# Honing Self-Awareness of Faculty and Future Business Leaders

"In the nearly 30 years since the advent of the 'affective revolution', scholars and practitioners alike have gradually come to understand that the world we live in cannot be understood solely in terms of mechanical or cognitive principles. The chapters in this volume demonstrate this realization and deal with a wide variety of human experience, both in the classroom and at work. In particular the chapters reveal how, through becoming mindful of our emotions we can improve our self-awareness and personal effectiveness, and in doing so become role models for our students – who will be the leaders of tomorrow."

#### —Prof. Neal M. Ashkanasy, World-renowned emotions scholar, The University of Queensland, Australia

"Retention of learning from collegiate and graduate courses is abysmal. The halflife of knowledge seems to be 6 ½ weeks and needed competency development is sparse despite billions spent on higher education. This collection of essays, models and studies about managing emotions of both students and teachers should sensitize the curious reader and provoke some new approaches. Without engaging the whole student with their emotions as well as ideas and values, we have little hope of motivating retained learning. Combining the right pedagogy and teachers feeling inspired (i.e., handling their own emotions, as well as ideas and values) is essential."

—Richard Boyatzis, Ph.D., Distinguished University Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Co-author of the international best seller, Primal Leadership and the new Helping People Change

# Honing Self-Awareness of Faculty and Future Business Leaders: Emotions Connected with Teaching and Learning

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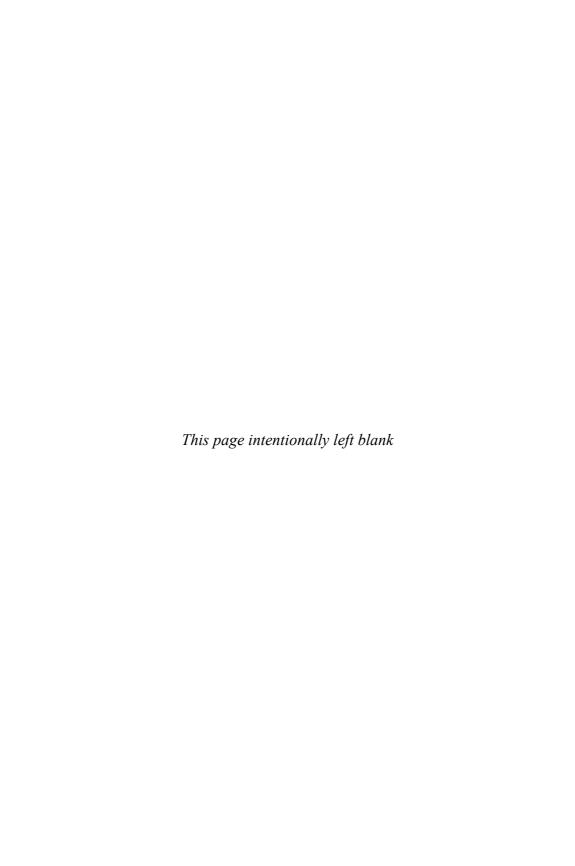


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Dedicated to teachers who want to make a difference, and to students who are our future. Payal Kumar, Tom Elwood Culham, Richard J. Major and Richard Peregoy

