

# “Words can hurt”: The role of leadership in the passionate workplace of the twenty first century. A discussion about individual sensitivity and pathocratic influence in the academic (university) environment.

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**Abstract:** The Office for National Statistics find that productivity in the UK remains sluggish. They describe this as a productivity puzzle. One reason many be associated with the accidental manager. These are people who are appointed to leadership positions with little or no leadership/ management skills and can drain productivity. This suggests that, notwithstanding the development of leadership/ management theories, there continues to be a problem that needs to be addressed. This journal article, begins by comparing and contrasting the terms leadership and management and reflects upon a few of the main theories. The findings propose that there is no one right approach to leadership. However, the leader needs to have the requisite skills to adapt and adopt the appropriate leadership style for the situation. This requires the leader to make decisions that involve cognition, intuition and emotion. Therefore, the leader of the twenty first century needs to be able to influence and collaborate with others while recognizing that “words can hurt” and that some people can be more sensitive than others. It is, therefore important that leaders develop their emotional intelligence skills. The leader of the twenty first century also recognizes the damaging impact that passion killers and pathocratic influence can have on the organization. These factors can help build a high performing, passionate and healthy workplace in which people feel valued. In summing up, the role of leader and follower is increasingly blurred. It acknowledges the significance of allowing followers to take responsibility while recognizing leadership is a process not a position.

**Keywords—** Accidental manager; emotional intelligence; healthy workplace; leadership style; passion; passionate workplace; passion killers; pathocratic influence; productivity puzzle; sensitive; sensitivity; toxic leadership; toxic environment; words can hurt; values.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Even before the challenges faced by the impact of Corona virus, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) find productivity in the UK as sluggish (ONS, 2015, 2019). The ONS (2015) refer to this as the *productivity puzzle*. One reason may be associated with the accidental manager, someone who just happens to be in the right place at the right time (Bowen, 2021; CMI, 2015; Topchik, 2004). The Chartered Management Institute (CMI, 2015) suggest that these people may be technically highly skilled, however, they have little or no management/ leadership skills. They do not appear to have the required skills of leadership, supervision and coordination (Attar, Gupta and Desai, 2012). Some of these people think that there is no need for management training and yet in the UK, 2.4 million managers are not performing at their best as they do not have sufficient training. (CMI, 2015, 2017). Furthermore, managers appear to get much of their information and knowledge from the mass media that can develop into fads or fashions that are intertwined with assumptions and beliefs together with what is perceived as common sense (Linstead, Fulop and Lilley, 2009). As pointed out by Stanley (2006) the most experienced managers may not be the most effective. These can be accidental managers who drain productivity (CMI, 2017).

A further reason for the *productivity puzzle* could be due to those characterized with personality traits associated with the dark triad (narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy) (Furnham, 2011). Those appointed to leadership/ management positions may be articulate and exude charm but they may also

be emotionally cold, arrogant and destructive (Lipman-Blumen, 2006). These people can take advantage of others without feeling, conscience or consideration of others (Jones and Paulhus, 2011). They can rise to positions of leadership, using *pathocratic influence*, creating a toxic environment in which to work (Lipman-Blumen, 2006). They are passion killers extinguishing the intrinsic flame of passion (Bowen, 2020, 2021).

The findings suggest that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. It is, therefore, important that the person appointed to a position of leadership/ management should have the requisite skills, qualities and personality traits that commensurate with the role of leadership in the twenty first century. The leaders of the twenty first century should understand that “words can hurt” and that passion killing (people and things) can have a detrimental impact on the organization (Bowen, 2020, 2021). This journal article, therefore, identifies the importance of developing skills associated with emotional intelligence and intra/interpersonal relationships. The journal article also reinforces the importance of developing and maintaining the healthy and passionate workplace. It is a place where people want to go to work.

Whereas discussion is partly made over to findings from the higher education (university) perspective, the content could be extended to the wider context of the leader in the twenty first century. The discussion begins with the debate about the difference between leadership and management.

## 2. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

There appears to be continued debate as to whether the terms leadership and management can be defined as separate terms or are the same. There also appears debate as to how management/ leadership can be measured. It is, therefore, helpful to consider the on-going debate.

### 2.1 The debate

Bohoris and Vorria (2008) suggest that the terms leadership and management are often seen as the same thing. Linstead, Fulop and Lilley (2009) consider that leadership is incorporated into management. Managers are those who work through others focusing on achieving organizational aims and objectives (Bloisi, Cook and Hunsaker, 2003). They are *middletons*, people who intercede between those who undertake the work and the executive authority (Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis, 2011). Bass and Bass (2008) suggest that there is an overlap between leadership and management. However, there is disagreement as to the degree of overlap (Yukl, 2012). It may just a matter of style (Kotterman, 2006). Bloisi, Cook and Hunsaker (2003) advises that a manager has authority to be in charge while a leader provides direction while influencing others. Rost (1993) adds that a manager is a person who holds a position of authority and should not be associated with leadership, whereas a leader is a person who may not hold position of authority. Drucker (1996) adds to the debate pointing out that without followers there is no leader. Therefore, a leader is a person who has followers and does the right thing (Drucker, 1996; Thakur, 1998). Drucker (1996) also states that the role of leadership is a *responsibility* and should not be necessarily be associated with rank, position, money or title. What is important is that leaders are *doers* (Drucker, 1996). They influence others to voluntarily commit themselves to the organization's goals and vision (Bloisi, Cook and Hunsaker, 2003; Robbins and Judge, 2013).

Mango (2018) identifies over 66 management/ leadership theories and it is apparent that there is no consensual agreed definition. Kotterman (2006) adds that if there is no consensus then it is not possible to compare, contrast, test, measure or assess the findings from different studies. The term management, therefore, remains a controversial topic as it continues to raise disagreement between academics and practitioners (Linstead, Fulop and Lilley, 2009). Notwithstanding the complexity of defining and measuring leadership and management, models and theories are put forward to try and explain what and who makes an effective leader. For the purpose of this journal article the terms leadership and management are considered to be interchangeable. The next section reflects on a few of the main leadership/ management theories.

## 3. LEADERSHIP/ MANAGEMENT THEORIES

The traditional leadership theory focuses on the role leaders have on influencing followers where there is an assumption that there is a degree of hierarchy in the organization (Getha-Taylor, 2008). The leader rises to their

position because they performed well in their previous role(s) and are trained to deliver via traditional hierarchy (Getha-Taylor, 2008). This approach appears to continue into the twenty first century (Agranoff, 2003; Getha-Taylor, 2008). However, to be successful in the twenty first century, leaders need to be able to understand the importance of collaboration and building coalitions. This requires the leader to have three skills: 1) influencing, 2) partnering, and 3) being political savvy (Agranoff, 2003; Getha-Taylor, 2008). There is, therefore, a clear demarcation between the traditional hierarchical approach of leadership to one that focuses on the collaborative approach.

