



TWU-SMC 11th Annual Leadership Conference

Transcendent Thinking for Transformative Leadership:
Integrating the Human Factor in the Age of AI



TRINITY WESTERN
UNIVERSITY



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI, INDIA



Join Us

As we enter the next decade of our partnership, the 11th Annual Leadership Conference, jointly hosted by Trinity Western University (TWU) and Stella Maris College (SMC), explores how transcendent thinking can guide leadership in the age of AI across sectors that drive our global economies. It focuses on integrating the human factor—values, character, and relational intelligence—into AI-enabled, data-driven systems being adopted and innovated within higher education institutions. The conference will offer fresh perspectives through dialogue between industry experts, university leaders, and student leaders on how these systems can foster more accountable connections with public and private sector partners leading to the design of relevant programs that equip future leaders to serve a rapidly evolving global AI-driven economy.

Tuesday, JAN 20

India – Chennai (IST): Jan 20, 10:00 a.m – 2:30 p.m

Canada – Vancouver (PST): Jan 19, 8:30 p.m – Jan 20, 1:00 a.m

South Korea – Seoul (KST) / Japan – Tokyo (JST): Jan 20, 1:30 p.m – 6:00 p.m

**China – Beijing (CST) / Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur (MYT) / Singapore – Singapore (SGT):
Jan 20, 12:30 p.m – 5:00 p.m**

Vietnam – Hanoi (ICT) / Thailand – Bangkok (ICT): Jan 20, 11:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m

UAE – Dubai (GST): Jan 20, 8:30 a.m – 1:00 p.m

Iran – Tehran (IRST): Jan 20, 8:00 a.m – 12:30 p.m

Kenya – Nairobi (EAT) / Uganda – Kampala (EAT): Jan 20, 7:30 a.m – 12:00 p.m

South Africa – Pretoria (SAST) / Rwanda – Kigali (CAT): Jan 20, 6:30 a.m – 11:00 a.m

Nigeria – Lagos (WAT) / Germany – Berlin (CET): Jan 20, 5:30 a.m – 10:00 a.m

UK – London (GMT): Jan 20, 4:30 a.m – 9:00 a.m

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE HERE

Disclaimer: Please review the conference registration protocols carefully to ensure you have access to the correct links for both the main sessions and workshops.



JANUARY 7, 2025

DAY 1

Inauguration and Parallel Workshops

Location: Francis Hall, F21, Stella Maris College

Host: Dr. Dolly Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of History, Director, SMC Women's Studies.



10:55–11:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE OFFICIATING

Dr. Dolly Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of History, Director, SMC Women's Studies.

11:00–11:05 A.M.

TAMIZH THAI VAZHTU-INVOCATION



BLESSING

Opening prayer: Sr. Anita Judith Gonsalvez, Secretary, Stella Maris College

Worship song: SMC Choir



11:05–11:10 A.M.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Sr. Stella Mary K., fmm, Principal, Stella Maris College



11:10–11:15 A.M.

10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Dr. Renuka Rajaratnam, Dean, Research & Partnerships, SMC



11:15-11:35 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

Dr Maria Sasitha Agnes , Head of Sociology department



INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon. Minister for Informational Technology and Digital Services, Tamil Nadu



11:35 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Cyber security and Its Application in Collaboration with government agencies in Canada

Dr. Imbenzi George, Honorary Consul General of Kenya in BC, Canada, Director of International Engagement Africa, India and China, TWU and Chairperson, Amina LIVE Foundation

12:00-1:00P.M.

LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

1:00-2:30 P.M.

Industry and Academic Expert Talk and workshops

Location: F21 and Digital Center, SMC Campus (with hybrid online access)

WORKSHOP 1:

Strategic Leadership and Facilitating Cross-Functional Teams

Professor and Trainer: Doug Atha, Director of MA Leadership Program, TWU

[Online Streaming Registration](#)

WORKSHOP 2:

Cybersecurity for Cross-Sector Leadership and Good Governance and Entrepreneurship

Professor and Trainer: Dr. Imbenzi George Director of International Engagement Africa, India and China, TWU and Chairperson, Amina LIVE Foundation

[Online Streaming Registration](#)



JANUARY 8, 2025

DAY 2

Talks and Workshops

Location: SMC Campus JV Digital Centre

Host: Mrs. Blessy Boaz, Head, Department of Computer Science, SMC



10:00-10:05 A.M.