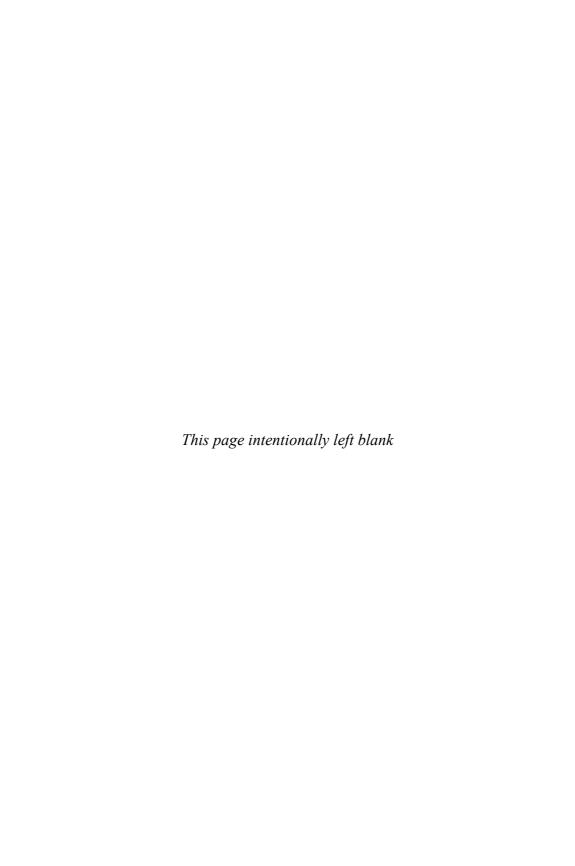


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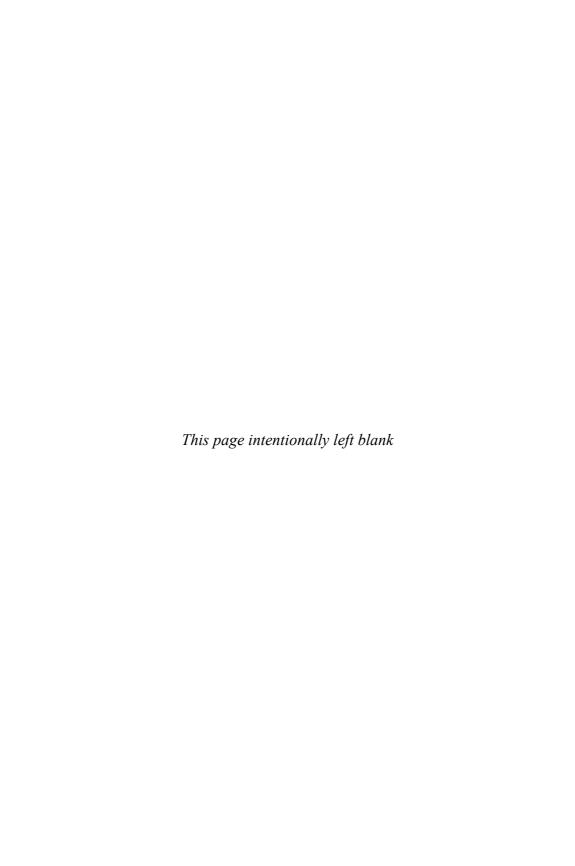
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#### **Foreword**

When I taught management classes at the University of New Haven, and when I conducted leadership development courses at Honeywell, I would begin the first class by describing the Delphi Oracle. I would tell my students that the Greek maxim inscribed above the entrance to the Delphi Oracle was 'Know thyself'. I would say that this is also the first principle of management. 'Know thyself'. I have since learned that there are two more maxims inscribed at the Temple: 'Nothing to excess', and 'Certainty brings insanity'. Taken together, these three maxims provide excellent guidance for anyone who wants to teach, lead, or make a positive impact on others. They are three of the elements of emotional intelligence and effective leadership. Just imagine what today's world would be like if all leaders were (1) self-aware, (2) acted with moderation instead of excess, and (3) demonstrated some humility rather than the certainty of ego.

Self-awareness – 'knowing thyself' – is the foundation of emotional intelligence. In my Edgewalker model, self-awareness is the first quality of spiritual leadership. Without self-awareness, it is impossible to change, to grow, and to adapt to the uncertainties of organizational life. I define self-awareness as 'Awareness of your thoughts, values and behaviour, and a commitment to spend time in self-reflection, with the goal of becoming a better person', (Neal, 2006, p. 26). The editors of this book, and the esteemed authors of the chapters you are about to read, may have slightly different definitions or operationalizations of self-awareness, but all agree on its centrality to teaching. There is also agreement on the importance being exemplars to those we support in their leadership formation through our own self-awareness practices (Major, 2018).

