

***Servant-Leadership Across the Arts Symposium***

Monday, 14 April 2014, 13.00-18.00 p.m.  
Griffioen Cultuurcentrum, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
<http://www.griffioen.vu.nl>

Now, more than ever, a leader's capacity to both direct an 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 throughout history, and across all cultures and communities. 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 to work more effectively and successfully. Servant-leadership, thus, means leading a group or organization in the service of people; be they clients, customers, employees, partners, colleagues and/or members of society. This calls for a compassionate kind of leader, a leader who is able to integrate different perspectives, for example reconcile company values with profit, or the needs of the inner self with the common societal good. Integrating head and heart, servant-leadership does not stop there. It expands as a principle to serve the community and act as a steward of the environment and all that inhabit it.

At the personal, professional and societal level leadership requires listening to the needs of the other, and empathy to bridge different meanings from various angles of society. Being able to conceptualize the future and motivate people towards a common vision are, next to listening and empathy, key capacities. Culturally speaking there are different ways of realizing these aspirations.

The symposium *Servant-Leadership Across the Arts*, on 14 April 2014, is the 9<sup>th</sup> in an annual symposium series. It is a meeting place for students and professionals to strengthen the link between theory and practice. This event goes beyond the cognitive approach to explore our inner strengths and motivations through the arts. What can we learn from different people in various artistic fields such as musicians, writers, dancers and painters about leadership? How can artistic leaders mindfully nurture and lead connections among people, to better develop capacity within a community in these turbulent times of crisis and social unrest? In the global world in which we live today it is key to empower and inspire people in all walks of life, including business. This implies amongst others serving people in crisis through arts, music, language, poetry, dialogue and education. The arts connect humanity across cultures, languages and borders and can be a source of both inspiration as well as hope or consolidation providing people the possibility of exploring different facets of themselves and others. As John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) stated "*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader*".

We are delighted this symposium brings together cutting-edge thinkers across artistic disciplines, leveraging the global human needs to learn, serve and lead in their unique way. The symposium will include keynote presentations, workshops and a plenary debate to shed light on how artistic leaders can serve and encourage cohesion in a community, via both face-to-face and online links. In dialogue with the audience, we aim to explore such issues as: dilemmas that arise among stakeholders across artistic communities, different kinds of artistic leaders, and the cultural and linguistic arts orientations of diverse cultures.

We invite you to learn more about SERVUS and look forward to meeting you at this special event.

On behalf of the organizing team,

prof. dr. Fons Trompenaars & dr. Sylvia van de Bunt-Kokhuis  
Chairpersons of symposium and SERVUS co-directors

## Programme

- 13.00 Registration-desk in gathering space outside the Griffioen Theatre Hall.
- 13.30 Opening: *Developing leaders in values led organizations: the role of the Arts*, by **Tom Cummings**, founder of Leading Ventures ([www.leadingventures.eu](http://www.leadingventures.eu)).
- 13.45 Contextualizing the symposium theme: by **prof. dr. Fons Trompenaars** and **dr. Sylvia van de Bunt-Kokhuis**.
- 14.15 Keynote: *Conflict prevention by serving artistic talent development*, by **Yolanda Eijgenstein** and/or **Klaartje Strijker**, members MasterPeace, [www.masterpeace.org](http://www.masterpeace.org).
- 14.45 Transfer to workshop rooms.
- 15.55 Servant-Leadership Across the Arts will be highlighted from different perspectives by the following dedicated workshop leaders:
- WORKSHOP 1: *Papuan and Austronesian languages and poetry in a cross-cultural and artistic framework (draft title)*, by **prof. Lourens J. de Vries**, Professor of General Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, VU.
  - WORKSHOP II: *Project Lost and Found; raising awareness on conflicting nature of human experience*, by **Oumar Mbengue Atakosso**, artist with recent exhibition in Galerie 23 Amsterdam.
  - WORKSHOP III: *Arts and cultural expression; powerful engines for change and awareness raising*, by **Jose Jay Cruz**, Artistic Director of Transitopia Contemporary Dance Commune, and director of MNLX, a festival of new performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines., supported by **Bertan Selim** Coordinator Grants and Collaborations of the Prince Claus Fund, Amsterdam, [www.princeclausfund.org](http://www.princeclausfund.org).
  - WORKSHOP IV: *Understanding the other: questioning the boundaries of madness*, by **Angela Evenhuis**, assistant Exhibitions & Business Club, Het Dolhuys Haarlem [www.hetdolhuys.nl](http://www.hetdolhuys.nl), and Young Servant-Leadership graduate, AOG School of Management.
  - WORKSHOP V: *Serving your customers by natural colours and shapes; the business case of hats design*, **Evelien Gentis-Smit**, FEWEB graduate and founding director of Eudia, [www.eudia.nl](http://www.eudia.nl).
  - WORKSHOP VI: workshop by **Wayne A.H. Modest**, Head Curatorial Department of Royal Tropical Institute Amsterdam [www.kit.nl](http://www.kit.nl).
  - WORKSHOP VII: *The writer and the reader; reflections on their leadership and servant role*, by **Pieter Frans Thomése**, Dutch writer on VU location, [www.thomese.nl](http://www.thomese.nl)  
Note: this Workshop is in Dutch.
- 16.05 Refreshments and information posters in the gathering space outside Symposium Hall, enriched by live music from the **VU Orkest Quartet** <http://www.vu-orkest.nl/>.
- 16.45 Keynote: *Peacebuilding agency through the arts. Servant-leadership in deeply divided societies*, by **dr. Stefanie Kappler**, Lecturer in International Relations and Director of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies at Liverpool Hope University, [www.tutu.hope.ac.uk](http://www.tutu.hope.ac.uk).
- 17.10 Panel discussion with workshop leaders, delegates and MA students: *Meeting of minds and hearts. How to build communities across the arts and learn from each other?*, introduced by **Tom Cummings** founder of Leading Ventures ([www.leadingventures.eu](http://www.leadingventures.eu)), chaired by Fons Trompenaars,
- 17.45 Reflections
- 18.00 Closure