

Women's Studies Seminar Series

Understanding the ways women Lead in Australian sport

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**12.30-1.30
School of Business
Mt Helen Campus
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**Women's Studies International
Forum**

Australasian Co-Editors:

Dr Lorene Gottschalk

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If you are interested in
participating in this series
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Very little is known of the style of leadership women adopt in sport in Australia. My PhD research has found that women view the concept of leadership as a way of influencing change by taking a consultative approach to decision-making. They use open, informed and meaningful communication with their followers, and their actions reflect their core values of fairness, respect and integrity. At club and regional levels, women tend to be action-orientated and lack confidence to delegate tasks. Women in leadership positions of more responsibility demonstrate more sophisticated capabilities to lead. They are more strategic and political in their approach; more confident to delegate; prepared to make difficult and unpopular decisions in the best interest of the organisation; and cultivate a collaborative working environment.

The findings of this study provide a clearer understanding of how women view themselves as leaders and how they lead in a sporting environment. This knowledge challenges existing recruitment and leadership development practices currently used by the sport industry in Australia.