

## Special edition — Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Guest Editors' Introduction: Julia Connell and Ken Parry

The articles in this special edition of the *International Journal of Organisational Behaviour* evolved from a conference held at the University of Newcastle (Australia) in November, 2001. The aim of the conference was to bring together researchers to present different perspectives on leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As such, the papers provide an insight into the academic and practical issues related to leadership within organisational contexts. The articles explore the various conceptions and constructs of leadership as it applies to individuals, groups and organisations while covering a wide range of topics including. These topics include an international overview of leadership and organisational behavior effectiveness, leadership competencies and profiling, qualitative and quantitative analysis of leadership, knowledge dissemination and leadership, leaders and emotional intelligence and finally, leadership and trust. Three papers present findings from Australia and New Zealand, the remainder present data collected from Singapore, Germany, the US, the UK and, in the case of the GLOBE study (see Ashkanasy's article in this volume) 61 nations in total.

Overall, this volume is timely as it assists in raising important questions related to leadership and leadership effectiveness both nationally and internationally. Connell, Cross and Parry's paper '*Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: where is it leading us?*' outlines the main themes of each paper included in this volume.

As always, these special journal volumes rely on the hard-work, good will, and financial support of others. We would, therefore, especially like to thank the authors of the articles and those who attended the 'leadership' conference. Particular mention must also go to Professor Anthony Travaglione for his ongoing support for the conference and special issue journal. Thanks also to Bernadette Cross for her editorial skills. Thank you also to the special issue referees: Paul Aitken, Simon Albrecht, Ronel Erwee, Ray Gordon, Beverley McNally, Bruce Millet, Sarah Proctor-Thomson, and James Sarros. Finally, thank you to the editors of IJOB for supporting this special edition.

The papers in this special issue provide challenging, interesting and stimulating discussion on the topic of leadership, therefore, we anticipate this volume will provide an important contribution to the extant leadership literature.

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Julia Connell ([mgjac@alinga.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:mgjac@alinga.newcastle.edu.au)) is from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Newcastle in Australia; Ken Parry ([Ken.Parry@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Ken.Parry@vuw.ac.nz)) is the Director of the Centre for Leadership Studies at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

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