

## Open Letter

Prof Nishan Canagarajah, VC, University of Leicester  
Prof Henrietta O'Connor, Head, College of Social Science, Arts and Humanities  
Prof James Devlin, Dean, Business School  
Prof Daniel Ladley, Deputy Dean, Business School

17th April 2021

Dear All

We are writing to object to a document titled 'ULSB Consultation: Further Information' in which our academic publications are cited. No author or date is provided for this document, but it was supplied by management to the sixteen staff in your School of Business who are threatened with redundancy. In the document, our work is being used as evidence to define the fields of 'critical management studies' and 'political economy'. The inclusion of someone in these fields is being used to justify their dismissal.

Setting aside the issues of academic freedom of speech which are raised by these redundancies, we absolutely disavow any use of our work to justify the actions of those attempting this purge of academics. The hallmark of any good social science is that it should attempt to be 'critical' of established wisdom, including established 'rational choice' political economy. No business school that wishes to be relevant to the global challenges facing us should ignore the importance of critical scholarship.

Yours,

Prof Paul Adler, Management and Organization, University of Southern California, USA.  
Prof Mats Alvesson, Business Administration, Lund University, Sweden.  
Dr Todd Bridgeman, School of Management, Victoria University Wellington, NZ.  
Prof Linda Forbes, Ansell School of Business, Western Connecticut State University, USA.  
Prof John Hassard, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK.  
Prof Martin Parker, School of Management, University of Bristol, UK.  
Prof Michael Rowlinson, Exeter Business School, University of Exeter, UK.  
Prof Hugh Willmott, Business School, Cardiff and City Universities, UK.