

## SHREEKANT POL

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**Dean • Educator • Researcher**

**Globalization, Identity & Mindful Leadership**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Academic leader, educator, and researcher with over 20 years of teaching experience across India and the United States, and over 30 years of leadership experience spanning global economics, media culture, entrepreneurship, and social impact. Currently Dean at Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management and Director at UnLtd India, with a focus on curriculum innovation, experiential learning, leadership formation, and mentoring diverse learner cohorts, including first-generation college students and early-stage social entrepreneurs.

My work integrates **global political economy, cultural sociology, mindful leadership, and applied Indian knowledge traditions**, drawing on narrative frameworks from Indic philosophy, epics, and contemplative practices to deepen ethical judgment, self-awareness, and decision-making under complexity.

My scholarly inquiry, *Sacred Lives: Globalization, Identity & the Inner World of India*, examines how globalization reorganizes economic, cultural, and inner lives particularly among gig workers, migrants, informal laborers, and other economic outliers and how these shifts reshape meaning-making, faith, aspiration, and leadership orientation in contemporary India.

Founder of **Grasshopper Meditations**, integrating mindfulness, reflective inquiry, and Indian narrative traditions into management education, social entrepreneurship ecosystems, and organizational leadership contexts.

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Dean

**Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management (TSCFM), Mumbai**

2018–Present

### Academic Vision & Leadership

- Lead institutional academic strategy by embedding **global competence, experiential learning, mindful leadership, and ethical self-inquiry** as core pillars of management education.

- Strengthen strategic judgment and leadership capability by integrating **reflective analysis, narrative frameworks (including Indian epic and philosophical sources), and real-world decision-making tools** across student and faculty development.

### Curriculum Innovation

- Introduced a comprehensive **Experiential Learning Framework**, shifting from lecture-driven pedagogy to hands-on, problem-based and reflective learning.
- Embedded industry immersion through live projects, case-based learning, CXO masterclasses, field visits, and team-based assignments.
- Strengthened curriculum pathways in **global economics, leadership, media industries, culture, identity, and inner life**.

### Teaching Model Innovation — Responsive Learning

- Created the **Responsive Learning Model**, enabling students to progress on two parallel tracks:
  - A shared core curriculum for foundational competence
  - A custom mentoring track based on individual aspiration, learning pace, and personal context
- The model has demonstrated transformative impact on first-generation and economically marginalized learners, significantly improving confidence, engagement, and employability.

### Faculty Development

- Mentor faculty to adopt **inquiry-based, storytelling-led, and reflective pedagogies**, including the use of Indian philosophical narratives and ethical dilemmas as teaching tools.
- Designed faculty development modules focused on **teaching presence, classroom dialogue, reflective facilitation, and mindful engagement**.

### Courses Taught

- Global Economics
- Sacred Lives: Globalization, Identity & the Inner World of India (emerging course/workshop)
- Mindful Leadership (seminar series)
- Fundamentals of Business Management
- Media, Culture and Society

## **Director**

### **UnLtd India**

2020–Present

#### **Strategic Leadership**

- Lead the design and evolution of incubation experiences for India's early-stage social entrepreneurs and NGOs.
- Integrate **behavioral insights, systems thinking, reflective practice, and narrative-based leadership frameworks**, including Indic ethical perspectives, into program architecture.

#### **Founder Development & Leadership Formation**

- Mentor founders on strategy, organizational culture, stakeholder engagement, and leadership identity.
- Embed **mindful leadership and self-inquiry practices** to cultivate resilience, clarity, ethical grounding, and long-term purpose.

#### **Ecosystem Strengthening**

- Engage with donors, philanthropies, investors, and ecosystem partners to support founder development.
- Facilitate sessions on **purpose, wellbeing, identity, ethical tension, and meaning-making** in organizational life.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Faculty**

#### **Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management (TSCFM)**

2015–Present

Courses: Global Economics; Business Management; Media, Culture & Society; Leadership & Inner Worlds

### **Visiting Faculty**

#### **SVKM's NMIMS (SPTM), Mumbai**

2010–Present

Courses: Fundamentals of Business Management; International Business; Management of Technology

### **Faculty, School of Business**

#### **Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY), New York**

2001–2010

MBA Courses: Strategic Planning for Media; International Media Business; Media Economics; Research & Statistics  
Undergraduate Courses: Economics; Finance; Business Planning

## **RESEARCH AGENDA & SCHOLARLY INTERESTS**

### **Sacred Lives: Globalization, Identity & the Inner World of India**

An inquiry into how globalization reorganizes cultural, religious, and social worlds in India, particularly among economic outliers, and how these shifts reshape inner life, leadership orientation, ethical reasoning, and the search for meaning.

The project draws on **cultural sociology, globalization studies, behavioral economics, contemplative traditions (including Indic philosophical and narrative sources), and narrative inquiry**. Outputs include workshops, lectures, essays, and a forthcoming book.

### **Mindful Leadership (Cross-Context Integration)**

A leadership development framework embedded across TSCFM, NMIMS, UnLtd India, and organizational collaborations.

Focus areas include:

- Attention training and introspective practice
- Reflective inquiry, journaling, and dialogue
- Ethical clarity and values-based decision-making
- Leadership under ambiguity and moral complexity
- Purpose-driven and resilient leadership

### **Additional Research Interests**

- Globalization & cultural transformation
- Media, cinema & collective imagination
- Behavioral economics & decision-making
- Identity, aspiration & social stratification
- Pedagogy for first-generation and precarious learners
- Applied Indian knowledge traditions in leadership education

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## **SELECTED TALKS, WORKSHOPS & GUEST LECTURES**

- Priorities That Shape a Life: Time, Attention & Purpose

- Mindful Leadership: Inner Stability in an Outer World of Change
- Leadership, Ethics & Complexity: Lessons from Narrative Traditions
- Habit Formation & Personal Transformation: A Behavioral Science Lens
- Globalization & India: Identity, Aspiration & the Future of Work
- Bollywood & the Indian Psyche: Culture, Imagination & Power
- Media, Culture & Society: Gender, Caste & Class in Indian Media

## INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Senior Vice President, Business Development

#### Indiepix Films, New York

2005–2014

- Delivered 45% revenue growth through global partnerships and digital expansion.
- Expanded content licensing and distribution with Netflix, Baker & Taylor, and international exhibitors.
- Industry experience directly informs teaching on **media, globalization, creative economies, and cultural production**.

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## EDUCATION

- M.S., Media Economics — Metropolitan College of New York (Dean's List)
- M.B.A., Media Management — Metropolitan College of New York (Dean's List)
- M.Sc., Physiology — University of Mumbai
- B.Sc., Zoology — Ramnarain Ruia College