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## Leading as a Critical Scholar: A Shared Dialogue

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**Title:** Leading as a Critical Scholar: A Shared Dialogue

**Session Chair:** Jennie Small<sup>1</sup>

**Session Panelists:** Candice Harris<sup>2</sup>, Erica Wilson<sup>3</sup>, Donna Chambers<sup>4</sup>, Alison McIntosh<sup>2</sup>, & Nigel Morgan<sup>5</sup>

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**Session Type:** Panel

**Abstract:**

Neoliberal ideology has imbued universities with a markedly changed educational agenda, underscoring contemporary managerial philosophy, and promoting individualism and competitiveness within the sector (Huang et al., 2016). This neoliberal focus on greater accountability and managerialism provides a complex backdrop against which to explore and discuss academic careers.

While the Critical Tourism Studies (CTS) community has evolved to become an international network of scholars who share a vision of producing and promoting social change in and through tourism practice, research, and education, rarely have the academic careers of CTS members been examined, especially of those who hold leadership positions in their universities. In the spirit of the conference, this session will explore the opportunities, realities, conflicts, and challenges when leading as a critical scholar. We invite colleagues who have leadership roles and those who aspire to gain a leadership role (or avoid one) to share in dialogue focusing on:

- Being a critical scholar in a leadership position – serving whose interests?
- Becoming a leader in an increasingly neoliberal system – how, when and why!
- Securing, shaping, and thriving in leadership roles
- Using voice and sometimes silence to advance social justice ideals
- Managing with the tensions that leading differently (or not) creates
- Living with multiple and multifaceted identities – critical scholar, leader, researcher, parent, etc.
- Calling for greater diversity in leadership
- Leading in a collective manner
- Leader wellbeing
- Even the decision to avoid a leadership position in the neoliberal environment

The session will involve a panel of critical scholars who also hold significant leadership positions. Each panelist will present only 5 minutes of opening reflections to enable most of the time to be spent engaging all participants in the discussion.

**Organised under the auspices of the Critical Approaches in Tourism and Hospitality SIG of the Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE)**