Sep/Oct 2025

A Message from Your Leadership Team

Dr. Anil K Maheshwari, Maharishi International University

Greetings!

The AOM 2025 conference in Copenhagen was a milestone for the MSR Division and a source of great inspiration. With over 100 presentations, including papers, symposia, PDWs, posters, and morning meditations, we demonstrated how spirituality, consciousness, and innovation can enrich management scholarship. For junior and new researchers, this is an especially exciting moment; your voices, ideas, and energy are vital to shaping our field's future. As we look ahead, next year we will complete and present our 3-year report as a full Division, and your contributions will be central to that story. I warmly encourage you to step forward, share your research, and grow with MSR.

Current Trends in MSR Research

The Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future as an Area of Research

Dr. Stacey K. Guenther, George Mason University

In the book, *Redefining Spiritual Spaces in the Age of Technology: Innovations and Pitfalls* (Springer, 2025), the editors and contributors lay out an emerging spiritual infrastructure, an area rife with research potential. Through many contributors, this infrastructure is found as a distributed, interwoven aspect of society. Spiritual space is no longer limited to churches, mosques, and temples, but instead, is found among spiritual explorers who are less interested in religiosity and more interested in experiencing the divine. It is in small groups, both in person and virtual, within all kinds of public and private social enterprises, and more of a grassroots phenomenon absent a guru, priest, or spiritual leader.

Although the book focuses on the philosophical and practical application of technologies in creating new, virtual spiritual spaces, several chapters are built upon research. Those chapters include Pergament and Pomerleau's chapter on experiencing the sacred, Campbell's chapter on digital religion, Guenther's chapter on virtual sacred circles, Akmal et al.'s chapter on chaplain conversation circles, and Cadge's epilogue on the spiritual infrastructure of the future.

The volume includes contributions from a wide range of scholars and practitioners, including Krista Tippett, Richard J. Davidson, Kenneth Pargament, Heidi A. Campbell, Linda Lantieri, and Wendy Cadge. Several MSR members contributed:

- Judi Neal is the first chapter after the Introduction in the book. Her chapter is titled, "Global Consciousness and the Power of Virtual Spaces".
- Stacey Guenther contributed chapter 8, called, "Virtual Sacred Circles: The Rise of Spiritual Exploration in Small Groups".
- Techa Smalls-Brown co-wrote an article about racial healing circles called, "Virtual Healing Experiences in a Dual Pandemic."
- Helen Chung was a contributor to a chapter on chaplaincy conversation circles called, "The Conversation Circles: A Sacred Space of Healing".
- And Meena Srinivasan co-wrote a chapter about the Transformative Leadership Education program called, "Creating Transformative Experiences Through Virtual Sacred Space".

Member Spotlight

Raja R Kanuri, MBA CSM

Raja is a PhD candidate from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. His PhD research focuses on the overlap of spirituality and AI ethics. This effort offers a Vedantic worldview to the body of AI ethics. It attempts to interpret existing principles of AI ethics and investigates how Vedanta can offer an extension to that body. Raja also teaches AI ethics as a lecturer at the SRH Berlin University of Applied Sciences. He was born and raised in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India, and has lived in Berlin, Germany since 2017.

Raja enjoys meeting people, getting to know their stories, and learning from them. Currently, he is interested in phenomenology and post-phenomenology and is always keen to receive feedback on his research.

On the Horizon @ MSR

Do you have an MSR activity you want others to know about - please check out these handy instructions on how to Add an Event to the MSR calendar or Create a Discussion post.

EVENTS:

MSR Monthly: September 17
Monthly virtual gathering, hosted by Danny Sandra, an opportunity to share updates, nurture research, foster collaboration, and strengthen the MSR Division Community.
https://zoom.us/j/95390517519?pwd=ZHZLMkJwK3lSdGc5UnZyNFdXM2RzQT09

Symposium in AI+Mindfulness: October 1
Organized by ETH Zurich and World Meditation Foundation. The symposium will be held in person in Zürich, Switzerland.

https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/law-n-economics/lawecon-dam/CfP_AI_Mindfulness_Symposium_2025.pdf

2025 HUMAN ITAS Global Congress of Flourishing, Osnowiec, Poland: October 8-10
With free registration for observers. https://flourishing.humanitas.edu.pl/

