Professor Daniel Jones

A management thought leader and advisor on applying lean, process thinking to all kinds of businesses across the world.

After studying at the Universities of Sussex and Manchester he joined the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in 1973 researching innovation in the energy industries and comparative industrial performance. In 1977 he joined the Sussex European Research Centre and the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex researching European industrial policy and performance.

In 1979 he became the European Director of MIT’s Future of the Automobile and International Motor Vehicle Programmes. In 1989 he became Professor of Manufacturing Management and founder of the Lean Enterprise Research Centre at Cardiff University Business School. He left Cardiff in 2004 to establish the Lean Enterprise Academy.

He co-authored several best-selling management books, including The Future of the Automobile, The Machine that Changed the World, Lean Thinking and Lean Solutions, which summarized the lean management systems pioneered by Toyota, as well as three articles in the Harvard Business Review.

This led to the establishment of a network of non-profit institutes to carry out research and education in lean management practices with pioneering organisations across the world. He is the founding Chairman of the Lean Enterprise Academy (www.leanuk.org) in the UK and of the Lean Global Network (www.lean-global.org). LGN organises Lean Summits and publishes books in the USA, UK, Australia, Brazil, China, France, Denmark, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, and Turkey.

He has been part of many initiatives to spread lean thinking to many different sectors. He organized the first Global Lean Healthcare Summit, wrote the Lean Thinking for the NHS report and published the Making Hospitals Work guide to using lean to improve hospital performance. He was a member of the UK Government’s Rethinking Construction, Manufacturing Futures, Automotive Innovation and Growth and Skills for Sustainable Communities task forces. He helped establish the first Company University in the UK at Unipart and the International Car Distribution Programme (ICDP). He was an advisor to the grocery industry’s Efficient Consumer Response (ECR Europe) movement and Editor in Chief of the International Commerce Review. He continues to advise leading organisations across the world on lean management. He can be contacted at: dan@leanuk.org or via Twitter or LinkedIn