To help explain the background to leadership/ management theory, this section begins with the *great man*/ trait theory (Carlyle, 1841, 2007) and concludes with the social change model, asking if leaders are really necessary in the twenty first century.

### 3.1 The “Great man”/ trait theory

Boring (1950) describes the *great man* theory as being old as history. However, it is popularized in the nineteenth century by Thomas Carlyle (Carlyle, 1841, 2007). This theory suggests that people are born with innate leadership and behavioral traits. They are born to lead while others are born to follow (Marquis and Huston, 2009). This theory assumes that people are born with already formed personality traits and behavioral characteristics. It does not consider that people can learn, develop and become great leaders. This theory, therefore, does appear somewhat dated (Bowen, 2021). Furthermore, the *great man* theory does appear to be a sexist term as it doesn't account for the many women who may become leaders. It may, therefore, be helpful that it is retitled as great leader or great person (Bowen, 2021). The *great man* theory is developed in the twentieth century focusing on particular personality traits that differentiate the effective leader from one who is ineffective (Reed and Bogardus, 2012; Kirkpatrick and Locke, 1991).

### 3.2 The trait approach

As with the *great man* theory the trait theory assumes people are born with innate leadership skills. The weakness of the trait approach is that it singles out successful leadership as being inherited, neglecting other factors such as background, experience, situation, context and environment (Bowen, 2021; Drucker, 1996). To help explain this, Stogdill and Shartle (1948) undertake a study of USA naval officers with the purpose of developing a methodological approach for studying leadership that includes responsibility, authority and delegation (R.A.D. index). They find that leadership is an *interactive* process between those who participate in goal orientated group activity. Stogdill (1948) also undertakes a review of earlier literature and finds that a person does not necessarily become a successful leader because they have particular traits. He also suggests that leadership can be learned. This is supported by the findings from a study undertaken by Arvey, Zhang, Avolio and Krueger (2007) who

find that genetics accounts for 32% in leadership role. It therefore suggests that the remaining 68% can be learned. Other factors are at play (Bowen, 2021).

To try and rationalize the term leadership, other theories are put forward. This includes the classical theory of management/ scientific management.

### 3.3 The classical theory of management/ scientific management

Two of the theorists associated with the classical theory of management/ scientific management are Frederick Taylor and Henri Fayol. Taylor (1911, 2009) refers to four core management principles: 1) management is a science, 2) harmony and removal of conflict, 3) cooperation- not individualism, and 4) development of each person to maximize efficiency.

The theory focuses on *one best way* of doing a job that involves efficiency, predictability and control (Taylor, 1911, 2009). Efficiency is associated with increasing output and reducing underworking. Predictability is associated with reducing tasks to standardized sub-tasks. Control is the establishment and recognition of a system in which management decisions are implemented (Taylor, 1911, 2009). Jobs are repetitive and can be quickly learned. Therefore, people can be easily replaced with less time spent on learning the job. However, there are significant drawbacks to this system. Standardizing systems and processes require organizing, supervision and planning. This can lead to increased levels of supervision adding to organizational time and costs. Furthermore, jobs can become boring quickly. This can lead to higher turnover, increasing the cost of recruitment and training to the organization (Bowen, 2021).

Henri Fayol publishes his theory of administrative management in 1916 but it is not until 1949 that his book "*General and Industrial Management*" is translated into English by Constance Storrs (Fayol, 1949, 2013). Fayol divides management of organizations into six primary activities and functions as summarized in the table below:

**Table 1:** Management activities and functions (Fayol, 1949, 2013).

	Activity	Function
1	Technical.	Production, manufacturing, adaptation.
2	Finance.	Search for optimal capital.
3	Commercial.	Buying, selling, exchange.
4	Accounting.	Statistics, stocktaking, costs, balance sheet.

5	Security.	Protection of people and property.
6	Managerial.	Plan, coordinate, organize, develop output, command, control.

Fayol (1949, 2013) also identifies abilities associated with qualities and knowledge. These are summarized in the table below:

**Table 2:** Qualities and abilities (Fayol, 1949, 2013).

	Qualities.	Abilities.
1	Physical.	Health, vigor.
2	Mental.	Learn, understand, adaptability, mental vigor, judgment.
3	Moral.	Energy, loyalty, dignity, tact, firmness, initiative, willingness to accept responsibility.
4	General education.	General acquaintance with matters, but not exclusively, belonging to the function being performed.
5	Special knowledge.	Financial, technical, commercial, managerial, etc.
6	Experience.	Knowledge arising from experience in the working environment, recollection.

Fayol (1949, 2013) also identifies fourteen principles of management summarized in the table below.

**Table 3:** Principles of management (Fayol, 1949, 2013).

	Principles.	Explanation.
1	Specialisation of labor	To encourage continuous improvement in methods and skills.
2	Authority.	The right to give orders and to exact obedience.
3	Discipline.	Obedience by all to the organization.

4	Unity of command.	Each member of staff reports to one person.
5	Unity of direction.	Single plan is followed by all.
6	Subordination of individual interests.	Interests should be to the organization, not to the individual.
7	Remuneration.	Fair pay for work.
8	Centralisation.	Decision making is made centrally.
9	Scalar chain.	Clear and unambiguous chain of command/ authority.
10	Order.	People and materials need to be in a prescribed place.
11	Equity.	Fair and equitable treatment of all members of staff.
12	Personal tenure.	Lifetime employment provided to those who perform well, limiting turnover.
13	Initiative.	Designing plans and doing what is needed to achieve the organization's aims and objectives.
14	Espirit de corps.	Cohesion, harmony and minimization of conflict.

As with Taylor (1911, 2009), Fayol (1949, 2013) assumes that the same management approach can be applied universally to a logically structured organization. However, organizations can be complex and made of diverse systems and processes. They include people with different, desires, expectations, needs, background and personality. It is, therefore, too simplistic to apply a mechanistic, universal model as it can ignore psychological, social and emotional factors (Drucker, 1974, 1996). People have feelings that influence their behaviour. People have emotions and are influenced by social and environmental factors that shape how they behave in the organizational context. The behavioral and human relations approach is put forward to help explain this.

### 3.4 Behavioral management approach and human relations approach

The behavioral approach centers on *actual* behaviour. It recognizes the importance of psychological and social factors that influence the way people perform in the workplace (Bowen, 2021). The human relations approach focuses on how people *relate* with each other and acknowledges the importance of well-being (Bowen, 2021; Griffin, 2008; Smit, Cronje, Brevis and Vrba, 2007).