As you will read over and over again in this book, emotions and self-awareness are seldom addressed in academic management education, other than an occasional nodding of the head to Daniel Goleman's (1995) important work on *Emotional Intelligence*. The first material I ever came across that addressed self-awareness and the inner life of the teacher was Parker Palmer's (1998) work, *The Courage to Teach*. I discovered Palmer's book through the Center for Creative Leadership, not through academia. Russ Moxley, from the Center for Creative Leadership, worked with Parker Palmer to create a programme called 'The Courage to Lead', based on *The Courage to Teach* and on Russ Moxley's (2000) work on *Leadership & Spirit*. And once again, their work is not widely known in business schools. It is time to change that.

This book fills a huge gap in both the scholarly domain of management and in the pedagogy. When I was going through my Ph.D. programme at Yale University,

there were no courses on pedagogy, and certainly no mention of self-awareness, emotional intelligence, spirituality, or being an exemplar in our teaching. That part of our education was non-existent because it was just assumed that teaching was just a process of taking concepts out of our heads and putting them into students. It was brain-to-brain. There was no acknowledgement that we as potential faculty, or our students, are so much more than a brain being carried around by a body. Some doctoral programmes now include a class on teaching, but it is usually focussed on instructional design, not the inner work of the teacher.

It was only through reading spiritual literature that I came to recognize that I and my students comprise the integration of body, mind, emotion, and spirit. When I came to understand this, my paradigm of education shifted. Instead of brain-to-brain, it became whole person to whole person. In my first year of teaching, the chair of the management department once said to me, 'The students seem to really appreciate your teaching. What do you do? What's your secret?' I responded, 'It's now what I do, it's how I am with them. I just love them'. He was looking for techniques, and he had no idea how to respond to my answer about love.

Or maybe my secret was that I sang to the class. Music is central to who I am and how I live my life. I am a guitar player, bass player, singer, and songwriter. I frequently play a song to begin or end a class session. Back when I used to give tests, I would sing to the students before giving the test. I'd invite them to centre and quiet their minds. I told them that if they could relax before beginning the test, their brains would more easily retrieve the information they studied and they would do better on the test. One student told me that it worked so well for her that she would sit in her car and listen to a favourite CD before taking a test in another class. I'm not advocating that all faculty sing to their students. What I am advocating is that we develop the courage to be ourselves in the classroom, our full authentic selves, and in that way students can learn as much from the way we bring body, mind, emotion, and spirit into our teaching as they do from the content.

I have known Payal Kumar, Richard J. Major, Tom Elwood Culham, and Richard Peregoy for years. They are not only highly valued colleagues, but they are also dear friends. They are each deeply committed to self-awareness practices as an important part of their own life journeys. They are also passionate about supporting students, fellow scholars, and clients in enhancing self-awareness. They practice what they preach. And in this book, they share what they have learned and what they are learning still. They have curated an edited volume in which chapters provide the research, the pedagogy, the spiritual wisdom, and the inspiration to help you become more fully who you are as a teacher so that your students can become more fully who they are.

Every year at the Academy of Management Conference they run a well-attended professional development workshop (PDW) on emotions in the class-room, and I have had the good fortune to attend most of their sessions. They didn't just talk about emotions, they engaged us through storytelling in a way that evoked our emotions. They created a safe container to explore challenging

situations and they provided tools and exercises to help us understand and process emotions in such a way that the learning could be transferred to other situations. I found these workshops to be valuable and inspiring. I also found that the experience deepened my emotional connection to other participants in the session. This popular PDW has been running for four years, and has proved to be the spark for the book.

There are 15 rich chapters in this book, divided into two themes: 'Working with Student Emotions' and 'Working with Teacher Emotions'. The chapters have been written by experienced researchers from all over the globe on a variety of rich topics. I would highly recommend this to all faculty, as we all deal with emotions on a constant basis, but often don't even talk about the elephant in the room. A very insightful and much-needed book. Use this resource fully.

