

January 29, 2021

Dear Vice Chancellor of Leicester University,

Dear Professor Nishan Canagarajah,

We write to you in our role as Editors-in-Chief of *Organization: The Critical Journal of Organization, Theory & Society*. *Organization* is an established and highly reputable scientific journal in management and organization studies published by Sage. It was established in 1994 by four prominent organizational scholars including Prof. Gibson Burrell, faculty at the Business School of the University of Leicester, and which has been since at the forefront of theoretically ground-breaking and societally highly relevant scholarship.

With this letter we would like to express our dismay for the recent announcement by the Business School of the University of Leicester that it will divest all research activities and make faculty working in the areas of critical management studies and political economy redundant.

*Organization* has been the reference journal for the critical management studies community. We are scholars that, drawing on highly heterogeneous theoretical traditions including political economic ones, question dominant assumptions in management and organization studies in ways that, we believe, contribute to the advancement of science and society.

We are a genuinely diverse, interdisciplinary, non-parochial, engaged and high-quality journal, and provide a scientific platform for a vast international academic community of management scholars sharing these key values. This scholarly community enjoys wide institutional recognition across the globe, as shown by the Critical Management Studies Division of the Academy of Management, the International Critical Management Studies Association, and various established scientific journals such as *Management Learning*, *Work, Employment and Society*, *Academy of Management Learning and Education*, *Ephemera*, *Organization Studies*, and *Human Relations*, among others.

The decision to erase this field of expertise and terminate the scholars associated with it is particularly dreadful in consideration of the leading role the Business School of the University of Leicester has historically played in the establishment of critical management studies, the exceptional quality of the faculty associated with it, at a time of a particularly precarious situation due to the on-going pandemic. Paradoxically, precisely at a time in which equality, inclusion, environmental sustainability, social justice and public value become more central in the public debate on the future of our economies and businesses, those pioneering scholars that laid their foundations are identified as disposable.

Rejoining the massive international mobilisation of the whole (critical) management studies community expressing solidarity with our colleagues, we urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Patrizia Zanoni and Raza Mir

Editors-in-Chief of *Organization*