

Conference "Embodying Leadership: Studying it, Writing it, and Bearing Witness to it (Differently)"

In a context of uncertainty, dehumanizing technologies, and the age of the Anthropocene, research needs to reconnect with the sensory, the embodied, and the authentic!

This conference aims to open a space for academics, whether or not they come from leadership studies, who are committed to thinking, writing, and communicating research on leadership and leaders differently, by drawing on critical, feminist, sensory, aesthetic, or simply singular and embodied approaches. Work exploring alternative expressions of leadership within organizations, including academic ones, is also welcome.

Join our community on November 4 & 5, 2026, at IGR-IAE Rennes!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 — EMBODYING LEADERSHIP / LEADING DIFFERENTLY

This day is devoted to the question of embodied leadership, breaking with models inherited from the world of before ("leading differently"). It alternates between collective dialogue sessions, provocations, and hands-on workshops.

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome breakfast| Salle du Conseil

Participants: academics + practitioners

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Amphithéâtre Jane Krier
Welcome address — General introduction : Caroline Ruiller	
Lucie Gabriel & Valérie Petit	Navigating Leadership: Two Leadership Scholars' Journeys Across Research, Education, and Practice
Sarah Robinson	Provocation : Why Leading differently ?
Jean-Philippe Bouilloud	Panel discussion with Ilaria Boncori, Carole Elliott and Monika Kostera
Collective work with the auditorium	Experience of "old world" leadership → expectations / hopes

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch + book sale

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Parallel workshops
Writing differently	
Facilitators	**Monika Kostera & Ilaria Boncori**
Leading differently / Collages (Two faces of leadership)	
Facilitators	**Sarah Robinson & Karine Le Rudulier**
Acting differently	
Facilitators	**Stéphanie Havet-Laurent & Caroline Demeyère**
House of Cards	
Facilitators	**Emmanuel Abord de Chatillon & Valérie Petit**
History of Management	
Facilitator	**Jean-François Chanlat**

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Break

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Paper presentations (parallel sessions)
Group 1 — Crisis and alienation	
Myriam Abousmir Bennani	The body of leadership: writing vulnerability from lived experience
Nadia Lahouel	The exhausted body of leadership: towards a phenomenology of permeable leadership
Group 2 — Play, art, and leadership	
Caroline Demeyère & Stéphanie Havet-Laurent	Embodying leadership and academic entrepreneurship: a theatrical, duo, and feminist proposal!
Lionel Pailloncy	Listening to employees during the product and service design phase: the case of hackathons
Group 3 — Leadership and art	
Albane Durand, Marie Zago & Albane Vigneron	Giving voice to the words of heart-centered leadership
Monika Kostera & Jerzy Kociatkiewicz	Book Review: For the Love of Leadership

6:00 PM	Salle du Conseil — Discussion and wrap-up of the day

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 — EMBODYING LEADERSHIP / LEADING DIFFERENTLY

This morning session closes the "Embodying Leadership / Leading Differently" cycle with an exhibition showcasing the work produced during the Writing, Acting, and Collage workshops.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast – Representation of Women as leaders by Carole Elliot | Salle du Conseil
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM	Paper presentations (parallel sessions)
Group 4 — Gender(s)	
Pauline Fatien & Anne Antoni	"In fatigues!": The mechanisms behind mobilizing the military ideal to embody leadership in women
Lucie Gabriel	Does charisma have a gender? Towards a critical and feminist reading of charismatic leadership
Caroline Ruiller	Writing "humanized" leadership "differently": towards a bisexual spiral writing
Group 5 — Leadership at work	
Cylia Gondolff	Remote work in SMEs: constraint or opportunity? A qualitative analysis of French managers' perceptions and practices
Jennifer Branlat & Siri Øyslebø Sørensen	Leading with generosity: Exploring moments of blissful resonance as lived experience in academic leadership
Richard Damien & Cyril Fournier	How to embody and study high-intensity leadership? The journey of a practitioner-researcher: from the authority of action to the authority of proof
Group 6 — Reinventing leadership	
David Lerebours	And what if leadership were elsewhere? What a school without a leader taught me
Audrey Makengo	Embodying leadership in the student world
Victor A. Perez Moraga	Creative leadership and the tragedy of Cursive: A post-human ethno-operetta in five acts
Group 7 — Studying leadership differently	
Chhuor Virak	Leading, feeling, writing leadership differently
Marie-Elmège Tink-Long-Ki	From leadership to legitimation
Agnieszka Brzozowska	Utopian Writing as a Way of Leading Academia Differently
Moez Ben Yedder	From the official narrative to the embodied narrative: a learning expedition at the Musée de la Libération de Paris as a substitutive innovation for teaching leadership and followership
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Cocktail lunch
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	**General conclusion of the conference by Professor Jean-François Chanlat**