

2024 WERA International Research Network (IRN) Report
Educational Leadership for an Equitable, Resilient, and Sustainable Future

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IRN Context, Objectives, and Topics

Education systems around the world are affected by the growing complexity and interdependence in digital, economic, geopolitical, environmental, and sociocultural spheres. The COVID-19 global health crisis has exposed stark inequities, fragilities, and unsustainable systems and practices in all sectors, including education. The central question guiding this International Research Network (IRN) is how to foster more equitable, resilient, and sustainable societies, education systems, and institutions through developing leaders and educators' competencies and commitment to promoting common good – the shared values of equity, inclusion, peace, prosperity, collective wellbeing, and sustainability. The IRN includes 42 experienced and emerging scholars who bring diverse ways of being (ontology), knowing (epistemology), and philosophical traditions (axiology) from all global regions, including Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, Middle East, North America, South America, and Arctic.

The scholarship on education and leadership has expended tremendously during the past three decades and covers a wide range of fundamental topics, including instruction, curriculum, supervision, policy, community engagement, diverse ways of knowing and leadership models. This vast body of work is mostly situated in academic contexts established on institutional, disciplinary, and individual basis. Building equitable, resilient, and sustainable education systems, institutions, and communities requires interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and transnational perspectives and solutions.

The goal of the IRN is to engage scholarly inquiries to address three questions:

- 1) What significant issues affect the quality, equity, inclusion, and sustainability in education?
- 2) What leadership competencies are critical for an equitable, resilient, and sustainable societies, systems, and organizations?
- 3) In what ways can wisdom, stories, relationships inform leadership theory and praxis?
- 4) What policies and practices are promising in enhancing leaders' competency and commitment towards the common good?

This IRN covers the following leadership topics in scholarly inquiry:

- School leadership
- Higher Education leadership
- Community leadership
- Global leadership
- Responsible leadership
- Sustainability Leadership
- Inclusive leadership
- Digital leadership
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Global citizenship/competence Education (GCED)
- Leadership education & scholarship

Conveners

The Conveners of this IRN have collaborated on research, publication, knowledge dissemination, and transnational collaboration over the past decades. Respectively, they have established close academic relationships with the listed scholars of this proposed IRN. Most participants in this IRN are actively engaged in research and supervise graduate students at both master's and doctoral levels. Through this IRN, more emerging scholars will be invited and recruited to this global research network for strategic knowledge generation and dissemination.

The four Conveners of the IRN are established scholars in global and educational leadership in Canada, USA, the United Kingdom. They have published extensively on the topics covered under this IRN and actively engage in leadership education in higher education. They have had a long record of academic collaboration during the past decade and are currently co-editing a Routledge Book Series titled *Educational Leadership for an Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future*. This proposed IRN provides a platform and opportunity for them to recruit potential authors and readers for the book series, explore new transnational studies, and promote knowledge dissemination and translation through conferences, publications, leadership education, graduate supervision, and community engagement. The four convenors have collaborated with most of the listed participants in research, publication, and graduate supervision. The diverse perspectives, areas of leadership expertise, traditions, cultures, languages, and methodologies of this IRN will ensure global perspectives on leadership studies and publications.

Work Completed during 2023-April 2024

Completed Activities	Participants
Organized the first virtual IRN meeting	Conveners
Recruited 15 experienced and emerging scholars at conferences and through graduate programs	All participants
Exploring a digital working space/process for IRN participants	Conveners
Introduced the IRN at 25th ILA conference in Vancouver, Canada.	Conveners/some participants
Explored new research proposals for transnational studies	Conveners/participants
Are in the process of editing two books relevant to the IRN themes	Conveners/participants
Conducted presentations at academic conferences (AERA/CSSE/BERA)	Conveners/participants
Organized two 2024 BERA/WERA symposiums	Conveners/participants
Exploring new transnational research collaboration	Conveners/participants

We kindly invite 2024 AERA participants to join the IRN by contacting the lead Convener Dr. Linyuan Guo-Brennan at liguo@upei.ca