



New Economy, Old Traditions: Caring Entrepreneurship

Annual European SPES Conference
September 4-6, 2017
Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

The Collier School of Management of Tel Aviv University will be hosting the 2017 Annual European SPES Conference in September 4-6, 2017 in Tel Aviv, Israel. Collaborative partners are the European SPES Institute and the Business Ethics Center of the Corvinus University of Budapest.

Topic of the Conference

The industrial economy is motivated only by economic objectives. The post-industrial economy recognizes that instead of people serving the economy, the economy has to serve people and their values. In other words, economic motivations have been complemented by multi-dimensional objectives that respect societal, environmental, and spiritual values.

The understanding of spirituality has changed in modernity and post-modernity. In agrarian societies people looked at the stars and perceived a cyclical relationship between the skies and the weather. Myths and early religious behaviour led to the belief that God (Gods) created everything, including human beings. Contemporary atheism has developed a belief that human beings created the concept of God.

Recently there have debates between those who believe in God as Creator of all and those that think that everything is a result of random processes and evolution driven by natural selection. Many people today are secularists and don't believe in after death survival and in Gods that carry an accounting system that will determine what will happen after death based on a person's deeds during their life time. Spirituality is

an alternative response to a person's quest for meaning and connectedness to others and offers a new source for the development and application of moral values. At the same time science is discovering very interesting effects where people can influence others in currently unexplained ways so that even plants in the forest have some networks that protect the forest as a whole.

Apparently, economies with a high level of trust among people flourish more than in societies with a low level of trust. This is one example of how spirituality and faith traditions can fertilize the practice of business managers and entrepreneurs. Spirituality is also emerging as a human resource useful for creating models for pressing social problems, including poverty, conflict, unemployment, environmental degradation and climate change.

A new ethos of entrepreneurship needs to be developed in which caring for fellow human beings, future generations and nature play a primordial role. Practical wisdom of the Jewish and other faith traditions suggests that enterprises with a spiritual value orientation can flourish, and serve the interests of business and the wider community better than conventional enterprises following the narrow financial bottom line.

Issues to be Addressed

How do the challenges of the new economy influence and transform entrepreneurship practices?

Is it possible to create a common multidimensional METRICS that will guide decision makers in making consistent quantitative decisions?

How might religious faith traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.) better inform and guide entrepreneurial and management practice today?

How can responsibility for nature and future generations be defined and realized in business?

What is the relevance of Jewish moral philosophy (M. Buber, Hans Jonas, E. Levinas) for business and entrepreneurship in the 21st century?

How can spirituality influence the commitment of entrepreneurs to social well-being and sustainability?

How do spiritually driven entrepreneurs define and measure success in their business practice?

How can spiritually driven enterprises survive and flourish in competitive environments?

What are the key characteristics and consequences of caring entrepreneurship?

How do spiritual orientations and practices enhance entrepreneur's ability to discover, evaluate and implement opportunities?

How do spiritual orientations influence entrepreneurs to developing a caring attitude towards stakeholders?

Reflections on the meaning of "caring" as a key concept in business and social action

Does it make sense to talk about an organizational approach to caring? Under what conditions?

Stories and case studies of caring entrepreneurship

Caring Entrepreneurship in feminist thinking and literature

What is the relationship between spiritual/religious practices and entrepreneurial creativity?

How can spiritually driven entrepreneurship contribute to the transformation of contemporary management theory and praxis?

How can community-based economic models contribute to healing and repairing the world?

Place and Date

The Conference will be held at the venue of the Tel Aviv University, in Tel Aviv, Israel. The conference will start on September 4, 2017 and will end on September 6, 2017 (3 day).

Academic Chairs

Yehuda Kahane, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Management, and Porter School of Environmental Studies, the former Head of the Institute for Business and the Environment, Tel-Aviv University, Israel

Laszlo Zsolnai, Professor and Director, Business Ethics Center, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary and President, European SPES Institute, Leuven, Belgium

Scientific Committee

Yochanan Altman, Professor, Middlesex University Business School, London, UK

Luk Bouckaert, Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

Ron Margolin, Professor, Department of Jewish Philosophy and Comparative Religion, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Ora Setter, Former CEO and Academic Director of Lahav – Executive Education Center, Tel Aviv University, and Adjunct Faculty, Tel Aviv University, Israel and MDI, Gurgaon, India

Mike Thompson, Chairman, GoodBrand, London, UK and Adjunct Professor, Peter G. Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria, Canada

Participation Fee of the European SPES Annual Conference

200 Euros for regular participants

150 Euros for European SPES members

100 Euros for students and accompanying persons

Submissions

Interested participants should send a *detailed abstract* of their planned presentation (about 500 words) accompanied by a *short biographical note* (100 words) electronically by *March 31, 2017* to:

Laszlo Zsolnai,
President
European SPES Institute
Leuven
email: laszlo_zsolnai@interware.hu

Conference organizers are interested in receiving proposals for *academic papers* as well as *practice oriented* submissions.

Full papers should be submitted by *July 30, 2017*.

Postconference event

After the conference a guided tour to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea will be organized.