This book is an outgrowth of their collaboration together around emotions in the classroom and it fills a very important gap in pedagogy and research. The editors and the authors are clear-eyed about the challenges of leadership in today's world, and about the underwhelming response of business schools and management education in supporting a healthier, more powerful, and more meaningful approach to the development of leaders in a world filled with multiple crises emerging at once. Traditional education is not doing the trick.

May we continue to follow the three maxims of the Delphi Oracle, 'Know Thyself' (self-awareness), 'Nothing to excess' (moderation), and 'Certainty brings insanity' (humility).

May this book make as much of a difference in the field of management as you make in the lives of your students.

I leave you with this quote from Parker Palmer's (2015) commencement speech at Naropa Univesity:

Offer yourself to the world – your energies, your gifts, your visions, your heart – with open-hearted generosity. But understand that when you live that way you will soon learn how little you know and how easy it is to fail. To grow in love and service, you – I, all of us – must value ignorance as much as knowledge and failure as much as success .... Clinging to what you already know and do well is the path to an unlived life. So, cultivate beginner's mind, walk straight into your not-knowing, and take the risk of failing and falling again and again, then getting up again and again to learn – that's the path to a life lived large, in service of love, truth, and justice.

Judi Neal, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Global Consciousness Institute Author, *Edgewalkers* and *Creating Enlightened Organizations* 

### Chapter 1

# Managing Emotions for Teachers and Students: The Litmus Test of Inner Awareness

Payal Kumar, Tom Elwood Culham, Richard J. Major and Richard Peregoy

Work and learning are eminently social activities involving relationships and interactions that are directly affected by our attitudes and emotions. In this regard, every manager should be held responsible for their emotional states in order to have a positive and generative impact on their immediate environments. This applies even more to us educators, as our students are the constant witnesses of our behaviours and emotional reactions. Nevertheless, the topic of emotions in the classroom or in management education – while dwelt upon by education and psychology scholars – is rarely brought up in management academic circles.

Learning is an experience, and experience is conditioned by emotions. We register information based on our emotional states which are affected by our social interactions. In the classroom, we are confronted by a flow of emotions that coexist, intersect and sometimes collide. Our profession can become skilful addressing these and exemplifying to students, current and future managers, that emotional intelligence and maturity can be developed into a manifested competence. This personal exemplarity is as powerful, if not more, than any theoretical demonstration on the topic.

Effectively preparing twenty-first century managers in business schools and other higher education institutions calls for teachers to not only be able to deal with the manifestation of emotions that frequently arise in the classroom, but also themselves develop heightened emotional intelligence skills in order to convey the imperative for future leaders to work on their emotional self-awareness and social skills.

While scholars have emphasized the pedagogical need to build emotional messages into course delivery and the curriculum (Cavanagh, 2016), the literature

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so far does not provide the way forward in terms of rigorous pedagogical tools for teachers to raise self-awareness of students in the classroom. Nor do studies address in detail how teachers ought to develop their own emotional intelligence to manage classroom emotions and role-model emotional maturity for their students, hoping for a trickle-down effect to the students. As management science researchers, in an era of complex and ambiguous societal and economic VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity) environments, we believe the time has come to emphasize self-awareness and management of emotions as a strong differentiator for generating student engagement, well-being and performance, and hence the need for this book.

This edited volume was curated after professional development workshops that we conducted at the Academy of Management Conferences for four consecutive years. In these, we invited faculty to self-report on personal experiences of emotional experiences, and also on their practices of cultiving inner life through heightened levels of consciousness and practice. Subsequently, when we reached out to scholars to submit book chapters for peer review, it seems that we hit a raw nerve, as we were flooded with submissions. In fact, in the end this book is almost a third larger than was anticipated by us as editors.

