

Risk: Leadership and Diversity

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Risk Type

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Introduction

PCL Business Psychologists (Est. 1992) 24th year Innovative Research oriented Global influence



Two meanings:

Originally – emphasis on **PROBABILITY**

Currently – a synonym for **DANGER**





RISK is **BAD**



- Danger (risk) is a feature of the human condition
- From conception to the grave
- We deal with it routinely on a daily basis
- Skill and knowledge reduce uncertainty











Skills & Knowledge

Uncertain > Certain

Unknown > Known

Unthinkable > Thinkable



Undoable > Doable





RISK TAKING is UNAVOIDABLE



Risk Behaviour

Attitudes

Perception



Genetic endowment



Risk Type Research

- Long established association between risk taking and personality
- Realisation: the link is causal and fundamental
- How individuals differ in risk orientation
- Data from over 8,000 completions of the Risk Type Compass questionnaire

SURVEY	
	ED.
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Risk & Decision-Making

Decision-making draws on both the analytical and the emotional systems in the brain

We make decisions instinctively

"INNOVATION Managing risk, not avoiding it" Annual Report of the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser 2014.



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Different People – Different Solutions

 Behaviour isn't rigidly choreographed by personality – clearly, we all have free will

Personality is about dispositions that exert a persistent and pervasive influence

• We all have our own behavioural risk bias



The Risk Type Compass

Wary



Intense



The Leadership Agenda

Personality

Persistent and pervasive influence

Consistent behavioural bias

Person-specific leadership challenges



Opportunities and Applications

- Auditor training
- Financial advising
- Board development
- Risk management
- Sports psychology
- Heavy industry H&S
- Trader coaching
- Risk culture change





Sue Stockdale Executive Coach, Speaker & Adventurer



Are You a Risk Taker?

'Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out out how far one can go'

TS Eliot





Women as Risk Takers?

Exploring how Risk Types influence women's behaviour:

- Executives in organisations
- Entrepreneurs running fast-growing companies

And with this awareness, what can we do as a leader to be more effective?







- 19 years' experience
- Worked with women leaders globally
- Written 3 books on risk, women entrepreneurs and business growth



What's Your Background?

- 1. You are a leader in the corporate world
- 2. You are an entrepreneur or work in a small business
- 3. You are a leader in either a public sector, government or not-for-profit organisation
- 4. You are a consultant/coach
- 5. You are just interested in leadership



Risky or Reckless?

Amongst C-suite and Entrepreneurs, women see risks differently to men; but like men, they are very much risk-takers



Reference: Shattering Stereotypes, Women in Entrepreneurship Report, published 2015 by Centre for Entrepreneurs and Barclays



What's at Risk with Women on the Board?

Companies with more women board directors outperformed those with fewer on 3 financial measures:

- Return on equity (53% higher)
- Return on sales (42% higher)
- Return on invested capital (66% higher)



Companies with 3+ women on the board produced strongerthan-average results

Reference: Catalyst report 2013, Why Diversity matters



High-Growth Businesses Women-Owned and Led

- 'Women are as growth-oriented as their male counterparts, but execute growing their business in a different way.'
- 'They strive for steady, profitable growth trajectories often preferring to re-invest business profits over equity investment to scale sustainably, and they tend to think of male entrepreneurs as more concerned with fast growth and a quick exit'.

Reference: Shattering Stereotypes, Women in Entrepreneurship Report, published 2015 by Centre for Entrepreneurs and Barclays



Gender Differences

Risk Types of males and females Males n=843, Females n=656



Reference: Risk Type Compass, Psychological Consultancy Ltd (PCL)



Prevalence of Risk Types





Team Homo Sapiens



Risk-Taking Under Stress

- Gender differences are further amplified under stress. Male risk-taking tends to increase, while female risktaking tends to decrease
- These variations are associated with differences in activity in the insula and dorsal striatum brain regions involved in computing risk and preparing to take action

Reference: Risk and Reward Are Processed Differently in Decisions Made Under Stress, Mara Mather and Nichole R. Lighthall, Current Directions in Psychological Science **February 2012** vol. 21 no. 1 **36-41**



Examples of How Risk is Viewed Differently

- High-growth companies
- Angel investors
- Going for promotion within corporates

I'm going to climb a mountain, do you want to come along with me?

I'm going out for a walk and to enjoy the scenery, it may take us up a hill, want to come?



Women Running High-Growth Companies

Risk Type Compass





Two Carefree Risk Types

Risk Attitudes





Two Intense Risk Types

Risk Attitudes





Case Study 1 – Influencing Upwards

RISK AVERSE





Case Study 1 – Influencing Upwards

ADVENTUROUS Risk Type

- Learned the value of acknowledging the emotional needs of INTENSE risk type
- Learned he needed to get a clearer sense of buy-in from others who were more risk averse

INTENSE Risk Type

- Learned she needed to exhibit trust in others and not take things personally
- Learned that her emotions can get in the way of making rational decisions



Case Study 2 – Entrepreneurial Leader in Growing Company

CEO - ADVENTUROUS Risk Type

- Recruited Marketing Director who expected a marketing budget
- Learned value of moving from vision to strategy and letting go

Marketing Director - COMPOSED Risk Type

- Brought stability and composure to business
- Corporate approach brought a more strategic stance





Key Points

- How might this apply to you in your working life? Either directly, or indirectly?
- What situations have caused you to value people who have different Risk Types to you?
- When you reflect on any time where you have had conflict with others, to what extent might they have been resolved by better awareness of Risk Types?



Case Study 3 – Wary Risk Type

Implications of Risk Type for corporate women leaders:

- 'If I am doing a good job I will get noticed"
- "If I want to develop my career I'll have to network"

What if you do nothing?

Taking no action – increases risk



Key Points

- All Risk Types have value
- To communicate with others and get them to follow you as a leader, start with their Risk Type, not yours
- Risk Type Compass can bring a common language used to understand and develop others





Risk: All That Matters

Risk: All that Matters

explores risk from a human perspective.

Get your free sampler of this book after the webinar.

Clive Steeper & Sue Stockdale





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