OPENING PRAYERS

Professor Jonathan Michael



10:05-10:10 A.M.

WELCOME NOTE

Ms. Jeyapriya, Vice Principal - Shift II
Former Head & Former Academic Deans, SMC



INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Blessy Boaz, Head, Department of Computer Science, SMC

10:10-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOP 3:

Mapping the Mind: Data-Driven Approaches to Understanding and Transforming Thought Processes

Professor & Trainer: Dr. Philip Laird, Vice President of Innovation, Global & Academic Partnerships, TWU

[Online Streaming Registration](#)

12:00-1:30 P.M.

WORKSHOP 4:

Unlocking Leadership Potential for Student Leaders

Lead by Dr. Phil Laird with (Dr. Imbenzi George, Dr Doug Atha and Mr. Geoffrey Feng), (Shyam Kotari Auditorium)

For SMC Student Leaders on Campus



12:10-1:30 P.M.

WORKSHOP 5:

The LeaderShift: Purpose-Driven Careers Through Psychometric Insights and Data

Professor & Coach: Professor Jonathan Michael, Sessional Instructor and International Engagement Partnership Ambassador for India, TWU and Sr. Master Certified Birkman Coach and Consultant, Birkman International Inc.

Co- facilitated by Mr. Sushil Rajaratnam, TWU

Online Streaming Registration

1:30-2:30 P.M.

LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

JANUARY 9, 2025



DAY 3

Talks and Sessions

Location: JV Digital Centre, SMC Campus (with hybrid online access)

Host: Dr. Shrinidhi S., Head, Department of Public Relations, SMC



10:00-10:05 A.M.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Shrinidhi S., Head, Department of Public Relations, SMC



10:05-10:30 A.M.

Digital Memoryscapes: Leveraging AI and Data Analytics in Memory Studies

Dr. Mirin Simi Raj, Associate Professor, IIT



10:30-10:45 A.M.

Building Strategic Leadership Focus with Cross-Functional Teams

Doug Atha, Director of MA Leadership Program, TWU

10:45-11:05 A.M.

TEA BREAK & NETWORKING



11:05-11:50 A.M.

STUDENT PRESENTER

Doyin Adegbulugbe, TWU MA Lead Alumni and Assistant Director of Compliance, Focus College



STUDENT PRESENTER

Guarav Chawda, TWU MA Lead Alumni and Community Support Worker



STUDENT PRESENTER

Ms. M K Gayathri, 3rd year Student of the Department of Economics
President of Tinkering, Debate Society, and Research Cell, SMC



STUDENT PRESENTER

Ms. Pooja Shree B, Department of Social Work and President - Tinkering Lab,
Stella Maris College and Student Coordinator - SMSD Hub, Stella Maris College

11:50 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING



12:30-1:15 P.M.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

AI, Data Analytics, and the Evolution of Thinking: Transformational Leadership in the Age of Intelligence



Moderator: Dr. Philip Laird, Vice President of Innovation,
Global & Academic Partnerships, TWU GLOBAL



Dr. Imbenzi George, Director
of International Engagement
Africa, Chairperson, Amina
LIVE Foundation



Doug Atha,
Director of MA
Leadership Program, TWU



Mr. Geoffrey Feng,
Director of Admissions,
TWU GLOBAL



Dr. Mirin Simi Raj,
Associate Professor, IIT



Professor Jonathan Michael,
Sessional Instructor and
International Engagement
Partnership Ambassador for
India , TWU



Ms. M K Gayathri,
3rd year Student of the
Department of Economics
President of Tinkering, Debate
Society, and Research Cell



Ms. Pooja Shree B, Department
of Social Work and President
- Tinkering Lab, Stella
Maris College and Student
Coordinator - SMSD Hub,
Stella Maris College



Doyin Adegbulugbe,
TWU MA Lead Alumni and
Assistant Director of Compliance,
Focus College



Guarav Chawda,
TWU MA Lead Alumni
and Community Support
Worker



1:15-1:40 P.M.

VALEDICTORY SESSION



VALEDICTORY NOTE

Dr. Philip Laird, Vice President of Innovation,
Global & Academic Partnerships, TWU GLOBAL



1:40-2:00 P.M.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Dr. Shrinidhi , Head, Department of Public Relations Department



For logistics and communication with registrants
and Delegates, please contact:

Sushil Rajaratnam, Project Director, TWU
Sushil.Rajaratnam@twu.ca



CONFERENCE AND PRE REGISTRATION PROTOCOLS

Onsite Attendees (SMC)

SMC Students:

- Preregistration for workshops and the conference will be managed directly by the respective department heads.

