

The background of the entire image is a solid, deep blue. Overlaid on this background are two large, white, stylized letters: a capital 'A' on the left and a capital 'Z' on the right. The 'A' is composed of thick, white strokes, with a triangular cutout in its center. The 'Z' is also made of thick white strokes, with a triangular cutout in its middle section. The letters are positioned such that they appear to be part of a larger, continuous graphic design.

A-Z of Leadership

26 Contemporary Art Cards
identifying the key features of
emotionally intelligent leadership
with commentary + questions to
stimulate creative learning



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The two men in Erika Tan's film still on the front of this card are seated at a long table in a rather grand period setting, their concentration focused on what seems to be an ancient art form. Off to the right we catch a glimpse of an open laptop on a table next to a stack of DVD cases, suggesting the old colliding with the new. These ambiguities and incongruities makes us stop and **THINK** for ourselves. One thread running through this narrative may be power relationships such as those between past sources of economic dominance - the grand manor houses of Britain, for example - and current - the emerging power of the East. Themes around gender, status and role are also hinted at. The fact that men are centre stage reminds us that some work roles are accorded 'specialist' status if occupied by a man rather than a woman. **In what ways has gender played out in your profession?**

We all have multiple identities some of which are connected with our roles such as being a professional as well as a parent, child, friend, and so on. The status and meaning of these roles change just as the identity and positioning of nations shifts over time. **TOLERANCE** starts with getting to know all parts of ourselves especially the conscious and unconscious meanings we assign to gender. **Give examples of leaders' qualities which have been assigned a gender and re-frame them.**

We can only be **TRANSFORMATIONAL** leaders if we are aware of our own prejudices, assumptions and biases. Our upbringing as well as societal norms leave strong imprints. Most of us still struggle with the unconscious impulse to reject 'otherness'. This is rooted in our ancestral past when difference embodied threat. We naturally seek out the familiar and form conscious and unconscious allegiances. Being aware of this means that we can manage our leadership role so that we do not unconsciously privilege those with whom we have most in common. **In what ways have you moved on from your family or history's perceptions of gendered identities?**

Erika Tan Sensing Obscurity I: The Manor House; English Literature; artefacts and performativity of objects; contrapuntal readings; and looking inwards backwards, 2012,
Film still
Courtesy of the artist