

ALF REHN



Management Professor Business Thinker

Alf Rehn is a global thought-leader in innovation and creativity and one of the most interesting new voices in business thought today. He has been profiled in international media: The venerable British newspaper the Times for example called him a “star of the future” and at the start of 2016, Thinkers50, the pre-eminent listing of management thinkers, included Alf Rehn on their Guru Radar, a list of “the 30 management thinkers most likely to shape the future”. In Scandinavia, he is known as an academic enfant terrible.

Alf is the Chair of Management and Organization at Åbo Akademi University in Finland, sits on numerous boards of directors, and is in addition a bestselling author and a strategic advisor for everything from hot new startups to Fortune 500-companies.

Currently, Alf distributes his time between academic work, corporate advisory, keynote speaking and his lifelong love of trashy popular culture. His academic work focuses on issues of power, exclusion, creativity and innovation, and often builds on counter-intuitive analyses of core assumptions within management thinking. His Research has been published in leading academic journals such as Creativity and Innovation Management, Group and Organization Management, Management and Organizational History and Entrepreneurship and Regional Development. Alf has contributed to works such as the Routledge Companion to Creativity and the Sage International Encyclopaedia of Organization Studies. As a strategic advisor, Alf's roles include (but isn't limited to) being the chairman of an international prize-winning advertising agency, sitting on the board of directors of a billion-dollar corporation, and advising an artisanal and prize-winning distillery.

Overall, Professor Alf Rehn is a well-regarded academic - he combines rigorous analysis with a creative and often surprising outlook on life, bringing in things like popular culture and philosophical theory into his analyses of modern business and contemporary economy. Alf's approach to management and business is highly creative and often turns taken-for-granted notions on their head.

As a speaker, Alf is known for his entertaining yet challenging keynotes and workshops, as well as for being one of the consistently best-rated speakers at any event he appears at. At times provocative and always engaging, he represents a fresh new way of thinking about business.

Topics (Selection):

- The Design and Decay of Creative Cultures
- Saving Innovation – Why It's Under Threat and What We Can Do About It
- A User's Guide to Taboo Futures
- A Taste of Leadership

Publications (Selection):

- Trendspotting-The Basics, 2013
- Dangerous Ideas: When Provocative Thinking Is Your Most Valuable Asset, 2011
- The Scholar's Progress: Essays on Academic Life and Survival, 2006