Mayo (1933) comments that human problems are universal and are experienced throughout the world. He undertakes a study at the Chicago's Western Electric Hawthorne Works between 1924 and 1927. He finds eight women to volunteer to work in a separate room and has one of his colleagues to observe them. The findings from this part of the study shows that output increases due to: 1) participation and consultation in decision making, 2) being selected for involvement in the study, 3) higher levels of mutual support and dependence between the members of the group, 4) reduced levels of stress due to less intensive supervision, and 5) the effect of being observed by one of Mayo's team. This last point suggests the unintended influence of being observed can affect behaviour. This is described as the *Hawthorne effect* (Buchanan and Huczynski, 2016; Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis, 2011). One of the most interesting findings from this study is that output remains higher when members of the team return to their normal role (Buchanan and Huczynski, 2016). The findings from this study, therefore, reinforce the importance of having members of a group that encourage and support each other helping to develop high cohesiveness and norms. To temper the findings from the study Roethlisberger and Dickson (1939) point out that the Hawthorne experiment does not carry out a systematic study of the social factors across the *whole* organization. Therefore, findings are limited. However, it is considered as an important study in the area of organizational behavior and interpersonal relationships.

Lewin, Lippitt and White (1939) put forward their own theory/ model that identifies three leadership styles 1) authoritarian, 2) democratic/ participative, and 3) laissez faire. The authoritarian leader maintains control by using a dictatorial approach directing others with demands and commands. Communication is downwards and there is little consultation with followers. This leadership style is often seen in bureaucratic organizations that can include the armed forces. The democratic/ participative leadership style involves followers in decision making. Communication is upwards and downwards and there is less control. This type of leadership is effective in organizations where coordination and cooperation are necessary. The laissez faire leadership style involves even less control allowing and trusting followers to set goals, pace of work, direction, and deadlines. Support and guidance are provided by the leader when requested.

Interpersonal (human) relationships has become an important topic in effective leadership. This leads the discussion into situational leadership that includes the need to



choose the right leadership style, at the right time, for the right situation (Bowen, 2021; Hollander, 2013).

### 3.5 Situational leadership theory

Situations and circumstances may require the leader to adopt different leadership styles. Greater value is placed on the role of involving followers in decision making and the importance of human relations (Mayo, 1939). Reddin (1967) puts forward three dimensions of management style: 1) relationship, 2) task, and 3) effectiveness. Building on this theory, Hersey and Blanchard (1969) put forward their own theory that they initially call the *life cycle theory of leadership*. They subsequently rename it as the *situational leadership theory*. Hersey and Blanchard (1969) construct a matrix of four styles: 1) telling, 2) selling, 3) participating and 4) delegating. However, the overall theoretical robustness of Hersey and Blanchard model is challenged as there appear to be internal inconsistencies and confusion with multiple versions of the model (Graeff, 1997; Nicholls, 1985; Vecchio, Bullis and Brazil, 2006).

Tannenbaum and Schmidt (1973) reinforce the importance of moving away from the directive and stereotypical leadership style that has existed in previous generations. They add that that focus should be on the members of the group rather than on the leader. Tannenbaum and Schmidt (1973) introduce the leadership continuum where at one end is the boss centred approach where they tell, sell, suggest and consult, while at the other end is the follower centered approach where the leader abdicates responsibility, delegates and joins. For a leader to be successful, they should be able to engage in difference leadership styles dependent on the situation and circumstances.

An advantage of the situational leadership style is that it can be straightforward in its application. However, a criticism of the situational leadership style is how the leader decides as to which style is required for a particular situation (Bowen, 2021). Factors such as background, ability, gender, competence maturity, age, culture and experience may influence what, and how a, leader style is applied. It also appears that limited research has been undertaken into situational leadership theory (Ardichvili and Manderscheid, 2008; Chemers, 1997; Papworth, Milne and Boak, 2009; Wright, 2017). It would be helpful if further studies are undertaken to build on existing findings. This leads the discussion to the transactional and transformational approach.

### 3.6 Transactional and transformational approaches to leadership

Burns (1978) refers to transactional leadership as a means of motivating staff performance in exchange for reward and reprimanding people for errors. Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis (2011) add that transactional leadership is about paper work and budgeting with a little psychological support and motivation thrown in for good measure. Hartley and Benington (2010) explain that transactional leadership can be successful where there are clear task objectives and in a hierarchical environment. However, emphasis is on day-to-

day matters and on behavioral compliance rather than an environment that engages in building relations (Whittington, Coker, Goodwin, Ickes and Marray, 2009). Rost (1993) also points out that transactional leadership does not appear to refer to the term *morality*. Therefore, leaders could use immoral approaches to achieving aims and objectives. Furthermore, transactional leaders may find it challenging to cope with the change process and major changes and this could limit the ability of the organization to compete in the globalised marketplace (Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis, 2011). Fineman, Gabriel and Sims (2010) explain that this traditional approach to management begins to change in the 1980's. Rather than being someone who runs an organization smoothly, a manager is an agent of change and renewal (Fineman, Gabriel and Sims, 2010).

This leads the discussion to transformational leadership. Burns (1978) explains that transformational leadership is about leaders who raise morality and motivation in others. It is about team building, inspiring and encouraging others to engage in personal and professional growth (Buchanan and Huczynski, 2016; Burns, 1978; Yukl, 2012). This leadership approach is likely to more effective in organizations that are unstable and dynamic (Buchanan and Huczynski, 2016; Yukl, 2012).

Whereas Burns (1978) considers transformational leadership to be superior to transactional leadership, Bass (1985) suggests that the effective leader is associated with both approaches. Avolio and Bass (2004) support this view and identify five leadership dimensions associated with the effective leader: 1) intellectual stimulation, 2) idealized attributes/ influence (perception the leader is energetic, optimistic and open), 3) idealized behaviour/ influence (the leader leads with integrity and purpose, and is prepared to take risks), 4) individualized consideration (supports and mentors others and sensitive to others), and 5) inspirational motivation (The leader envisions change and inspires others to have a clearer understanding of the vision). The leader, therefore, becomes a change agent, facilitating organizational and social change, transforming followers' personal values to support the organization's collective vision while showing integrity and genuine concern for staff (Bass, 1985; Fineman, Gabriel and Sims, 2010; Groves and LaRocca, 2011; Alimo-Metcalf and Alban-Metcalf, 2001).

