



UZH Leadership and Governance Academy lecture

Thursday, 8 May 2025
5.15 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
followed by a reception.
Alte Kantonsschule
Rämistr. 59; RAA-G-01
Universität Zürich

Prof. Dr. Amanda Goodall

Professor of Leadership, Bayes Business School,
City St Georges, University London

Why Research Universities Should Be Led by Top Scholars

Moderation

Prof. Dr. Klaus Jonas

Director UZH Leadership and Governance Academy
and CHES Board Member

Who should lead a university? Based on her research, Amanda presents her strong thesis that universities should be led by top scholars and not general managers.

In numerous work settings including universities – at the level of president and department chairs – she shows precisely why experts need expert leaders. Amanda's work finds that the most effective leaders are those who have deep expertise in the organisation's core business. Having good or outstanding domain experts as leaders and managers really matters to organisational and individual performance and employee job satisfaction and retention. Most university presidents have worked their way up, first as chairs of departments, research centres or laboratories, into roles such as provosts or deans.

Amanda argues that not all outstanding researchers will go on to make good leaders; but to succeed, experts need both management experience and ideally 'tailored' leadership development.

Amanda Goodall is Professor of Leadership at Bayes Business School, City St Georges, University of London. She started her career in fashion, went then to NGOs, and finally into to academe. Her main work analyses the relationship between leadership, management and organisational performance. Amanda publishes in academic journals, practitioner publications (e.g. Harvard Business Review) and in the media (e.g. Financial Times).

Among others she published the Book "Socrates in the Boardroom – Why Research Universities Should Be Led by Top Scholars" (2009) and "Credible: The power of Expert Leaders" (2023). See also <https://amandagoodall.com>. She also created and runs a successful programme, 'Executive Masters in Medical Leadership', tailored to the needs of medical doctors.

Das CHES will die Selbstreflexion der Hochschulen und der Wissenschaften stärken und die Herausforderungen thematisieren, welche durch die veränderten gesellschaftlichen Erwartungen von den zunehmend autonomen Hochschulen bewältigt werden müssen.