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This book is divided into two important themes. The first is Working with Student Emotions. Our students are likely to take on leadership roles, for which emotional awareness and social skills are essential. Self-awareness and management of emotions are emerging as strong differentiators for generating leadership presence, employee engagement, well-being and higher performance. Self-awareness is critical to personal, team and organizational performance according to authentic leadership research (Taylor, Wang, & Zhan, 2012), while emotional intelligence is seen to be a foundation of leader self-awareness (Goleman & Boyatzis, 2008). Teachers are in a unique position to encourage students to introspect and let their emotional consciousness grow largely through experiential learning techniques.

The second chapter authored by Blake Kanewischer, Sonja L. Johnston, Jaci Lyndon and Megan Glancey addresses 'Emotional Discomfort as a Catalyst for Breaking Through Students' Self-perceived Capabilities'. A critical, reflexive and holistic multiple-case study design is used to demonstrate the value of authentic assessment for improving student self-efficacy across several business courses. Chitra Khari and Prachi Bhatt penned the third chapter, 'Emotional Intelligence, Boredom Proneness, and Student Cyberloafing Behaviour', which investigates the role of students' emotional intelligence in countering cyberloafing behaviour of students through a quantitative analysis that explores the mediating role of boredom proneness. In the fourth chapter, Dunia A. Harajli and Bart F. Norré inquire 'Should Mindfulness Practices be Mandatory in Business Education?' They consider the impact of two mindfulness technique on Lebanese and Swiss business school students well-being, learning and decision making.

Payal Kumar authored the fifth chapter which considers 'Mental illness as an outcome of racial school bullying: An Evocative Autoethnographic Account of a Professor'. It is an autoethnographic account of racial bullying trauma on

students' well-being and a neuroscience perspective on the issue. The sixth chapter written by Elizabeth A. Luckman, 'Teaching in a Complex System: Using Systems Thinking to Facilitate Social–Emotional learning in the College Classroom', proposes that business schools have a moral responsibility to educate students such that they behave both ethically and effectively in the workplace. The complex challenges of systematically meeting this objective are discussed.

Eunice Maytorena-Sanchez and Courtney E. Owens authored the seventh chapter, 'Using Audience Response Systems to Facilitate Student Self-awareness in Leadership Development Programmes', where they explore emotional discomfort in executive leadership programmes to facilitate self-awareness and enhance reflective practice.

In the second part – Working with Teacher Emotions – we look at how teachers can heighten their own emotional intelligence skills in order to convey, through role modelling and focussed class curriculum, the imperative for future leaders to work on their emotional self-awareness and social skills. We acknowledge today's societal imperative to engage in new forms of learning and teaching by actualizing our pedagogical methods. Focussing on educators' emotional responsibility provides us with a formidable growth opportunity: to shift the learning experience from a rationality-based paradigm of education in which educators' behaviours are ignored, to inclusive, experiential and transformational pedagogies that consider the whole human being, emotional and spiritual dimensions included.

In this section there are eight chapters, the eighth chapter opens with the theme of Working with Teacher Emotions. In 'Catch and Release: Tools for Dealing with Teacher Stress, author Antonina (Tonya) Bauman considers the types of stresses teachers face and offers a list of practical recommendations that might help educators manage their emotional reactions to stressful situations. In the ninth chapter on the teachers' emotions, 'Reframing Self in the Classroom: Interdependent Reflexivity for Enhancing Self-awareness' by Susan S. Case, H. Michael Schwartz and Sharon F. Ehasz, faculty and student traditional roles and responsibilities are reframed. This reframing provides an iterative, holistic process of embedded interdependent self-awareness development where students experience a sense of empowerment and control over their learning, integral to mutual success.

In the tenth chapter, 'Maybe the Problem Is Not Our Students But Us: Developing Faculty Personal–Interpersonal Capacity', Craig R. Seal, Krystal Miguel Rawls, Marquis E. Gardner-Nutter and Selina Sanchez leverage the model of personal–interpersonal capacity to provide a constructive lens to unpack our assumptions about our students and shift the teacher's focus on managing and controlling their internal state of mind and actions. Emily Morrison, Henriette Lundgren and Seo Yoon Sung authored the eleventh chapter, 'Learning to Surf: Catching the Waves of Dynamic Emotions in Experiential Teaching', where they rely on empirical findings to explore the dynamic nature of teachers' and students' emotions in the process of facilitating experiential teaching, by examining critical incidents. Tools for managing these experiences are provided.