Transactional and transformational leadership assumes that decisions made by leaders are correct. If incorrect, it could lead to followers engaging in a direction that can have negative impact upon the organization. For example, the leader may encourage followers to work longer hours and have heavier workload. This could lead to increased levels of stress and anxiety and possible burn out (Bowen, 2019; Bowen, 2021). From an organizational point of view this could impact on levels of productivity and output. This also assumes that the leader is skilled, able and trained to deliver the organization's vision. This could also help to partly address the *productivity puzzle* identified by the ONS (2015, 2019).

Bryman (1992) suggests that transformational leadership is associated with personality characteristics. However, Kouzes and Posner (1990, 2008) suggest that it is more inclined to be associated with behaviour and not personality. If leadership is associated with personality, it may be difficult to change personality traits (Northouse, 2013). Northouse (2013) adds that there is lack of conceptual clarity associated with transformational leadership. There also appears to be an overlap with other models of leadership that includes *laissez faire* and transactional approaches (Tejeda, Scandura and Pillai, 2001). This suggest that there is *no one best way* of leading a team and it may be more appropriate to adopt a leadership style that is contingent on the situation and circumstances.

### 3.7 Contingency approach

Fiedler (1966) contingency theory suggests that the leadership style is fixed and that the leader adapts their natural leadership style to fit with the situation. Therefore, the leader needs to be in a position of responsibility that reflects their style and is contingent on the favorableness of the task and/or situation. Fiedler (1966) identifies three factors associated with situational control: 1) leader/ follower relations (the degree of respect and trust between the leader and the team), 2) task structure (clarity and preciseness of tasks to be performed), and 3) position power (the degree of authority conferred by the organization on the leader). These factors may help to enhance leader and follower experience, skills and knowledge. This could be reflected in the degree of influence the leader has over followers. However, relationships may become strained and feelings of stress may emerge affecting performance (Fiedler and Garcia, 1987).

Fiedler (1966) acknowledges that there is *no one best way* of leading a team. It, therefore, suggests that different styles of contingency leadership are required dependent upon the situation and task (Schermerhorn, 2010). The leader may, therefore, need to adopt the appropriate effective leadership style that is *beyond* their own natural leadership style. It suggests that a new leadership approach is required. This may include self-leadership/ management (Bryman, 1996; Gordon, 2011; Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis, 2011; Manz, 1983, 1986; Manz and Sims, 1980, 1986).

### 3.8 New leadership approach

Ideas continue to proliferate in the 1980's and 1990's (Bryman, 1996). In the 1980's the term *management* changed from someone who runs an organization smoothly to someone who is an agent of change and renewal (Fineman, Gabriel and Sims, 2010). Roles and responsibilities are increasingly being shared between leader and follower. Furthermore, followers may not want or need leadership (Blom and Alvesson, 2015; Hunter, Bedell and Mumford, 2007). Thus, there is a move away from the traditional management theories and a move towards self-leadership/ management (Bryman, 1996; Gordon, 2011; Clegg, Kornberger and Pitsis, 2011; Manz, 1983, 1986; Manz and Sims, 1980, 1986). To help address the challenges associated with the transactional, transformation

and contingency leadership approaches discussed above, debate is made over to the new leadership approach where the boundary between leader and follower is becoming more blurred.

The new leader is described as being charismatic, visionary and inspirational and is associated with the common good of the organization rather than on self-interest (Barrett, 2010; Northouse, 2013). This new approach is creating a new *super leadership* where people lead themselves and roles and responsibilities are dispersed among the team (Manz and Sims, 2001). Bryman (1996) describes this as *dispersed leadership*. The leader is becoming less central to leadership theory and the role of the leader becomes *interactional* (Konradt, 2014). Treadway, Bentley, Williams and Wallace (2014) also point out that effective leaders need to be skilled politicians. However, Gordon (2011) advises that the literature does not appear to give enough focus to the political dynamics and the challenges that may exist with sharing power between the leader and the followers. Further research is recommended in this area.

There may, also, be wider social, economic and environmental factors that influence leadership skills including social, gender, disability and racial inequalities. This leads discussion to the social change model. It is a conversation about the wider responsibility of leadership in the twenty first century.

### 3.9 Social change model

Astin (2001) refers to a plague in America, where there is growing economic inequality, decline in civic engagement, disappearance of communities and excessive materialism. Thomas (2019), comments that the top 1% of society is accumulating greater power, wealth and control over the rest of society that in turn is undermining democracy. In their analysis of inequalities in the twenty first century, Joyce and Xu (2019) point out that the poor are being left behind by those who are rich; the young are left behind by the old; regions left behind by larger towns and cities and the unskilled worker is being left behind by the highly educated. To exemplify this, Levanon and Grusky (2016) refer to the persistence of extreme gender segregation in the twenty first century. The highest paid men earn significantly more than the highest paid women (Oh, 2020). Furthermore, only 5% of the top chief executives in the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) are women (Ohr, 2020). Stamarski and Son Hing (2015) add that the most harmful gender inequality is found in human resource practices that affect pay, training, promotion and hiring of women. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2017) report that there are inequalities in education, employment and health that start from a very young age. Inequality can no longer be treated as an afterthought (Thevenot, 2017). It is, therefore, helpful to create a society that is more equal and cohesive that engages in social change. This includes the role of leadership.

To rethink the term leadership, the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI, 1996) put forward the social

change model. This brings together individual, group and community values (Skendall and Ostick, 2017). Rather than leadership being based upon title or position, the social change model regards leadership as an *integrated process* that is purposeful, values driven and collaborative, and has become a widely used leadership model associated with student development programs (Astin, 1996; HERI, 1996; Kezar, Carducci and Contreras-McGavin, 2006; Komives, Wagner and Associates, 2017). It acknowledges that differences may occur, emphasizing the need for civility while building respect and trust (Astin, 1996; HERI, 1996). The Social Change Model raises the importance of cultivating leaders who are able to understand systematic social problems and advance community justice and well-being, especially for those who are marginalized (Museus, Lee, Calhoun, Sanchez-Parkinson and Ting, 2017).

Critiques of the social change model point out that it appears to be more aspirational when contrasted with organization realities (Skendall and Ostick, 2017). However, society continues to build a hostile environment for those less well off (Thomas, 2019). The Social Change Model may not be perfect however, it does challenge the existing perceptions of social dynamics (Summers-Effler, 2002). It also challenges the perceived role of the traditional leader. It can be described as a useful approach to consider in the toolbox of different leadership models and theories while helping to focus attention on the promotion of social change (Twemlow, Fonagy and Sacco, 2005).

