

**Special Issue**  
**on**  
**Multilevel Perspective on Leadership in the African Context**

Guest Editors

Michael Abebe, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Augustine Lado, Clarkson University

Amanuel Tekleab, Wayne State University

A number of leadership theories (e.g., transformational (Burns, 1978; Bass & Avolio, 1994), transactional (Bass, 1990), servant leadership (Greenleaf, 1970; Van Dierendonck, 2011)) have been developed in Western countries and constantly utilized to describe leaders' behaviors and their effectiveness. These theories predominately received support in Western (e.g., Hiller, DeChurch, Murase, & Doty, 2011) and, increasingly, in Eastern countries particularly, China (e.g., Fahr, Early, & Lin, 1997; Kirkman, Chen, Farh, Chen, & Lowe, 2009; Pellegrini & Scandura, 2008). Until recently, there has been limited research in regards to leadership in Africa. In the last decade, however, there has been a growing interest in leadership in Africa at various levels (see a review by Fourie, van der Merwe, & van der Merwe, 2017; Muchiri, 2011; Zoogah & Nkomo, 2013). Despite these efforts, research on *leadership in Africa* is still in its infancy. Reflecting the dire need for research in leadership (and management, in general), Nkomo (2017) called for generating theories and practices for Africa.

In this special issue, we seek studies that address leadership in Africa at multiple levels, including micro-, entrepreneurial, and macro-levels. From the micro-level perspective, we seek manuscripts that address leaders' roles in shaping employees' attitudes and behaviors. From the entrepreneurial perspective, we seek studies that are focused on the role of entrepreneurial leadership in promoting and creating new ventures. From the strategic leadership perspective, we seek for manuscripts that deal with the role of strategic leaders in formulating and implementing firm strategies and achieving strategic advantage. Both conceptual and empirical studies (utilizing qualitative or quantitative research methods) are welcome. Some potential topics may include, but not limited to:

1. What does "leadership" mean in Africa—conceptualization of the leadership construct in the African context.
2. Are there indigenous leadership approaches in Africa? If so, to what extent do they resemble or differ from established, Western leadership perspectives?
3. Are current Western leadership theories applicable to African context? What are the conditions under which those theories may or may not apply?
4. Is there an African "identity" that is important for leadership research?

5. How do African values, culture, and systems influence leadership and leadership emergence?
6. How does the interaction between the leaders and followers shape employees, unit, and firm performance?
7. What are the distinctive attributes (if any) of African entrepreneurial leaders? How do these entrepreneurial leaders navigate the increasingly uncertain, complex and informal institutional environment around them?
8. What role does the informal sector play in shaping the emergence of entrepreneurial leaders? How does the institutional and socio-political environment influence entrepreneurial leadership in Africa?
9. What are the processes through which leaders emerge in the context of small, informal entrepreneurial firms in Africa?
10. What are some of the barriers/challenges entrepreneurial leaders face in Africa?
11. How and to what extent do individual, organizational, and contextual factors (separately or jointly) account for differences in quality of strategic leadership of organizations in Africa?
12. What roles do strategic leaders play in creating shared value for their organizations and communities in Africa?
13. What are the strategic leadership capabilities needed for coping with the contradictions, paradoxes and tensions within the African context?
14. How do extreme contexts (i.e. ones characterized as *risky*, *emergency*, or *disrupted*; Hallgren, Rouleau, & De Rond, 2018) shape the emergence, viability and sustainability of strategic leadership in Africa?
15. What is the role of strategic leadership in building and sustaining cross-sector (or public-private) partnerships in Africa?

Due dates:

Abstracts due: January 31, 2019

Full length manuscript: April 30, 2019

Final manuscript: November 15, 2019

Publication (online): March 15, 2020

Publication (in print): Issue 6.2 April/May, 2020

We will use a double-blind review process. Please follow the link <http://www.edmgr.com/rajm/default.aspx> to submit your abstract. For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Abebe ([michael.abebe@utrgv.edu](mailto:michael.abebe@utrgv.edu)), Dr. Augustine Lado ([alado@clarkson.edu](mailto:alado@clarkson.edu)), or Dr. Amanuel Tekleab ([atekleab@wayne.edu](mailto:atekleab@wayne.edu)).

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