INTRODUCTION

The rapidly evolving landscape of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) presents educational leaders with a unique set of challenges and opportunities for leaders in education. The integration of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data and the *Internet of Things*, is transforming educational environments, thereby requiring a reimagining of leadership practices (Schwab, 2017; Kayembe & Nel, 2019). This book sets out to provide a comprehensive philosophical exploration of leadership and management that is transformative in nature as it deals with people and their interactions with newer 4IR technologies. These nexus' serve as a resource that challenges South African education leaders to adopt a more profound and ethically conscious approach to digital innovation, moving beyond mere implementation and practice of educational leadership.

In a context where educational inequality and diverse cultural needs intersect with rapid technological change (David et al., 2022; Tondi, 2019), this book will provide critical insights to help leaders navigate the complexities of ethics, innovation, and humanity, ultimately fostering an education system that serves all communities in a meaningful, forward-thinking way. The book will also include a focused exploration of the specific challenges that educational leadership in South Africa faces in a rapidly evolving landscape. It will examine how systemic inequalities, resource disparities, and diverse cultural needs impact educational leadership, and provide practical strategies for navigating these challenges in a 4IR-driven context.

By integrating Western and non-Western philosophical frameworks, including Ubuntu and Freirean pedagogy, this book will facilitate a convergence between global and local perspectives. This will enable the fostering of ethical, compassionate and equitable leadership practices in the Fourth Industrial Revolution era.

KEY THEMES AND CHAPTERS

We welcome chapters on the following themes, which explore the interplay between philosophical principles and cutting-edge technologies:

1. **The Mindful Leader: Philosophy and Purpose in the Age of AI and Education**

2. **Leading with Integrity: Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in a 4IR-Driven World**
3. **Wisdom and Innovation: Philosophical Insights for Leading in the 4IR Classroom**
4. **Ethics in the Cloud: The Role of Leadership and Morality in Digital Education**
5. **The Post-Human Educator: Philosophical Leadership in a World of AI and Automation**
6. **Future-Ready Leadership: Bridging Traditional Values with 4IR Realities**
7. **Empathy in Algorithms: Cultivating Compassionate Leadership in Tech-Driven Education**
8. **The Digital Socrates: Leading with Inquiry and Insight in a 4IR Context**
9. **Humanity at the Helm: Ethical Leadership and Technology in Education**
10. **Equity in Action: Bridging the Digital Divide in Education Leadership**
11. **Leadership in Context: Addressing 4IR Challenges in Under-Resourced Schools**
12. **Bridging Being and Bytes: Philosophical Foundations for Leaders in 4IR Education**

We encourage contributions that are either conceptual or empirical in nature. Theoretical explorations, philosophical reflections, and literature reviews are welcome alongside research-based chapters featuring empirical data, case studies, or practical applications. Chapters integrating conceptual frameworks with real-world insights are particularly valued.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite authors to submit abstracts and full chapters according to the following guidelines:
- **Abstract and Affiliation**: A concise summary of the chapter, outlining the key focus, objectives, and relevance (250 - 300 words). NB: Do not forget to put down your affiliation and specify which key theme or chapter you are focusing on.
- **Chapters**: Contributions should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words, including references. Shorter contributions (3,000-5,000 words) focusing on specific themes or practical insights are also welcome.
- **Formatting**: APA 7th edition guidelines must be followed.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Abstract Submission Deadline**: 15 January 2025
- **Chapter Submission to Editors**: 15 May 2025
- **Editors' Feedback to Authors**: 15 July 2025
- **Corrected Chapters to Editors**: 15 September 2025
- **Submission to Publisher**: 15 October 2025

PROCESS OF SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT:

All submissions to be via the following emails:

- **Dr Dean Collin Langeveldt**: dean.langeveldt@spu.ac.za and cc' epietecd1@unisa.ac.za