

Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard said that “we live life forwards...

...but we understand it backwards.” Meaning that our historical understandings are often far more simplistic post-hoc rationalizations of our current state than reflections of the complex and rich lives we lived in earlier times.

This is especially the case when it comes to conventional history of form of the Business School. Only after the nature of this form became established in the United States in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, did we look to create a history for it. And this history really only incorporated the antecedents of this form. In doing so, this narrow conventional history reinforced the status quo, becoming a barrier to thinking differently.

Our Special Issue of AMLE wants to encourage new histories of Business Schools in order to encourage new thinking about what Business Schools could and should be for the future.

We can conceive of this re-thinking of history as operating on three dimensions. First we might think more broadly or critically about what we consider to be the conventional foundations stones. Are the results of the actions of these so-called founders really what they had in mind when they were living their lives?

Second, we can think with more width, looking at alternative forms of business education from cultures other than the mainstream, conventional North American university setting.

Third, we could look more deeply, beyond the establishment of what we see as the ‘first’ Business Schools like Wharton and Harvard which are nascent forms of what we take the Business School to be today. Back into 19<sup>th</sup> century America, or Europe or Africa or Asia prior to that, for other forms of business education. Forms which may have prevailed if history had worked out differently.

Encouraging greater breadth, width and depth in this way, has encouraged us to identify a number of topics that you could choose to write on for this Special Issue. Some are listed on the screen...

...and others can be found by going to the journal’s website for more details. Please contact any one of the names above for more details and keep watching for updates on writing workshops and conferences where we will be promoting and helping people develop articles for this Special Issue.