Each of the above theories has its own strengths and each has its own drawbacks. Watson (1986) adds to the debate proposing that leadership is a mixture of four main areas: 1) science (leadership can be learned, 2) art (one is born with the skill), 3) politics (understanding the unwritten laws of life and playing the game to win), and 4) magic (recognizing that things just happen). However, Buchanan and Huczynski (2016) point out the complexity of identifying agreed common leadership attributes. They add that common successful and effective leadership attributes defy measurement and classification.

The challenges of defining and measuring leadership and the blurring of roles between leader and follower raises the question as to the role of the leader in the twenty first century.

#### 4. THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY.

Organizations continue to be pressurized by a challenging global market place. Demands may require people to perform and work harder while having to cope with tight deadlines and increased levels of workload and responsibility (Bowen, 2021). The role of leader and follower is becoming more integrated. It is, therefore, helpful if leaders and followers work cohesively. They work as a team that support each other. To facilitate this change, leaders need to recognize that it is not just a matter of *telling* followers what to do. It is moving well beyond the traditional and transactional approach. It is about allowing followers to take responsibility while recognizing leadership is a *process* and not a position. Thus, the leader and

follower need to want to change (Goleman and Boyatzis, 2008). A symbiotic and synergistic relationship between the leader and follower can help maintain a healthy and passionate organization (Marquis and Huston, 2009). It is one in which the leader understands their own emotions, understands emotions in others and manages these emotions effectively (Goleman 1995, 1996, 1998a, 1998b). In other words, they understand the role of emotional intelligence.

#### 4.1 Emotional intelligence

The workplace is “*saturated with emotions*” (Ashforth and Humphrey, 1995:97). With an increase in those working in the service industry, staff are likely to be more emotionally engaged with the customer and this leads to greater interest in the role of emotional intelligence in the workplace (Bowen, Pilkington and Rose, 2016; Briner, 1999). Priyanka and Taranjeet (2016) go so far as to say that it is the most important factor that influences performance in organizations.

The term “*emotional intelligence*” first emerges in a German publication “*Praxis der Kinderpsychologie und Kinderpsychiatrie*” (Leuner, 1966). It first appears in English in an unpublished dissertation by Payne (1986). In 1990, Salovey and Mayer bring the term to main stream academia. It becomes a more widely known term following the publication of Goleman’s book “*Emotional intelligence: why it can matter more than IQ*” (Goleman, 1995). As pointed out by Ashkanasy and Humphrey (2011, 2014), leadership is associated with emotions and emotional intelligence. They identify five levels of leadership and emotion as summarized in the table below.

**Table 4:** Multiple level perspective of leadership and emotion (Ashkanasy and Humphrey, 2011, 2014).

Level.	Explanation
Level 1.	Leaders generate and manage affective events that result in emotional states, leading to positive or negative behaviour/ attitudes.
Level 2.	Leaders demonstrate emotional intelligence. Leaders also demonstrate individual differences in their own ability so as to perceive and manage emotions.
Level 3.	Leaders engage in the right amount and type of emotion.
Level 4.	Effective leadership is associated with group emotion contagion.
Level 5.	Leadership and respective emotions are viewed from a wider organizational perspective.

There are three main approaches to defining and measuring emotional intelligence (ability, mixed and trait). Salovey and Mayer (1990) describe emotional intelligence as an *ability*. They explain that it is to reason emotions in oneself and others and how these emotions influence the thought process. The ability model focuses on the *actual* emotions and how they interact with thought (Mayer and Salovey, 1997; Mayer, Salovey and Caruso, 2000, 2002; Mayer, Salovey, Caruso, and Sitarenios, 2003; Salovey and Mayer, 1990).

Goleman (1995, 1996), refers to the *mixed model* of emotional intelligence. He associates his model with emotional and social competencies that contribute to management performance and leadership skills. Goleman (2000) identifies four dimensions of emotional intelligence: 1) self-awareness, 2) self-management, 3) social awareness, and 4) social skills. The mixed model includes mental abilities related to intelligence, emotions and personality traits and dispositions (Bar-On, 1997, 2002; Boyatzis, 2006; Boyatzis and Sala, 2004; Goleman, 1996, 1998a). The mixed model combines ability and trait theory that includes biological factors and is also not really substantiated by empirical data and research (Matthews, Zeidner and Roberts, 2002).

Petrides and Furnham (2000, 2001) put forward their own model of emotional intelligence that they associate with *traits*, behaviour and emotions. However, psychologists point out that *intelligence* is outside the scope of personality traits as it includes abilities (Costa and McCrae, 2006). There is a contradiction in terms, an oxymoron, as trait emotional intelligence is associated with personality (traits) and is also described as an intelligence (Bowen, 2019, 2021; Costa and McCrae, 2006). Thus, if it is an intelligence, it cannot be associated with personality. To try and overcome the confusion, Petrides and Furnham (2001) replace the term *traits* with *dispositions* and redefine *trait emotional intelligence* as *emotional self-efficacy*. Petrides (2011:657), therefore, defines trait emotional intelligence as a “*constellation of self-perceptions that are located at lower levels of personality hierarchy*”. This may help clarify the terminology. However, it does not resolve the differences of opinion regarding definition, methodological approach and theoretical foundation (Bowen, 2021).

The different approaches suggest that emotional intelligence could be associated with biology, cognition, non-cognition (patterns of behaviour and thought), competency, ability and personality. As Hunt and Fitzgerald (2013) explain there isn't a gold standard instrument to measure emotional intelligence; therefore, those undertaking studies in organizational behaviour and leadership should be mindful of this.

It is apparent that there is a lack of consensus as to the definition, theoretical foundation and methodological approach to measuring emotional intelligence (Bowen, 2019, 2021; Hunt and Fitzgerald, 2013). Notwithstanding the lack of consensus, numerous studies are undertaken on each of the models associated with emotional intelligence (for example:

Bowen, Pilkington and Rose, 2016; Goleman, 1996, 1998a, 2019a, b; Goleman and Boyatzis, 2008; Mayer and Salovey, 1993, 1997; Salovey, Brackett and Mayer, 2004; Salovey and Mayer, 1990). The table below provides a few examples of studies undertaken on each of the models.