Intellectual Shamans webinar on transforming economics to achieve a flourishing world for all: October 10

Organized by the The International Humanistic Management Association, with Jasper Kenter (Aberystwyth Business School, Wales) and Kate Pickett (University of York, UK), hosted by Sandra Waddock (Boston College Carroll School of Management).
 https://humanisticmanagement.international/activities/events/

Mapping Spiritual Awakening: Diverse Journeys of Consciousness Expansion: December 15, 11:00am-12:30pm Eastern Time
This **90-min research webinar** is organized by the **MSR Research Committee** (Tianyuan Yu, Naida Culshaw, Stacey Guenther, Konstantin Weicht, and Gaëtan Mourmant) and will be co-hosted by Tianyuan Yu (Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada) and Gaëtan Mourmant (Business Science Institute, France). This event marks the first in a **series of MSR research webinars** to be held from **December 2025 through June 2026**. The Committee intends to offer future webinars at varying times of day to ensure participants in different time zones have equitable opportunities to join. This webinar builds on a two-year in-depth dialogue on the role of suffering in spiritual awakening as a focal phenomenon of spiritual leadership. It shares early findings from a grounded-theory typology that explores diverse and empowering pathways to consciousness expansion. Drawing on first-person narratives, literature, and spiritual traditions, the session will highlight key themes such as triggers, letting go, joy, suffering, human agency, and spiralling cycles of growth. The session will also invite participants to share their own experiences and reflections on spiritual awakening.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION:
Call for submission: Truth in the Age of Polarization and Artificial Intelligence Conference. Sponsored by the Journal of Management Studies and the Society for the Advancement of Management Studies. The conference will take place in Cambridge, UK on 24-25 March 2026. Contributions should be submitted to business.jms@durham.ac.uk no later than midnight (Greenwich Mean Time) on **5th December 2025**.
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/pb-assets/assets/14676486/cfp/JMS-Conference-2026-Call-for-Papers-FINAL-1751554316977.pdf

Call for papers: The Architecture of Hope in Distressing Times and Places: Construction, Action, and Possibilities by Organization Studies. The deadline is **January 2027.**
https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/oss/SI%20Hope%20CFP%20FINAL%2012032025_ST-1742464102.pdf

Call for papers: (Re)claiming the Sacred Feminine in Management and Organizations. A one-page abstract of a potential manuscript may be submitted via the ScholarOne system at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rmsr between **March 15 and May 15, 2026**.
Full manuscripts must be submitted via the ScholarOne system at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rmsr by **January 15, 2027**. For questions, please email: sacredfeminineeditors@gmail.com

Call for book chapters: Spirituality and nature: creating harmony in nature.
Full chapters will need to be submitted by **December 2025**. For further information please contact the guest editors: Kathryn Pavlovich kathryn.pavlovich@waikato.ac.nz and Stacie Chappell stacie.chappell@gmail.com

Call for Chapters: Leadership and Followership: Ethical Challenges in a Globalized World
Volume Editors: Frankie Weinberg, Ph.D. and Crystal J. Davis, DM
Series Editors: Payal Kumar (India) and Peter Bamberger (Tel Aviv University)
Executive Editor: Gideon Markman, Past Editor-in-Chief (Colorado State University)
Publisher: World Scientific Publishers, as part of the Handbook of Business Ethics and Values in a Globalized World series.
Submission Timeline: **Up to Nov 15th, 2025**
Proposal Submission: Please submit a 1–2 page proposal outlining your topic, relevance, and contribution to Dr. Crystal J. Davis at Crystal.Davis@cloud.edu.

We want to hear from all our MSR members

If you would like to *contribute* to a future newsletter, please add your contribution in this form.

Recent Publications

Sharing our research is yet another way to connect with one another. This section is an opportunity to share our MSR scholarly work. These works were submitted to the CommTech team recently. If you have a recent publication or conference paper please submit it using this form and we will include it in a future issue.

