



JOURNAL OF
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Human-Centered Leadership: Integrating
Values, Theory, and Practice

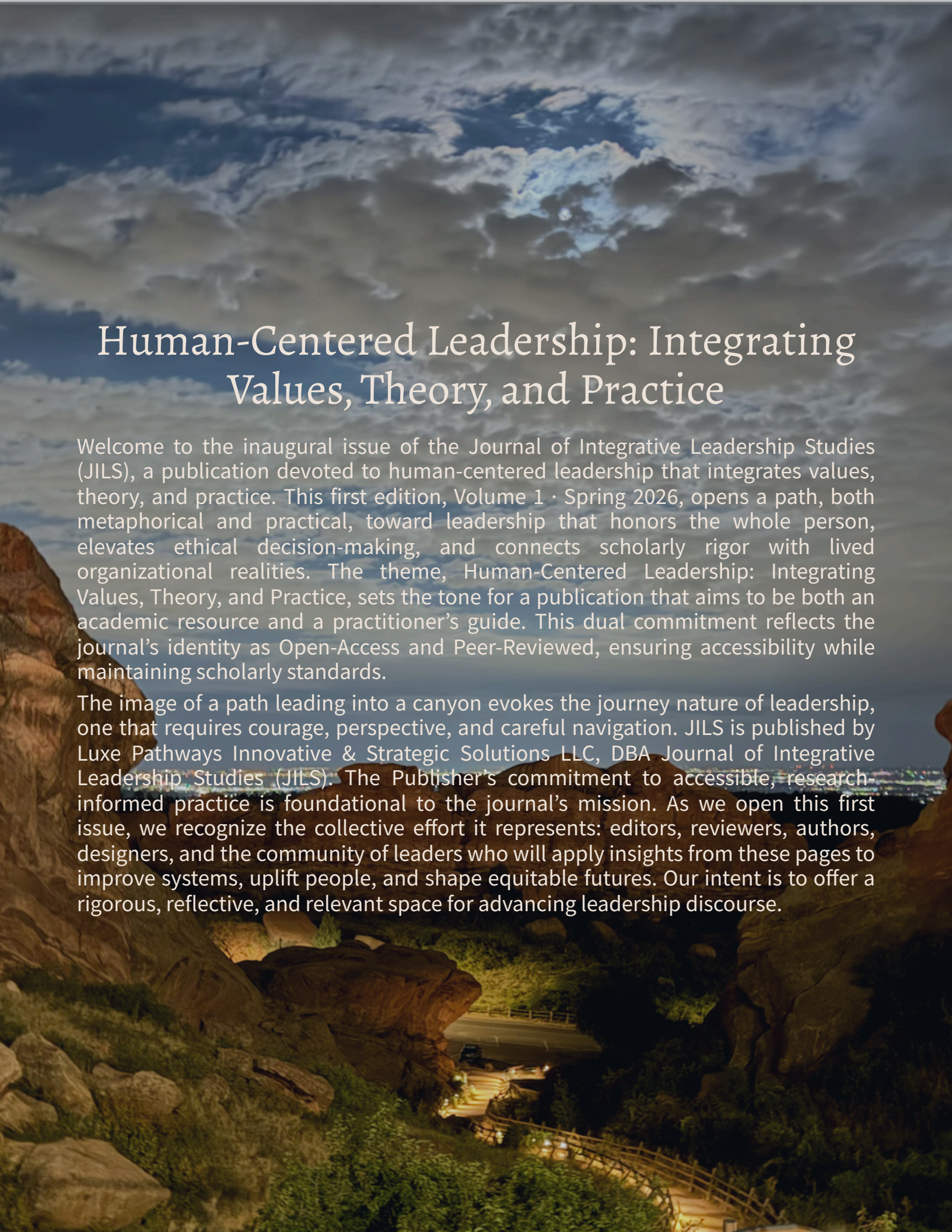


Aims & Scope: *The Journal of Integrative Leadership Studies publishes peer-reviewed research, theory, and applied scholarship related to human-centered leadership, ethics, motivation, and organizational well-being.* This issue introduces the journal's identity: a human-centered, integrative approach to leadership that aligns scientific scholarship with practical wisdom. We invite readers to experience the interplay of narrative and analysis, evidence and experience. The goal is to offer insights that are actionable across settings- from education to healthcare, startups to governments, nonprofits to global enterprises. ISSN: 3069-9991

Open-Access • Peer-Reviewed is not only a descriptor but also a commitment. Open access democratizes knowledge, allowing educators, students, community leaders, and executives to learn from and contribute to a shared body of work. Peer review safeguards rigor, strengthens arguments, and refines ideas; it is a dialogue grounded in mutual respect. Together, these principles shape the journal's ethos and ensure that the insights presented are both trustworthy and widely shareable.



Editor-in-Chief: Crystal V. Lupo, PhD, DBA, Department Chair and Associate Professor at American Public University, leads this issue with an integrative lens, bringing together scientific inquiry, practitioner wisdom, and values-based frameworks. Under her editorial vision, the journal invites contributions that bridge disciplines and industries, recognizing that leadership challenges are complex and multi-contextual. In this inaugural edition, the framing of human-centered leadership emphasizes compassion, accountability, and adaptive learning; qualities essential to guiding teams and institutions through uncertainty, innovation, and transformation.



Human-Centered Leadership: Integrating Values, Theory, and Practice

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Integrative Leadership Studies (JILS), a publication devoted to human-centered leadership that integrates values, theory, and practice. This first edition, Volume 1 · Spring 2026, opens a path, both metaphorical and practical, toward leadership that honors the whole person, elevates ethical decision-making, and connects scholarly rigor with lived organizational realities. The theme, Human-Centered Leadership: Integrating Values, Theory, and Practice, sets the tone for a publication that aims to be both an academic resource and a practitioner's guide. This dual commitment reflects the journal's identity as Open-Access and Peer-Reviewed, ensuring accessibility while maintaining scholarly standards.

The image of a path leading into a canyon evokes the journey nature of leadership, one that requires courage, perspective, and careful navigation. JILS is published by Luxe Pathways Innovative & Strategic Solutions LLC, DBA Journal of Integrative Leadership Studies (JILS). The Publisher's commitment to accessible, research-informed practice is foundational to the journal's mission. As we open this first issue, we recognize the collective effort it represents: editors, reviewers, authors, designers, and the community of leaders who will apply insights from these pages to improve systems, uplift people, and shape equitable futures. Our intent is to offer a rigorous, reflective, and relevant space for advancing leadership discourse.