

Adam Bongers, PhD

Education Researcher & Lecturer

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About

Dr Adam Bongers is a researcher and lecturer in the School of Education at UNSW Sydney. His work combines an academic background in philosophy with professional experience managing educational centres and courses. His research analyses academic, policy, and professional texts to reconstruct the theoretical frameworks that organise how schooling is conducted and discussed.

Research Focus

History and philosophy of leadership and organisation theory in educational discourse and professional practice

Education

- 2025 Doctor of Philosophy (Education), University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- 2009 Master of Education, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts (Hons I) (Philosophy), University of Sydney (USYD)

Academic Appointments

- 2025– Research Officer, School of Education, UNSW Sydney
- 2025– Lecturer, School of Education, UNSW Sydney
 - EDST5433 Organisation Theory in Education
- 2023– Casual Academic, School of Education, UNSW Sydney
 - EDST5433 Organisation Theory in Education
 - EDST5438 Leadership Theory, Research and Practice
 - EDST5608 Instructional Leadership
- 2022–5 Research Assistant, School of Education, UNSW Sydney
- 2011 Academic Assistant (Practicum Supervisor), UTS
- 2009 Academic Assistant (Practicum Supervisor), UNSW Sydney

Research Outputs

- Bongers, A. (2026). Feeling the way in the dark: Archaeological research in educational leadership. In R. Niesche & D. Mifsud (Eds.), *Thinking with Michel Foucault in educational leadership* (pp. 47–74). Bloomsbury.
- Mifsud, D., Niesche, R., & Bongers, A. (2026). Michel Foucault and educational leadership: The state of the field and where to from here? In R. Niesche & D. Mifsud (Eds.), *Thinking with Michel Foucault in educational leadership* (pp. 13–46). Bloomsbury.
- Bongers, A. (2025, December 3). Leaderisation: The reorganisation of schooling around leadership theory [Paper presentation]. AARE Annual Conference, Newcastle, Australia.
- Bongers, A. (2025, December 3). The consistency condition: The philosophy-in-use guiding school leadership [Paper presentation]. AARE Annual Conference, Newcastle, Australia.
- Bongers, A. (2025). Leaderisation: How leadership thinking changed the way knowledge is produced about schools (Doctoral dissertation, University of New South Wales). <https://doi.org/10.26190/unsworks/31375>
- Bongers, A. (2024, December 5). Knowledge about educational leadership: Leadership as a thought-system that was imported into school discourse [Paper presentation]. AARE Annual Conference, Sydney, Australia.
- Niesche, R., Mifsud, D., Bongers, A. (2024, July 5-7). Educational leadership and Michel Foucault: A scoping review of contributions and impact [Paper presentation]. BELMAS Annual Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.
- Niesche, R., Mifsud, D., Bongers, A. (2023, November 29). Michel Foucault and educational leadership: The state of the field and where to from here? [Paper presentation]. AARE Annual Conference, Melbourne, Australia.
- Bongers, A. (2022, December 10). A Problem of leadership [Paper presentation]. PESA Annual Conference, Sydney, Australia.

Industry Experience

- 2018-2023 Independent Consultant, Learning Design & Development
e.g. Lead Designer, 10989NAT Certificate IV in Communicative TESOL
- 2007-2017 ELICOS and VET colleges, Sydney and Melbourne, Australia
National Executive Committee Member (2017)
VIC Academic Manager & Campus Manager (2015–2017)
National TESOL Coordinator (2013–2017)
NSW Assistant Academic Manager (2011–2013)
Course Designer & Developer (2010–2013)
English Language Teacher (2007-2011)