

Hello and welcome to Unleading! My name is Dr. Vidya Shah and I'm so very excited to share this project with you – a project that has been a Labour of love, the trusting of intuition and insight, a collaboration of brilliant people, and an offering to leaders in education and community.

Unleading is both a website and a podcast series that asks us to question the taken for granted assumptions we have about leadership and the ways we had been socialized into thinking about and enacting it. It is the undoing and unlearning of conventional notions of leadership, and the centering of silenced knowledges and knowledge systems, so that we might imagine transformative possibilities for leading and schooling. We explore questions such as: What is leadership? Who can be a leader? What informs how we enact leadership?

This podcast series is for people that are in formal leadership positions and aspiring leaders – but it is also people that don't see themselves as leaders, and people who are actively resisting formal leadership roles because they are worried about how these roles might change them. You will notice that the folks on our podcasts come from community, classrooms, schools and school districts, and the academy to be in conversation about particular approaches to leadership. As an Unleading team, Jocelyn Shih, Amanda Lima, Sayema Chowdhury, and myself, we were intentional about honouring and affirming the ways in which leadership operates in multiple spaces, within individuals, among collectives and organisations, through ideas, and in all of the spaces in-between.

Our intention is turn leadership on its head and imagine the possibilities that emerge. On our website you will find some guiding questions on the landing page that have helped us to really frame what it is we are attempting to do with this project. The tab on systems of oppression identifies some of the key logics in each of these systems that are often normalized and naturalized as the status quo. And finally, you will find the first set of our podcasts, each with its own description that invites you, the listener, and the leader, into dialogue with these ideas.

Come join us! we hope these learning experiences are as rich for you as they had been for us, and that they open up new possibilities and new imaginings about leading and learning for love, transformation, and freedom.

Welcome to Unleading.