

VICTORIA MANAGEMENT GROUP RESEARCH SEMINAR

Thurs 23rd September, 12.30-1.30pm,
12th Floor Boardroom, Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay

Maoism versus Confucianism: Competing Ideological Influences on Modern Chinese Business Leaders

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The continuing march of China's economic prowess has emerged as a salient topic for research and scholarship in the West. Illustrative leadership exemplars within the context of Chinese business are of interest, including the philosophical/ideological foundations of successful Chinese business leaders. Unfortunately, research has been stymied by the paucity of reliable data, in particular biographical data. However, recent availability of detailed reference materials creates the opportunity to explore the thinking behind the behaviour of contemporary Chinese business leaders. This paper is based on biographical analyses of modern Chinese business leaders. It reviews the public pronouncements of current business leaders against two competing ideological frameworks: the divisive dialectics of Mao Zedong, characteristic of communist China, and the harmonious humanity of Confucius, characteristic of historical China. Conclusions are advanced as to the relative influence of Maoism versus Confucianism as manifest in contemporary Chinese business practices.

About the presenter

Dr Paul McDonald is a senior lecturer within the Victoria Management School. His specialist teaching area is organisational behaviour. In recent years he has held senior administrative positions, including Victoria MBA Director and International MBA Director (Hong Kong). Paul achieved his PhD from Ivey Business School, University of Western Ontario, Canada, in 1993. Leadership is a topic of particular recent interest in Paul's research and scholarship. In addition to an interest in cross-cultural leadership dynamics, he has undertaken thought and writing to deconstruct leadership into various facets in order to make it more accessible and understandable to practicing managers. Paul has published in a variety of academic journals, including: Human Resource Management Journal, Journal of Management & Organization, NeuroLeadership Journal, and Organizational Dynamics.

