Discussion Group "Metropolitan Museum of Art"

Nurturing the Field of Management Learning and Education Research

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Nurturing the Field of Management Learning and Education Research

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Research in Management Learning and Education (RMLE) has experienced considerable growth over the past decade and its legitimacy has been extensively explored (e.g., Arbaugh, 2008;; Armstrong & Fukami, 2009; Beatty & Leigh, 2010; Currie & Pandher, 2013; Gallos, 2008; Rynes & Brown, 2011; Schmidt-Wilk & Fukami, 2010). Within the broader field of business and management education (BME), the most cited research is heavily weighted toward the management discipline (Arbaugh, 2008; Arbaugh & Hwang, 2015; Burke & Moore, 2003). However, despite RMLE's high article citation and journal influence (Arbaugh, Fornaciari & Hwang, 2016; Arbaugh & Hwang, 2015; Currie & Pandher, 2013), management still lags behind other BME disciplinary areas in efforts to identify key institutions, authors and topics.

The questions, issues and concerns (QIC) we would like to propose for exploration at the 2017 RMLE Unconference could be subsumed in a broad formulation: "What can we do, as a community, to nurture the RMLE field?"

This umbrella QIC can generate multiple avenues for exploration, such as:

- how to encourage business schools to adopt performance appraisal and reward systems that include the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL) on the same level as discipline-based scholarship (Arbaugh, Fornaciari & Hwang, 2016);

- how to encourage business doctoral programs to promote SOTL (see, for example, October 2016 issue of the *Journal of Management Education*, with the Marx, Garcia, Butterfield, Kappen & Baldwin's main article and its multiple rejoinders);

- how to assess RMLE legitimacy (Rynes & Brown, 2011), and whether we should look beyond the traditional metrics to evaluate BME research (Arbaugh, Fornaciari & Hwang, 2016; Aguinis, Shapiro, Antonacopoulou, & Cummings, 2014; Van Aalst, 2010)

We are particularly keen to use the unique environment of the RMLE Unconference to tackle a specific challenge:

- how to develop an MLE classification system (as the starting point to a broader BME system) that would give us a standard method to classify the scholarly literature in the field (articles, dissertations, books, book chapters and reviews, working papers, etc.)?

What we envision is something like the *Journal of Economic Literature* (*JEL*) system that is used in economics to classify research (American Economic Association, 2017). The *JEL* classification system (https://www.aeaweb.org/econlit/jelCodes.php?view=jel) has exhaustively detailed categories and subcategories, each with its own guidelines and keywords--and yet they managed to make it user-

friendly. It takes a lot of sophistication in design to achieve this particular kind of simplicity in use, and that is what we would like to achieve.

Such a system would allow MLE researchers, journal editors and conference organizers to use standard codes to classify and access research based on topics/concepts/audiences/etc. The perfect place to launch the process of creating such a classification system, with an emphasis on process and dialogue, would be at the RMLE Unconference, as it brings together in the same room(s) representatives of major MLE journals and other creative, passionate MLE scholars.

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