Articles

Yu, T. (2025). 'Zen-informed spiritual research paradigm: A Buddhist approach to decolonizing MSR research'. Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion. 22 (1), 11-38. https://doi.org/10.51327/YVTO3030

Yu, T. (2025). 'Can AI do spiritual research? A Zen Buddhist perspective'. Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion. 22(2), 208-225. https://doi.org/10.51327/THGF7043

Kanuri, R. R., Nandram, S., & Bindlish, P. (2025). A call for Vedantic worldview towards human centricity in AI ethics. International Journal of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation. Advance online

publication. https://doi.org/10.1504/IJTTC.2025.10072204

Malik, E. (2025). Spirituality and religion in management: Pathways, motivations, and economic implications. *European Economic Letters, 15*(3), 1744–1767. https://doi.org/10.52783/eel.v15i3.3585

Sferrazzo, R., Guerci, M., Holm, M., & Islam, G. (2025). Spirited away? Tensions in spirituality-and-management education within a business school. *Management Learning, 0*(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/13505076251353302

Joshi, G., Nandram, S. S., Mohandas, N. P., & Cabral, C. (2025). Spiritual Employability: Towards a Holistic Understanding of Career Development. Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion.

Teig, T., Grosman, I., & Cozzi, N. (2025). The (White) Elephant in the Room: A qualitative critical Whiteness study of two inclusive leadership programs. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Leadership Studies, 6*(2), 68–91. https://doi.org/10.61186/johepal.6.2.68

Book and Book Chapters

Guenther, S. K., Li, X., & Scheidt, M. A. (Eds.). (2025). *Redefining Spiritual Spaces in the Age of Technology: Innovations and Pitfalls*. Management, Change, Strategy and Positive Leadership series. Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-93436-0

Book: Marques, J. (Ed.). (2024). *Encyclopedia of diversity, equity, inclusion and spirituality* [Living reference work]. Springer Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32257-0
*C*hapters in this book (few but not limited to):
- Leader humility in workplace spirituality – Kirabira, A.T.
- Adhyātma and Spirituality – Bhawuk, D.
- Spirituality and Dyslexia: Entrepreneurs' Intuitive Path – Lemmens, J.
- Spirituality and Entrepreneurship: Nurturing Innovation Through Mindful Leadership – Fernández-Muiños, M.
- Spiritual Pathways to Unity: A Daoist Perspective- Culham, T.
- Spirituality and Spiritual Care: Illustrating Through Hindu Worldview – Bindlish, P., Nandram, S.
- The Role of Spirituality in Cultivating a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Workplace – Thomas, N.
- Spirituality and Sustainable Business: Harmonizing with Nature for Sustainable Transformation – Zwiers, L., Tselekis, E.
- Workplace Spirituality and Diversity Embracement - Saxena, S., Rocha, R.G.
- DEI and spirituality – Marques, J.
- Spirituality and Technology: A Hindu Perspective – Bindlish, P., Nandram, S.
- Faith-at-Work: Spiritual Practices, Conscious Choices, & Avoiding Acedia - Long, E.C.
- New Heights for Black Entrepreneurs Through Spirituality - Andrews, P., Gross, C.
- Buddhist Psychology and DEIS - Marques, J.
- Spirituality and Entrepreneurship – Fernández-Muiños, M.
- Spirituality and Technology: Unveiling Workplace Spiritual Dynamics in High-Tech Environments – Colen, J.

- Spirituality, Peace, and Religion: Holistic Approaches in Peace Studies – Strzelecka, E.
- Adhyātma: The Nyāya Perspectives to Ultimate Reality and Self – Dhakal, A., Bindlish, P.
- On Mental Models and Spiritual Pathways - Marques, J.
- Spirituality, Religion, and Culture – Ewest, T
- Exploring Evolution and Trends in Spirituality Research – Nandram, S., Bindlish, P., Joshi, G.
- DEI as a Spiritual Character Builder- Marques, J.
- Buddhist Spirituality in Economics and Management - Gotsis, G., Grimani, A.
- Spirituality and Governance: Insights from Ancient Indian Texts – Joshi, P., Joshi, A.
- Awakened Leadership and DEIS - Marques, J.
- Faith-at-Work Resolving Conflicts and Promoting Wellness: A Social Psychology Perspective in Pluralist Organizations - Long, E.C.
- Spirituality and Twin Transformation – Runge, M., Nandram, S.
- What Happens with DEI When Spiritual Pathways Are Lost - Marques, J.
- A Spirituality that Informs One's Engagement with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Green, S.M.
- Exploring the Intersection of Spirituality, Culture, and Organizations - McGhee, P.
- Spirituality: From Know-How to Know Why – Seglem, H., Ims, K.