

(RE)CONSIDERING SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

BIODIVERSITY



**ECONOMIC
GROWTH**



Joanna Stanberry, Postgraduate Researcher
• Initiative for Leadership and Sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP: Agents not Beneficiaries



*The precariousness of nature is our peril, our fragility...The nature of the problem, its fuller appreciation and the ways and means of solving it all belong to us—humanity as a whole. If there is a subject on which collaboration and non-divisive commitments are needed, this surely is it. **But in order to make this possible and effective, We need a vision of mankind not as patients whose interests have to be looked after, but as agents who can do effective things—both individually and jointly.***

*-Amartya Sen, *The Ends and Means of Sustainability* (2013)*

Introduce to this context a framework to make Charlotte Mason's relational philosophy and methods useful for 'informed agitation' as sustainability leadership



WHAT TO (RE)CONSIDER?

...about Sustainability Leadership

1. **Leadership not just Leaders** (Critical Leadership Studies)

2. **Enshrined in policy and industry for economic growth**

a. **Leadership fashions** as a process that constantly reconfigures the rational norms and expectations attached to leadership' (Guthey et al, 2022, p. 397)

b. **Example:** The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) & the EU includes provision for **'capacity building'**, **'awareness raising'** and developing **'leadership'** of local communities

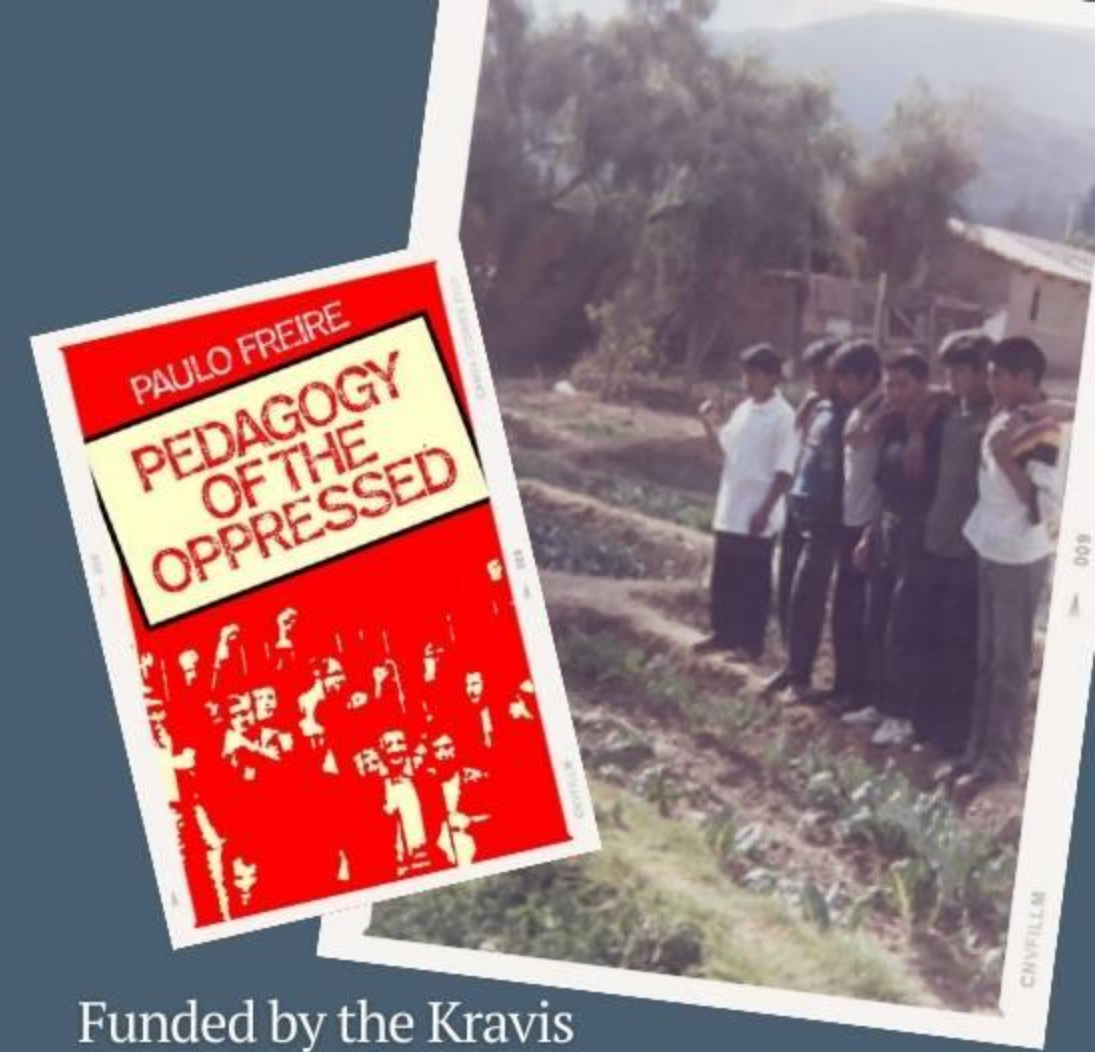
3. **Sustainability Leadership Theory (SLT)**

