012).

This editorial is unique, in that it is in the second issue of the year because our first issue of 2013 continues our compelling run of special issues. The year 2012 was significant in that it saw the publication of two special issues. The first on *Universalist, Local and Global Perspectives on Management Learning*, edited by Anders Örténblad, Robin Snell, Manuela Perrotta and Devi Akella, addressed the applicability and transferability of universalist theories to local contexts. The second, edited by Nic Beech, Robert MacIntosh, Elena Antonacopoulou and David Sims, comprised a range of articles tackling the various dialogic ways in which we come to know and practise management. Both special issues continued to expand the range of scholarly and thought-provoking articles published in *Management Learning*, and we thank the Guest Editors for their work in bringing these to publication.

While papers published in the journal are eclectic, they all possess the unique *Management Learning* attributes of advancing theory and practice through creative enquiry that engages in a critique of convention and a questioning of taken-for-granted assumptions. We firmly believe that this distinctive identity is thriving and moving forward, emanating from the community of writers, reviewers, editors and readers who make up the discipline of ‘management learning’. We recognize that in our role as Editors, along with the invaluable contributions of our Associate Editors Paul Hibbert, Monica Kostera and Davide Nicolini, and our Book Reviews Editor Lisa Anderson, we are in the most privileged of positions in enabling the shape of the field. This is not only through the publication of scholarship in the journal; we have also taken the bold step of inaugurating the first *Management Learning* Conference in March 2013 at the Lancaster University Management

School. The choice of Lancaster is deliberate because it is seen by many as the birthplace of ‘management learning’ as well as the journal itself. The aim of the conference is to proactively shape the development of the field by supporting authors and potential authors in developing promising ideas and manuscripts that will advance management learning scholarship. Indeed, collegiality and community are axiomatic to the *Management Learning* ethos, and we very much hope that the conference will embody these values and become an annual event.

The good news is that the journal’s 2-year impact factor has again shown a healthy ‘above inflation’ rise to 1.68 placing it firmly in quartile 2 of the Thomson Reuters’ Journal Citation Reports ‘Management’ list of journals. Naturally, we hope this trend will continue and reflect the quality and impact of the intellectual contributions of *Management Learning*’s authors.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable role of our International Editorial Board in supporting and extending the visibility and reputation of the journal worldwide, and to thank our reviewers for the thoughtful, thorough and constructive reviews that are so crucial to maintaining the quality of work published in *Management Learning*.

We are pleased to announce that the *Management Learning* Reviewer of the Year Award goes to Dr Jon Raelin (University of Bath) in recognition of the excellent reviewing work he has carried out on behalf of the editorial team.

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