

**To:** Nishan Canagarajah <[vc@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:vc@leicester.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** Critical Management Studies and Political Economy

Prof. Nishan Canagarajah  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester  
Leicester UK

Dear Vice-Chancellor:

I wish to express my concern at the reported attempt to disband Critical Management Studies and Political Economy at your university.

You are doubtless aware of Leicester's deep and considerable history in the social sciences. Prominent figures associated with Leicester include Tony Giddens, one of the UK's top sociologists (and later Director of the LSE), the sociologist Norbert Elias (widely regarded as one of the most important sociologists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the foremost theorist of the civilizing process), as well as the economist Ron Meek, who created Leicester's Public Sector Economics Research Centre. I consider your Critical Management Studies and Political Economy programme to be adding to this already rich historical vein.

Also to be noted is the way the top business schools in Europe are strengthening their teaching and research in Critical Management Studies and Political Economy. As case in point here is the Copenhagen Business School's **Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy** (<https://www.cbs.dk/en/research/departments-and-centres/department-of-management-politics-and-philosophy>), whose curricular offerings overlap with those of Leicester's Critical Management Studies and Political Economy programme. I've had a long academic association with 2 faculty at this CBS department, and they say strong institutional support is the basis for its formidable reputation.

This is a critical time for our planetary humanity, and indeed the planet itself, and the analytical social sciences have a crucial part to play in understanding our rapidly transforming world.

I should add that I am thoroughly familiar with the British university system, have been educated in it (PhD, Birmingham) and taught at a university there before I moved to the US.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,