a. **Origins:** Emerges from indigenous and syncretistic epistemologies and practices synthesised as a critical response to the failures of capitalism

b. **Process:** A theory that **problematifies leadership theory**

Includes: 1) Embodying (locating self - sociomateriality); 2) Embedding (in complex adaptive systems); 3) Envisioning (co-imagining); 4) Enacting (co-creating)

c. **So what?** SDG 17 is driving collaboration and these contexts of partnering becomes a key locus for locating and developing sustainability leadership



Funded by the Kravis
Leadership Institute 2003-2004

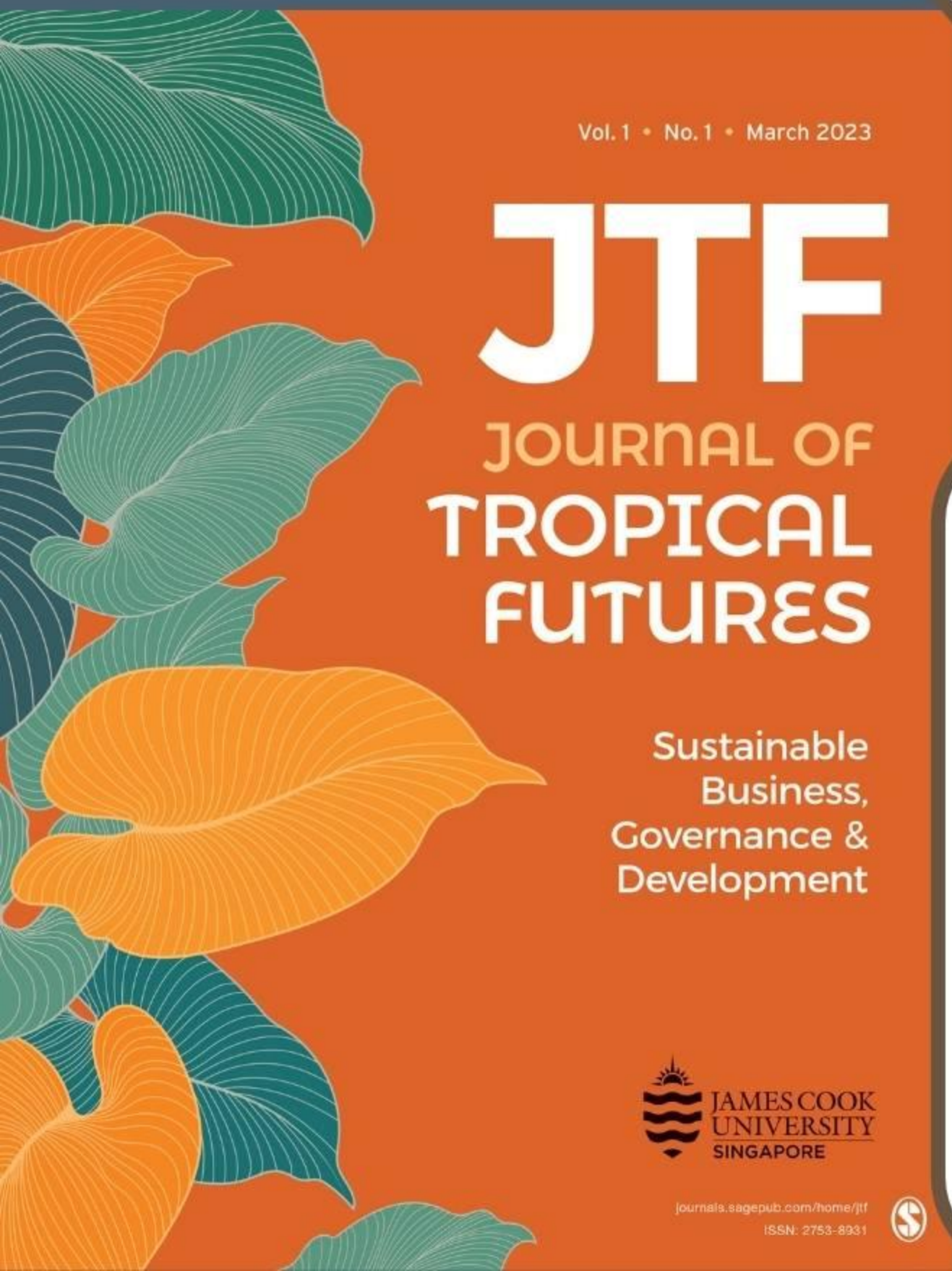


SLT Chapter in Leadership
Theory book (expected 2025)

KEY FINDINGS

SDG Implementation

Normative aims not always captured through the lens of grand challenges and wicked problems



Journal of Tropical Futures
OnlineFirst, June 26, 2023
© The Author(s) 2023, Article Reuse Guidelines
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27538931231170509>

Sage Journals

Conceptual Paper

A conceptual review of Sustainable Development Goal 17: Picturing politics, proximity and progress

Joanna Stanberry ¹ and Janis Bragan Balda ²



journals.sagepub.com/home/jtf
ISSN: 2753-8931



MADAGASCAR
Problem: Structural Transformation
Solution: Solar light libraries?

