

The
Oxford
Global
Leadership
Initiative

The Oxford
Character
Project

The Character of Leadership

30 - 31 May, 2019

FAITH AND
GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT



Faculty of
Social Sciences
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學社會科學學院

Welcome

Welcome to 'The Character of Leadership', an exciting collaboration between the Oxford Character Project and the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Social Sciences, and Faith and Global Engagement Initiative.

For many centuries universities like the University of Hong Kong and the University of Oxford have played an important part in preparing leaders and thinkers who have held positions of responsibility around the world and shaped the future of society. This continues to be the case today and many students from HKU will go on to careers where they will exercise important influence. What is more, today's students will take up positions of responsibility at a time of great global opportunity but also significant uncertainty. The need for a generation of wise thinkers and good leaders could not be more evident.

How can students be prepared to contribute positively in this global context, learning to think in a way that is not only clever but wise, learning to lead in a way that not only furthers personal ambition but actively seeks the wider good of society around the world? This was the question that engaged a group of senior Oxford academics in extended discussion some three years ago. They came to the conclusion that this kind of preparation for leadership wasn't naturally met through regular programmes of study, so, with the generous support of the Templeton World Charity Foundation, The Oxford Character Project and the Oxford Global Leadership Initiative were established. We are delighted to have this opportunity to join in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Social Sciences and Faith and Global Engagement Initiative. We look forward to learning together in discussion with a tremendous group of facilitators, guest speakers, and students, hearing your perspectives on life and leadership in a globalised world and likewise sharing some of the work we have been doing in Oxford.



The distinctive focus of this forum is the relationship between leadership and character, established on the conviction that personal character is central for the exercise of leadership that serves the good of society. There is no doubt that strategies and skills are important, but it is increasingly evident that these cannot guarantee good leadership. Our approach seeks to understand leadership as a personal category before it is a professional one, placing interpersonal relationships and character virtues at the heart of what good leadership is about.

The aim of the forum is not to pass on a discrete set of skills or impose a single perspective so much as to create a space for ongoing leadership formation, helping you to develop an approach to life and leadership that will enable you to grow as a good leader in both current and future roles.

The readings in this pack seek to draw on a variety of perspectives from different academic disciplines, cultural backgrounds, and vocational fields. Taking time to read them in advance of the forum and to complete the reflective exercises that accompany them will ensure you are well placed to make the most of the time we have together.

Please come ready to share your thoughts and perspectives as well as to listen and learn from others. We are looking forward to learning together.



Professor Samson Tse
Associate Dean,
(Undergraduate Education),
Faculty of Social Sciences,
HKU



Edward Brooks
Director of the Oxford
Global Leadership Initiative



Programme 2019

Thursday, 30 May

- 15:00** **Registration** (Function Room, Faculty of Social Sciences, 11/F Jockey Club Tower)
- 15:30** **Welcome**
- 15:45-16:15** **Group introductions**
- 16:15-17:30** **What is Good Leadership?**
- 17:30-17:45** **Break**
- 17:45-18:30** **Open forum: questions and perspectives**
- 18:30** **Dinner** (Café Rome)
- 20:00-22:00** **Public Lecture** (Rayson Huang Theatre)

Friday 31 May

- 09:00-09:30** **Croissants and coffee** (Function Room)
- 09:30-10:40** **Pressures of Leadership: institutions, incentives, and expectations**
- 10:45-11:30** **Practices of Leadership**
- 11:30-11:45** **Break**
- 11:45-13:15** **Practices of Leadership: panel discussion**
- 13:15-14:15** **Lunch** (self-arranged)
- 14:30-16:45** **The Arts of Leading: perspectives on leadership formation**
Students choose 2 workshops to attend out of 4 offered:
- Reel Leadership: learning from cinema**
- Thought Leadership: learning from philosophy**
- Gender and Leadership: collaboration not competition**
- Friendship and the Life of Leadership**
- 17:00-18:00** **Leadership lessons: personal reflection and group discussion**
- 18:00-20:00** **Dinner with group presentations** (Function Room)

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