**Table 5:** Examples of emotional intelligence studies.

	Model	Source
1	Ability model	Augusto Landa, Lopez-Zafra, Martinez de Antonana, and Pulido (2006). Brackett and Salovey (2006). Curci, Lanciano, Soleti, Zammuner and Salovey (2013). Delhom, Gutierrez, Lucas-Molina and Melendez (2017). Lanciano and Curci (2014). Ruiz-Aranda, Extremera and Pineda-Galan (2013). Salovey, Mayer, Goldman, Turvey and Palfai (1995). Salovey, Stroud, Woolery and Epel (2002). Sanchez-Alvarez, Extremera and Fernandez-Berrocal (2015). Zeidner and Matthews (2016).
2	Mixed	Bar-On, Brown, Kirkaldy and Thome (2000). Dehghan, Karimzadeh, Teymouri and Rostami (2019). Fernandez-Berrocal, Alcaide and Extremera (2006). Fry, Bennett and Caldwell (2006). Hemmati, Mills and Kroner (2004). Parker, Summerfeldt, Hogan and Majeski (2004). Parker, Taylor and Bagby (2001). Schutte, Malouff, Thorsteinsson, Bhullar and Rooke, (2006).
3	Trait	Bowen, Rose and Pilkington (2016). Chamorro-Premuzic, Bennett and Furnham (2007). Chirumbolo, Picconi, Morelli and Petrides (2019). Freudenthaler, Neubauer, Gabler, Scherl and Rindermann (2008). Mavroveli, Petrides, Rieffe and Bakker (2010). Mavroveli and Sanchez-Ruiz (2010). Petrides and Furnham (2003). Uva, de Timary, Cortesi, Mikolajczak, de Blicquy and Luminet (2010). Vernon, Villani, Schermer and Petrides (2008).

As exemplified above, a substantial number of studies has been undertaken on the ability, mixed and trait emotional



intelligence models suggesting that there is evidence to support the concept that emotional intelligence does exist. It is on this premise that emotional intelligence exists as an identifiable construct (Bowen, 2019, 2021).

Studies undertaken show that emotions are associated with physical and mental health suggesting that to mismanage negative emotions can cause illness (for example: Alexander and French, 1946; Bowen, 2019, 2021; Bowen, Pilkington and Rose, 2016a; Dunbar, 1954; Friedman, 1990, Gross, 1998). Examples of associated causes include: anger inhibition, heart disease, chronic hostility and hypertension (for example: Dembroski, MacDougall, Williams, Haney and Blumenthal, 1985; Jorgensen, Johnson, Kolodziej and Schreer, 1996; Julkunen, Salonen, Kaplan, Chesney and Salonen, 1994; Suls, Wan, and Costa, 1995). If people are unwell, they may not be able to perform at their best. They may take time off from work. They may leave the organization. They may cause stress and anxiety in others leading to increased levels of absence and attrition. This can impact on their ability to perform effectively. It can also impact of the ability of the organization to compete effectively in the global marketplace. It is, therefore, recommended that the organization provide training and development for all members of staff to develop their skills in emotional intelligence.

Being a leader incorporates the need for intuition that engages the unconscious mind to help understand that which is non-rational (Gardner, 1993). It is, therefore, of interest to reflect on the role of intuition in the role of leadership in the twenty first century and its relationship with emotional intelligence.

## 4.2 Intuition

Intuition is a gut feeling that just comes naturally and is considered to be an important skill that can help productivity. (Agor, 1989; Goodwin, 2006). It is described as knowing what has to be done, while reaching a conclusion, based on less explicit information than that usually needed to reach that conclusion. (Strick and Dijksterhuis, 2011; Westcott, 1968). Intuition incorporates acute sensitivity to inner feelings (Wanless, 2015). Chick (2013) explains that it is being critically aware of oneself as a thinker and as a learner. It is a heightened dimension of emotional intelligence that is considered to be a most sought-after quality of leadership (Wanless, 2015). Whereas intuition appears to be innate, learning how to tap into it can be helpful in enhancing life's experiences (Gawain, 2000; Walsh, 2013).

Each person has their own goals, aspirations and personality. These can be influenced by factors such as background, experience, gender, race, culture and age. Furthermore, there is a growing body of literature that supports the view that decision making involves cognition, emotion and intuition (for example: Akinci and Sadler-Smith, 2019; Hodgkinson and Sadler-Smith, 2018; Lerner, Li, Valdesolo and Kassam, 2015; Simon, 1987; Soosalu, Henwood and Deo, 2019). The findings from these studies suggest that developing

skills in emotional intelligence can improve intuition and decision making (Cholle, 2011; Dillard, 2010). It is, therefore, recommended that all members of staff should be given training and encouraged to develop skills helping them to connect to their intuitive side as well as building emotional intelligence skills.

One of the challenges faced by leaders is that some people may be more sensitive to external stimuli. They may arouse emotions that increase their levels of stress and anxiety and the feeling of being overwhelmed (Bowen, 2019; Bowen, Rose and Pilkington, 2016; Bowen, Rose and Pilkington, 2018). It is, therefore, helpful to discuss the role of sensitivity.

## 4.3 Sensitivity

Pluess, Lionetti, Aron and Aron (2020) explain that some people are more sensitive and others are less sensitive to their environment. They also find that sensitivity lies across a continuum where higher sensitivity is associated with high neuroticism and high openness to experiences. Granneman (2019) suggests that those who are highly sensitive are more inclined to have brains that process information more deeply and this includes thoughts, emotions and sensory input. Granneman (2019) adds that those who are more highly sensitive are highly alert and are able to tune in to those around them. To help explain this, Aron and Aron (1997) put forward the highly sensitive person scale that they associate with high levels of sensory processing sensitivity (SPS). Aron, Aron and Jagiellowicz, (2012) suggest that SPS is genetically determined and can lead to increase of sensitivity in the central nervous system while engaging the person in greater cognitive processing of physical, social and social stimuli. In a study undertaken by Grimen and Diseth (2016), they find that SPS relates positively with openness and neuroticism and negatively with extroversion. Acevedo, et al (2014) report that SPS is found in approximately 20% of the population and is associated with greater sensitivity and responsiveness to social stimuli and the environment. In this context, sensitivity can be described as an internal cognitive, emotional and/ or physiological reaction to external stimuli. Therefore, someone who is at the higher end of the sensitivity continuum, as described by Pluess, Lionetti, Aron and Aron (2020), is more prone to feeling stressed and feeling overwhelmed.

