

An invitation to participate in an international study on ethical leadership in education

Stemming from our 20-year long research program, we are now initiating an international study on ethical leadership in diverse cultural and social contexts. The Ethical Leadership Questionnaire, a «wall-to-wall» validated quantitative instrument (Langlois, Lapointe, Valois and De Leeuw, in press), measures the presence of ethical leadership based on Starratt's three interdependent ethics – justice, critique and care – as well as their relationship with ethical sensitivity. Presently, the ELQ is available in French, English and Spanish.

Our objective in developing the ELQ was not to create an instrument for the identification of candidates who would score higher on the three ethics, or on any one of them. Our goal was rather to be able to measure the presence of emergent or confirmed ethical competency among leaders and to support their optimal development through professional training (Langlois & Lapointe, 2010). Indeed, during our experimental training project (SSRHC 2005-2008), participants experienced a significant readjustment process, triggered by the information provided to them through the questionnaire, as it allowed them to become aware of their strengths and weaknesses, a recognition which led them to engage in a transformative cycle aimed at improving their ethical awareness, moral judgment, sense of responsibility, and overall professional conduct.

In this session, we will converse with scholars who would be interested in becoming partners in our SSHRC-funded international comparative study and publishing with us. Some questions we are investigating are:

- What is the influence of different cultural contexts on ethical leadership as measured by the ELQ?
- Are there any culturally-rooted components of ethical leadership which need to be added to the ELQ?
- Does ethical leadership vary according to different types of school system?

Furthermore, given these questions, an important avenue of research is the translation and adaptation of the ELQ in other languages than French, English and Spanish.

According to Christopher Branson, Director of the UCEA Center for the Study of Leadership in Education, the quantitative nature of this research «provides a unique contribution to our exploration of the development and practice of ethical leadership because our research mostly reflects a qualitative approach».

Welcome! Bienvenue! Willkommen! Bienvenido! Maeva!