Megaproject Leaders

Reflections on Personal Life Stories

New Horizons in Organization Studies series

Edited by Nathalie Drouin, Professor of Project Management, Department of Management (École des Sciences de la gestion), Université du Québec à Montréal (ESG UQAM), Canada; Adjunct Professor, University of Technology Sydney, Australia; Executive Director of KHEOPS, International Research Consortium on the Governance of Large Infrastructure Projects, and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Managing Projects in Business, Shankar Sankaran, Professor of Organizational Project Management, School of the Built Environment, Faculty of Design Architecture and Building, and a core researcher of megaproject management, Centre for Informatics Research and Innovation, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, Alfons van Marrewijk, Professor of Construction Cultures, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, Adjunct Professor of Project Management, BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway and Ralf Müller, Professor of Project Management, Department of Leadership and Organizational Behaviour, BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway and Editor-in-Chief of the Project Management Journal

Megaproject Leaders brings together 18 prominent academics who interviewed 16 great megaproject leaders originating from 10 different countries. Based on a reflective methodological approach, these chapters investigate the managing of megaprojects from a human perspective, identify new trends in the managing of megaprojects and identify lessons learned from the personal views of the interviewees. The novel ideas presented will appeal to academics, practitioners and university students.

‘The management of megaprojects is one of the most fascinating themes in project management. We witness an increasing amount of research and publications dedicated to megaprojects – but the research documents a criminal negligence of the key people that drive, shape and influence the success or failure of megaprojects. This new book makes a fundamental difference. It focuses on the key people, who jointly manage successfully very complex megaprojects.’
– Hans Georg Gemünden, Professor Emeritus of Technology and Innovation Management, TU Berlin, Germany

‘This well written book is a rich source on the leading of landmark megaprojects. Using case studies from different continents, the authors craft out the complexity, insecurity, ambiguity and social impact of these projects. I especially like that the authors shed light on the personal context, energy and values of the project leaders enabling them to accomplish these immense endeavors. These megaprojects are interwoven with the lives and careers of their project leaders. This book is a must read for anyone who wants to see the adventures/evolution of megaprojects and their leaders.’
– Martina Huemann, WU Vienna, Austria, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Project Management

‘The ever growing body of work examining “megaprojects” and major project and programme management has focused on governance, structure, strategy and management but has been relatively silent on the core issue of leadership. This book will be a critical and vital contribution to filling that gap and will be an important resource for anyone studying or working on megaprojects and interested in the role and impact of leadership. I think this book will be a vital go to source, not only for students and researchers but also very importantly, for current and
aspirant leaders of megaprojects.
– Tyrone Pitsis, Durham University, UK