Deborah J. Natoli contributes the twelfth chapter in this theme, 'Our Better Angels: A Neuro-psychological Theory of Faculty Development', which reports

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on qualitative research designed to understand how teachers know their students and their own identity as teachers. Based on this research, a model for In-depth Faculty Development is provided. Richard Peregoy, Payal Kumar, Richard J. Major and Tom Elwood Culham authored the thirteenth chapter, 'Teaching Adult Learners by Drawing on Heightened Instructor Awareness and Collaborative Autoethnography', where it is proposed that instructor competency needs to include a high emotional quotient to work effectively with adult learners. Learning how to manage emotional experiences can be augmented through qualitative research methods such as collaborative autoethnography.

The fourteenth chapter authored by Arti Sharma and Sushant Bhargava, 'Emotions in the Virtual Classroom: Understanding the role of Emotional Intelligence Amidst COVID-19 Blues', presents a narrative analysis of instructors' experiences in a graduate course to find the effects of emotional responses to COVID-19 on teaching virtually. Conclusions are relevant for the future of teaching and learning in times of disruptions such as COVID-19. The final chapter – 'Arts-based Pedagogy in Management Education: Personal Reflections' by Charlie Yang, Ekaterina Ivanova and Maria Ivanova – discusses the need for more open and diverse ways of knowing that are more holistic, emotional and aesthetic in management education to support creative thinking in filling gaps in current management education. A framework of arts-based pedagogy which helps organize arts-based practices currently used in management education is presented.

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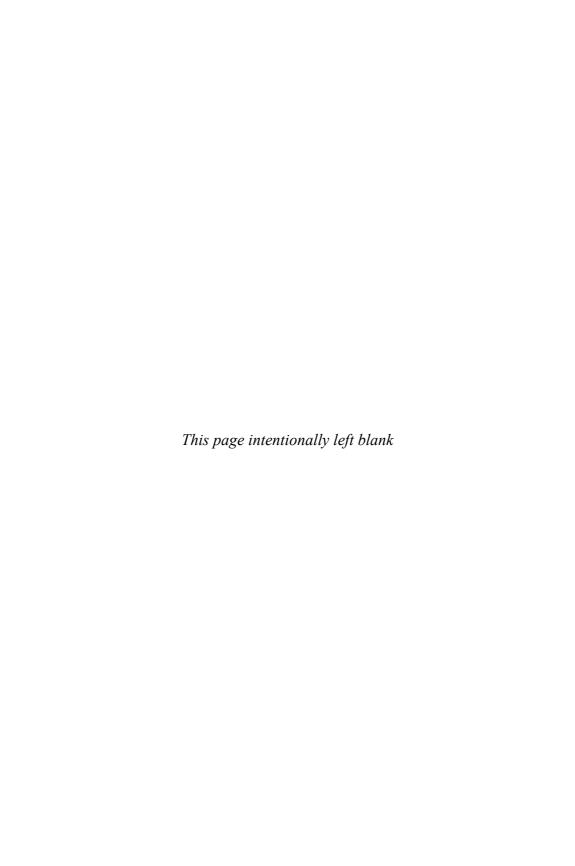
To sum up, emotion management and self-awareness are crucial parts of the training of the student for future leadership positions. For this, it is essential that teachers themselves develop an ability to introspect, to gain awareness of their emotional states and be able to deal with positive and negative affect in the classroom. After all, dealing with emotional situations is the litmus test of an evolved level of inner awareness, critical for both teachers and managers to operate with a positive impact. We hope that this book proves insightful for all teachers in higher education institutions who want to manage their own self-awareness and emotions, while simultaneously making a difference to future business leaders.