Within the university environment Smyth (2017:5) identifies the term "*pathological organizational disfunction*" that has enveloped universities in an audit culture associated with marketisation, metrification and competition. On the surface organizations may appear to show concern and compassion, however, underneath they are "*circuit boards of scientific rationality*" (Gatto, 2001:305). Smyth (2017) adds that these organizations lack conscience, blindly following the ideology of profitability. This kind of culture can encourage toxic leadership who can engage in impulsive and destructive behaviour together with emotional turbulence (Bowen, 2020; Goldman, 2009). Leaders, therefore, need to *care*. They need to care about others. This should extend to acknowledging that some people may be more sensitive than others. To investigate

this further, Bowen (2021) undertakes a study of university academics (one being a researcher, one who has retired and the others lecturers). The aims of the study are to find out academic's experience as to:

- *“How stress and pressure may impact on feelings of well-being.”*
- *“The role emotional intelligence may have to play in helping academics cope with challenging intra and interpersonal relationships.”*
- *“The role management theory has to play in the organization of the twenty first century.”*

Semi structured interviews are undertaken of twenty academics ranging from ten minutes to one and half hours. The contributions from the participants provide interesting feedback that draw out and exemplify personal experiences supporting, illustrating and adding texture and colour to the discussion. To maintain confidentiality, and anonymity, means of personal identification are removed. Each person is invited to participate by e mail advising that participation is voluntary and that they can withdraw at any time, up until the final draft of the publication. Three people request that their information is not shared and withdraw, one before transcription and two after. They do not offer a reason and this is respected. Therefore, findings from a total of seventeen academics are included into the study. Findings from the semi structured interviews are discussed in *“Passion killers: the art of passion killing in the age of stress and anxiety”* (Bowen, 2021), however, the following extracts from an extended interview with Peter helps to exemplify the role sensitivity plays in intra and interpersonal relationships within the organizational context. It demonstrates how Peter's line manager appears to lack sensitivity as to how he is feeling and the impact that it is having on his work and personal life. Peter's experience also demonstrates how *“words can hurt”*.

Peter is a retired university lecturer with fifteen years' experience. He provides discussion as to his experience. He states that his line manager *“called me in to her office and pointed out that what I was doing was confusing .... students don't understand, and that there may be complaints ..... I was totally shocked and all I could do was to keep apologizing .... When a colleague came in to drop a form off on the line managers desk, I rose to leave thinking that she had another appointment. My line manager said “I haven't finished with you yet..... We can fall out if you want to?” When I checked afterwards, I noted that the meeting went on for one and half hours. I was just shell shocked.... When asked to explain how he felt, Peter then says “I was numb.... I felt anger, disappointment and fear.... all in one.... It just happened..... It came out of the blue..... I was unprepared....I made the decision that I couldn't stay and had to leave the university..... but I didn't want to.... I have friends, family here (name of town provided) .... I didn't want to leave.... even talking about it now it causes internal conflict .... it really causes pain .... I had worked so hard to achieve a lifetime goal of becoming a*

*university lecturer. I felt so proud to say that I was a university lecturer....and then I am faced with ....”*

Peter continues *“I am dyslexic....I have never been tested but know that I am dyslexic. I was asked if it would be ok for me to be referred for testing.... I didn't object..... but.... but.... I felt that I was being pressurized into it.... but I didn't want to face possible capability procedures .... I hate confrontation.... If demands were not met threats were made.... that capability procedures would be instigated, and action followed through. It created a feeling of .... fear. No single person was targeted. However, some felt it more than others. It really was a passion killer.....some people just seem to have the art of passion killing don't they?”*

At a later date, Peter is *“.... called back in to see my line manager and told again that what I was doing was unacceptable. She pointed out spelling and grammatical errors in a document that had hurriedly been put together. As in the previous meeting, she made it clear that errors were unacceptable and asked again if I had been checked for dyslexia. She said that “I have been in contact with HR to refer you for testing” and asked me if I had heard anything. I shook my head. She then asked again if I wanted to be referred .... I was feeling really low.... physically and psychologically.... this confrontation with my line manager really hurt.... Words can hurt.... They really hurt me....”*

Peter is then asked to provide more detail. He starts hesitantly. *“.... I loved being a university lecturer..... When the new line manager came in, there appeared to be a period of about six months where things continued in a similar way.... The way they had with previous managers.... However, one day at a monthly team meeting, the new line manager said to us all, “.... if you think things are bad now, wait until next year”.... She said.... “you haven't seen anything yet....” I had no idea what she meant.... I knew that there is ongoing pressure...but....”*

After a number of experiences with his line manager Peter feels that *“.... that was it ..... no more ..... It was really demeaning, talked at in such a way by my line manager .... I just had enough .... I came home ..... spoke with my partner ..... and then drafted and forwarded my resignation to my line manager and the Dean .... I just had enough .... I was exhausted with all this ....”*

When asked about the emotions felt Peter responds by saying *“anger, .... I was very angry .... I internalized that .... In meetings with my line manager, I was shaking .... shaking with rage ..... but I controlled it .... I kept it in .... I wanted to .... I felt fear .... fear of what and when the next thing would be raised .... fear of meeting my line manager ..... fear .... It was causing me so much internal imbalance ..... I was being pulled in so many different directions. I tried to take my mind off things with gardening, running .... DIY, .... In hind sight, I can see how stressed I was .... all that effort and time given over to developing .... Mindfulness .... I spent years learning and developing mindfulness training..... and then.... it just*

*went out the window .... it drained away quickly ..... I felt completely drained.... you know .... Exhausted .... there is only so much you can take .... I just couldn't do it anymore .... Something had to give .... I had to take action ...."*

Reflecting on his experience (s) with his line manager, Peter acknowledges *".... I am sensitive ..... I know I am sensitive ..... That is why I don't like criticism. I was like it as a child .... It is who I am .... I feel other people's emotions. I have really tried to contain emotional engagement and internalize the emotion. Maybe I need to let go .... but I can't."*

It does appear that being highly sensitive is associated with increased feelings of distress (Brindle, Moulding Bakker and Nedeljkovic, 2015). This is demonstrated by the experience Peter has with his line manager. There is likely to be a point where, like Peter, enough can be enough. As Peter explains *"words can hurt.... some people just seem to have the art of passion killing"*. He does appear to be working with toxic leadership that suggests a culture of pathological organizational disfunction. Even having learned and developed skills in mindfulness, Peter is unable to cope with the stress caused and feels there is no other option other than to leave the organization. Peter may be more sensitive than others, however it does demonstrate the importance of leaders recognizing that some people can be more sensitive than others. Leaders need to *care*.

It would be helpful if further studies are carried out building on existing findings. However, leaders should understand that *words can hurt* and can act as a passion killer. As demonstrated by Peter's experience it is important that organizations recognize the role of passion killers.

#### 4.4 Passion killers

Passion killers can be things and people that include: conflict, lack of trust, intimidation, team dysfunction, threat and fear, feelings of uncertainty, destructive criticism, negative feedback, animosity, aversion, demotivation, demoralization and a repressive working environment (Bowen, 2020, 2021). People who are passion killers include those who use *pathocratic influence*. They create a cabal of like-minded individuals, while seeking to take advantage over others, to the detriment of well-being in others. These people can be destructive and behave unethically increasing feelings of stress and anxiety in an organization. At its worst, these dangerous personalities and disordered minds can destroy organizations (Hughes, 2018). Bowen (2020, 2021) compares passion killers (people and things) with a virulent pathogen that can quickly spread throughout the organization creating a toxic environment to work. If passion killers are not stopped their effect can be long lasting and possibly terminal for the organization and the individual (Bowen, 2020, 2021). It is, therefore, important that passion killers be identified and action taken to remove their influence.