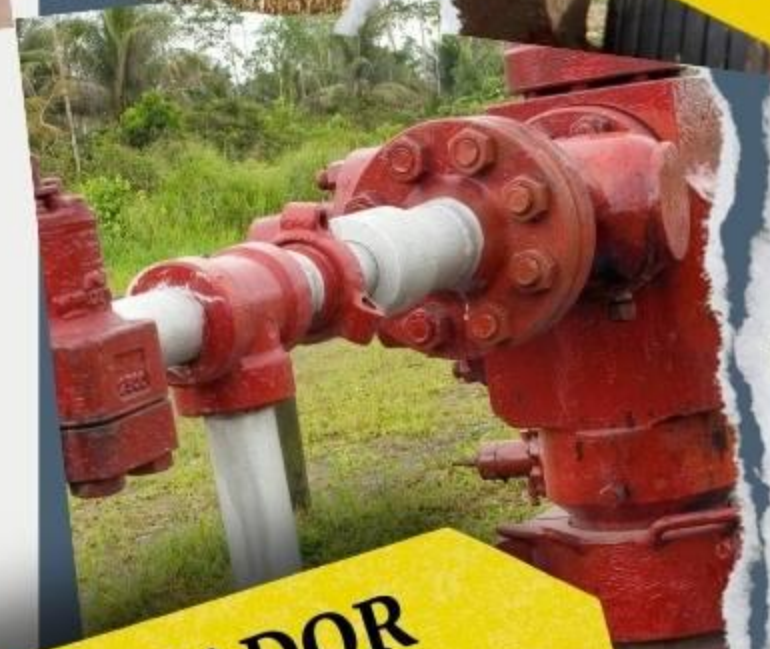


CUMBRIA, UK
Problem: 'Levelling up'
Solution: Rewilding peatland?



SDG Implementation (SDG 17)

- Less about synergies and tradeoffs
- More about seeing, surfacing, and negotiating contestation (as knowledge exchange)
- In these contexts, 'picturing' processes are fundamental to creating situations where sustainability leadership could emerge



YASUNÍ, ECUADOR
Problem: Debt relief post-oil
Solution: Indigenous-managed ecotourism?





Ambleside, UK

CHARLOTTE MASON **1842-1923**

1. A method predicated on responsibility, aimed at the common good, and cultivating 'citizenship'
2. All education is self-education and it is the 'science' of relations, measured by relationships (social, material, spiritual, interests) and care for people and the natural world
3. All people are born person, yet we hinder, offend and despise them with our methods
4. So only 3 instruments are left:
 - atmosphere, habits, and living ideas

Aims of the project

Grafting in Mason's pedagogy, adjusting practices and theory...

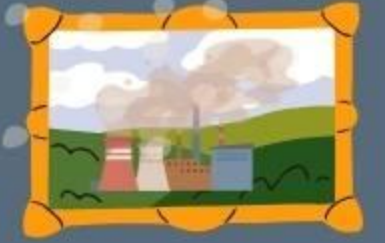


New York City

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Theory & Practice

**Vital
Knowledge**



**SHARE Vital
Knowledge**

Co-creating
the conditions
for
collaborative
systems change



Structures



**(Ecological)
Reflexivity**



Habits



Attitudes



Expertise



REFERENCES

Guthey, E., Ferry, N. C., & Remke, R. (2022). Taking leadership fashions seriously as a vehicle for leadership learning. *Management Learning*, 53(3), 397-416. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13505076211009674>

Sen, A. (2013). The Ends and Means of Sustainability. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 14(1), 6–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19452829.2012.747492>

Stanberry, J., Balda, J. B., & Balda, W. D. (2022). Xenophon to the Sustainable Development Goals: An interweaving of collective engagement. In S. K. Dhiman, J. Marques, J. Schmieder-Ramirez, & P. G. Malakyan (Eds.), *Handbook of Global Leadership and Followership: Integrating the Best Leadership Theory and Practice*. Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75831-8>

Stanberry, J., & Balda, J. B. (2023). A Conceptual review of SDG 17: Picturing politics, proximity, and progress. *Journal of Tropical Futures: Sustainable Business, Governance & Development*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/27538931231170509>