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### Theme 1

# **Working with Student Emotions**



### Chapter 2

# **Emotional Discomfort as a Catalyst for Breaking Through Students' Self-Perceived Capabilities**

Blake Kanewischer, Sonja L. Johnston, Jaci Lyndon and Megan Glancey

#### Abstract

This chapter employs a critical, reflexive, and holistic multiple-case study design at a Canadian polytechnic to demonstrate the value of authentic assessment for improving student self-efficacy across several business courses. Assessment strategies, instructional design techniques, coaching skills, and emotional affect are examined through instructor observation and reflection, yielding actionable insights for instructors and future research directions.

*Keywords*: Leadership; project management; multiple-case study; experiential learning; course assessment; instructor-as-coach

#### Introduction

Students' self-perceived capabilities are formed through their personal and academic experiences, which are largely compliance-driven in the business school context. As a result, they often struggle to overcome limiting self-perceptions when asked to take up ambiguous, achievement-oriented tasks. The emotional valence associated with overcoming those barriers can be significant for both parties in the effort – instructors and students. Using a critical, reflexive, interpretivist, and holistic, multiple-case study design (Yin, 2018), the authors deconstruct several pedagogical and assessment techniques to inductively articulate the mechanism(s) of action that underpin students' emotional growth.

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The authors developed authentic assessments embedded in an experientially driven pedagogy, in order to extend students' capabilities. Three case studies at a Canadian polytechnic, spanning project management and two distinct culminating experiences available to students, demonstrate their growth. Students enter into these second- and fourth-year courses with relatively fixed mindsets, IQ-driven products, correctness-oriented pedagogy, and assessment strategies, and ultimately develop new capabilities and skills.

Since 2016, students studying project management and leadership have been encouraged to confront and overcome ambiguous situations through innovative pedagogical techniques. For example, as project management students, teams execute fundraising projects for charity, which is a seemingly intractable project when first encountered. Similarly, through intentional, experiential activities in leadership, students have been encouraged to find, and step over, their emotional and physical comfort zones. Following on from these experiences, since 2018, students have been selecting one of two culminating – workplace-readiness six-credit-hour course pathways – a 450-hour paid workplace practicum or an integrated business problem analysis as a consulting team (unpaid capstone). In each of these cases, students are exposed to unfamiliar situations with the guidance of an instructor-coach, highlighting areas for learning, experience, and growth.

Students' success hinges on their receptiveness to intentional, emotional disruption as a pathway to growth and maturity.

#### Literature Review

Leadership development is rarely a predictable and even path. It is riddled with ups and downs, wrong turns, and, often, many mistakes. It is these moments that create the opportunities for self-reflection, which is essential for developing self-awareness. Self-awareness is foundational to being an effective leader.

Leadership in the twenty-first century requires many different skills than we have in the years past. These core capabilities include emotional intelligence and resilience, amongst others. Emotional intelligence helps us better understand ourselves and those around us (Goleman, Boyatzis, & McKee, 2002). As we face challenges, emotional intelligence provides us the skills to gain perspective of a situation, look for opportunities to connect, and successfully mitigate it. Our self-confidence and agency are strengthened by our own understanding and awareness of the self and others (Frazier, Schwartz, & Metcalfe, 2021). Resilience is a function, in part, of developing self-confidence and agency (Donald, Lazarus, & Lolwana, 2012), which are reinforced in the course experience. Resilience is the capacity to respond quickly and constructively in a crisis (Margolis & Stoltz, 2010), and in the workplace, it is as important today as ever. With rapid change and increasing ambiguity, psychological resilience is a core capability for success (Fletcher & Sarkar, 2016).

Self-confidence is built as a result of working through the process of framing and defining responses to ambiguous learning experiences. These combine to support students in building resilience. Senior-level students benefit greatly from these skills (resilience, self-confidence, and agency) prior to entering the work-place. Experiential learning is essential because it provides many opportunities to