Leaders should be encouraged to develop skills that complement a cohesive and healthy organization; one that can be described as a passionate workplace that emphasizes the

role of passion as an added value and where people *want* to come to work.

#### 4.5 The passionate workplace

There does not appear to be an agreed definition of the term *values* (Kirschenbaum, 2013; Tiempo, 2005). Furthermore, values are considered to be intangible and highly abstract (Xiao, 2001). However, Schwartz (2012) considers values as a central concept in social science that play a key role in shaping society, groups and individuals. These values are summarized in the table below.

**Table 6:** Values (Schwartz, 2012).

	Relationship between value items.	Value item.	Explanation.
1	Openness to change.	Self-direction.	Independent thought and action that involves choosing exploring and creating.
2		Stimulation.	Excitement, challenge, novelty.
3		Hedonism.	Pleasure, sensual gratification.
4	Self enhancement.	Achievement.	Personal success, competence, social approval.
5		Power.	Social status, control, dominance over others.
6	Conservationism.	Security.	Harmony, safety, inter and intrapersonal relationships.
7		Conformity.	Control of impulses and actions that may upset the social norms and expectations.
8		Tradition.	Respect, commitment and acceptance of cultural and religious traditions.



9	Self-transcendence.	Benevolence.	Enhancing and preserving the welfare of others in the “in group” (for example, honest, forgiving, thoughtfulness, loyalty, friendship).
10		Universalism.	Extending understanding, tolerance, appreciation and protection of welfare to all people and the environment.

Passion is associated with emotions such as sadness, hatred, love, joy and admiration (for example: Descartes, 1649, 1989; Dixon, 2003; Fleming, 2013; Frank, 1991; Frijda, 2007). These emotions contribute to micro politics, social bonds interpersonal relationships (Bloch, 2016). Passion can, therefore, be seen as an intrinsic value that can fuel the internal fire to perform (Bowen, 2021). It acts as an intrinsic motivator. Bowen (2020, 2021) also suggests that the term passion can be an added value that can influence other values as defined by Schwartz (2012).

Passion is an inherent emotional characteristic that exists in each person (Hardgrove and Howard, 2015). It comes from within that helps motivate and drive a person. It is a value that can help people to work effectively and efficiently to meet organizational aims and objectives (Bowen, 2020). To harness this passion, leaders need to engage people physically, emotionally and cognitively (Kahn, 1990; Morton, 2017; Stein, 2017; Thomas-EL, Jones and Vari, 2019). Therefore, followers do not need to be pushed, if passion already exists (Bennett, 2016). It is the skill of the leader to fan the fires of intrinsic passion that can enhance performance. It reinforces the need to recognize the impact that passion killers can have on individual, team and organizational performance.

If harnessed effectively, passion can help build the passionate and healthy workplace. It can help build high performing cultures in which leaders strike a sensible balance between leadership support and accountability of followers ensuring that people are productive as possible (Bowen, 2020; Melena, 2018).

The passionate workplace includes people who feel valued. This includes good intra and interpersonal relationships that creates a working environment that includes: meaningful work, variety, autonomy, collaboration, work/life balance and a connectedness with colleagues and leader (Zigarmi, Houson, Witt and Diehl, 2011). The

passionate workplace is inclusive. It values people for who they are and what they offer the organization.

It is important to understand that not all passion is good (Ho and Pollock, 2014). It can be divided into a dualistic viewpoint of good and bad. For example, passion can be defined as harmonious and obsessive. Harmonious passion is a voluntary, but not an overpowering, urge to engage in higher job creation that is *positively* associated with mental health and increased performance (Ho, Wong and Lee, 2011; Patel, Thorgren and Wincent, 2015; Suchy, 2007; Vallerand, 2012; Vallerand and Houliort, 2003). In contrast, obsessive passion is associated with an uncontrollable urge that is *negatively* associated mental health and performance (Forest, Mageau, Sarrazin and Morin, 2010; Hao, He and Long, 2018; Ho, Wong and Lee, 2011; Patel, Thorgren and Wincent, 2015; Siren, Patel and Wincent, 2016; Suchy, 2007; Vallerand, 2008, 2010, 2012; Vallerand and Houliort, 2003).

It is, therefore, important that leaders recognize and understand the differences between harmonious and obsessive passion and the role they may have on well-being and performance. Furthermore, rather than seeing harmonious and obsessive passion from a dualist view point, leaders should see them along a continuum (Bowen, 2020, 2021). Organizations should, therefore, provide training and development to inform all members of staff the difference between harmonious and obsessive passion and to build policies and procedures that clearly demonstrate to all members that they feel valued. This can help develop the organization into one that is a healthy and passionate place to work.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Beginning with the concept of the *great man* notion, management theory has evolved through the twentieth century. The role of the leader and follower appears to be increasingly blurred. There is a symbiotic and synergistic relationship between the leader and follower can help maintain a healthy and passionate organization (Marquis and Huston, 2009). It is one in which the leader understands their own emotions, understands emotions in others and manages these emotions effectively (Goleman 1995, 1996, 1998a, 1998b). In other words, they understand the role of emotional intelligence.

Each organization should ensure that they have the right person, in the right place, doing the right thing at the right time (Bowen, 2021; Hollander, 2013). They need to bring out the passion in people creating a healthy and passionate workplace in which people *want* to come to work. The passionate workplace includes leaders who inspire colleagues to build and develop skills in emotional intelligence and fan the flames of intrinsic passion that can enhance organizational success. This requires the leadership styles to be adopted, adapted and flexible so as to reflect individual differences. Furthermore, leaders need to recognize that some people can be more sensitive than others and that “*words can hurt*”. Therefore, organizations should identify and remove passion killers and



take action against those who use *pathocratic influence* (Bowen, 2020, 2021).

In summing up, it is important that leaders of the twenty first century have skills in emotional intelligence, intuition and to understand that some people can be more sensitive than others. Leaders need to have skills in influencing, partnering, and to be political savvy, underpinning the importance of collaboration between people in the organization (Agranoff, 2003; Getha-Taylor, 2008). It is recognizing leadership is a *process*, not a position.

In conclusion, the content of this paper may go some way to help explain the *productivity puzzle* as identified by the ONS (2015, 2019) and, the suggestions and recommendations made, can help build the passionate and healthy workplace that can differentiate itself from other organizations.

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