

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

# The Status of Leadership Theory and Research

Although the fundamentals of leadership are relatively constant (e.g., follower trust, technical competence, vision and change skills, etc.), leadership theory as a whole is continually evolving because leadership contexts in various areas change significantly, in turn changing expectations and shifting needs. For example, most leaders today must have a degree of competence in virtual skills not dreamed of 20 years ago as well as bear up under a level of public scrutiny, even invasiveness, that was formerly unheard of. Leadership scholars in various disciplines incorporate these new issues into research, and come up with some common issues across most areas of leadership. However, because disciplines such as business, the not-for-profit sector, politics, and public administration, do not evolve at the same time or in the same way, and sometimes evolve with exceptional issues due to specialized path dependencies, leadership scholars also have numerous uniquely framed questions that they investigate. This talk will provide a very brief survey of some of the overarching trends in the broad field of leadership research, before turning to the concrete case of leadership in public agencies, often called administrative leadership.

**Professor Montgomery Van Wart**

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Montgomery Van Wart is a professor in the Department of Public Administration at California State University. He received his PhD at Arizona State University. He served as Chair of his department and Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration and formerly was the Department Chair at the University of Central Florida. He was also a senior fellow at KU Leuven and visiting professor at Rutgers University. He has authored or co-authored eight books including *Dynamics of Leadership*, *Leadership in Public Organizations*, *Changing Public Sector Values* and *Human Resource Management in Public Service*, and has three additional books in the final stages currently. His 2003 assessment of the field of administrative leadership is the most cited article in the field related to leadership.

**Date: 25 March 2014 (Tuesday)**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Venue: Room 966, The Jockey Club Tower  
Centennial Campus, HKU**

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