Attendees from Outside SMC (Students and Working Professionals):

- Those interested in attending the conference or workshops in person can contact Sushil Rajaratnam at the TWU-SMC FARR (Facilitated Academic Research and Resource Center), located on the 1st floor of the F Block, Stella Maris College.
- Please email Mr. Sushil at sushil.rajaratnam@twu.ca before visiting the center for assistance or inquiries.

Late registration:

- Attendees from outside SMC may register at the registration booth for the conference and/or workshops on the day of the event.
- The booth is located at SMC F21 – Francis Block and will be open on 7th–9th January 2025 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

Certificates of Participation

- Only registered attendees who participate will receive a Certificate of Participation after the conference.
- Department heads from TWU and SMC must submit a name list for their students, including full names and email addresses, for registration purposes.
- Certificates will be issued based on the details provided in these name lists.
- The certificate will be jointly awarded by TWU and SMC.

Main Conference Attendance Certificates

- Certificates will be generated based on your attendance during the conference:
- If you attend only one day of the conference, your certificate will reflect the specific day you participated.
- Attendance across multiple days will also be acknowledged.
- Time Zone Flexibility: We understand that time zones may limit your ability to attend all days. You are welcome to attend the day(s) that are most convenient for you, and your certificate will reflect the sessions attended.

Workshop Certificates

- Workshops have their own certificates, separate from the main conference.
- To receive a certificate for a workshop:
- Ensure you have registered for the workshop using its dedicated registration link.
- Attend the full duration of the workshop to qualify for the certificate.



Onsite Attendees

- Only registered onsite attendees who participate will receive a Certificate of Participation after the conference.
- Department heads from TWU and SMC must submit a name list of their students, including full names and email addresses, for registration purposes.
- Certificates will be issued based on the details provided in these name lists and will be jointly awarded by TWU and SMC.

Online Attendees

- **Mandatory Registration:** Registration for the main conference is required and must be completed through the designated registration link to gain access.
- **Recurring Conference Link:** The same registration link will be used for all three days of the conference sessions.
- **Switching to Workshops:** Once the host concludes the conference session for the day, attendees are free to log out of the main conference link and log into their respective workshop links.
- All registered attendees who attend the entire session will receive certificates upon participation.
- The name on the certificate will match the exact information provided during registration.
- Certificates will be jointly awarded by TWU and SMC and sent to the email address provided at the time of registration.

Workshops

- **Separate Registration:** Registration for workshops is separate and requires attendees to select the specific workshop they wish to attend. Each workshop will have its own registration link, provided in the conference schedule.
- **One Workshop Per Time Slot:** Attendees can register for only one workshop per time slot. Workshops run concurrently, so it is not possible to attend multiple workshops simultaneously or partially.
- **Online Access:** Online attendees will have access to view live-streamed workshop sessions in real-time.
- **Q&A Segment:** Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A segment. If time constraints prevent answering your question during the session, responses will be provided later by the subject expert.
- **Workshop Queries:** For workshop-related questions, please email sushil.rajaratnam@twu.ca, mentioning the specific workshop and trainer your query is directed to.

General Participation Note (Applies to Both Onsite and Online Attendees)

- Attendees may participate in both the conference and workshops if there are no scheduling conflicts.
- It is not possible to attend multiple workshops or sessions running concurrently or partially.



BREAKS

- As our sessions progress, we're offering several breaks for attendees.
- There will be a tea and networking break for attendees from 12.00 pm to 12.30 pm. at the SMC auditorium.
- These breaks are opportunities for both onsite and online attendees to refresh and network, ensuring continued engagement with the ongoing sessions.

PANEL DISCUSSION PROTOCOLS

- Questions for the panelists can be submitted to the Q&A portal throughout the session.
- When posting questions, please specify the presenter to whom the question is directed along with your name and department or school you are from.
- Presenters will address the questions during their panel segment.
- Questions will also be entertained from attendees present live at the SMC auditorium.
- The discussion will be guided by the moderators, with questions alternating between those from the virtual audience and those from the onsite attendees at the SMC auditorium.



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