

EDITORIAL

I am delighted to introduce in this issue the first *JANZAM Leading Scholar Paper*. We intend that this will be a periodic feature of the Journal, in which the leading members of our research community are invited to reflect on – and to challenge – the field of their special expertise. We are delighted that Dexter Dunphy accepted our invitation to launch this new series. A fuller introduction precedes his paper.

The introspection and self-assessment that is edging into our field – as witnessed by the special forum in the April 2001 *Academy of Management Journal* – is being expressed here too. Ever since Don Hambrick first gave voice to the dark question that stalks our days as management academics in his 1993 presidential address, we all have to confront the challenge "What if the Academy actually mattered?". We face this daily as teachers, from students who demand economic as well as intellectual return for their time with us; and as researchers as we send our thoughts out into the world, never knowing where they will find root and have their effect.

I suspect that motivations like these lie behind two of the papers in this issue: Kay Dimmock, Helen Breen and Marie Walo's evaluation of perceived improvements in competencies during a tourism and hospitality programme; and also Pamela Mathews' assessment of the role that academics can play in a world of changing management practice: leader or follower? Some may remember Herbert Simon's chilling dismissal of the follower position in 'Administrative Behaviour' (1961).

Yet other papers in this issue would suggest that the answer to this question could be 'both'. David Gilbert chronicles the established information search strategies of senior Japanese executives; and Karl Pojo and Peter McGhee offer a survey of business ethics practices in New Zealand's top 200 organisations – a paper that is sure to be a key resource for ethics courses in this country for the foreseeable future. Barbara Pini's intent, on the other hand, is clearly to change practice, by uncovering strategies that can be used to increase women's participation in leadership roles in the agricultural sector. Perhaps the real challenge is to build a conversation with the world of practice on any terms that add value to both communities.

I hope that JANZAM will increasingly be an expression of our collective effort to produce research of value to both academic and practitioner constituencies. For the collective effort behind this issue, I express thanks to all involved: to the authors and reviewers for this issue; to my Associate Editors; and finally to Ken Parry, for the inspiration for the Leading Scholar Series.

Colin Campbell-Hunt

Editor