

Framing research on school principals' identities, 17 May 2017.

Edu-Lead

Education Leadership

ACADEMICAL DISCUSSIONS: ELAD

Prof Edmore Mutekwe; Ike Xaba; Jan Heystek; Lloyd Conley; Dr Aaron Nhlapo; Branwen H Challens; CP Van der Vyver; Deon Vos; Herman Van Vuuren; Mark Bosch; Siphon Kwatubana; Nolutho Diko.

At an Academics discussion held by Edu-Lead an article by Crow, Day and Moller (2017) was pulled apart by the academics attending, thoroughly discussed and some interesting themes arose for research fields to be broadened. Emotional dimension as well as social construct was identified to be finely intertwined and could be linked back to previous research done on this topic.

Prof Lloyd Conley and Dr Deon Vos pointed out that it takes personal identity as well as environmental influence to form the leadership part of a person. It is "in" who you are and not something that can be taught. This topic linked to the theme of leadership and identity where in the academics discussion a lack of research on the topic of role conflict in this leadership position arose. This is good, because it shows us in which direction to focus research on in the time to come. Prof Lloyd Conley also enlightened the fact that the issue of identity is not constant. In any time of context it is something that should always be created into a new form. Themes constantly change. How can it be measured or changed? And on this note Dr Branwen H Challens also reflected that because of the change of identity and playing different roles in- and outside of school, it can create a problem for school principals with regard to role conflict. Further studies can be done on this and researched gathered.

Study should also be done on identity of principals: Identity is changing and to what extent? On this topic Prof Jan Heystek clarified that professional dimension does influence your identity and social dimension gets critical. It definitely is an ongoing position. Social make up changes the identity of the principal. Construction and reconstruction.

This followed to the discussion that principals previously were not accepted at schools because of the community prejudging the principal because they are afraid that the

identity of the principle would change his/her role. Dr Siphon Kwatubana stated that identity starts with your action and follows to your roll. In a guideline. But what is this core identity of a principal. Further research can be done to see how these are chosen and made clear.

At the end of this discussion a suggestion was made to possibly having academical discussions at schools or inviting schools to sit in in the conversations and also have an influence in the discussion about research articles and future research possibilities.

The article the discussion was based on:

Crow, G., Day, C. & Møller, J. 2017. Framing research on school principals' identities, *International Journal of Leadership in Education*, 20(3):265-277. DOI: 10.1080/13603124.2015.1123299