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An Emerging Leadership Paradigm for Navigating a Rapidly Changing World

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The rapid evolution of digital technologies has transformed leadership dynamics, particularly in fields requiring advanced technological deployment. This is especially critical in South Africa, where advanced technology plays a pivotal role in enabling scientific research, innovation, and socio-economic development. Despite the growing importance of digital leadership, existing research still needs to be expanded. It often focuses on individual leadership traits rather than collective, relational, and adaptive practices.

This research investigates how leadership manifests as a practice through interactions between leaders and stakeholders, emphasizing its collective, relational, and adaptive dimensions. Adopting the Leadership-as-Practice (L-A-P) framework, the study shifts the focus from individual-centric approaches to leadership as a shared, social, and contextual phenomenon. Using a phenomenological methodology, the research draws on the lived experiences of participants engaged in deploying HPC infrastructure at the Centre for High-Performance Computing (CHPC) in Cape Town.

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