

Call for Papers

32nd Conference and Annual General Meeting



General Theme

Construction Work and the Worker?

Important Dates

Submission of abstract	Friday 15 January 2016
Notification of acceptance of abstract	Monday 22 February 2016
Submission of first draft of paper	Friday 08 April 2016
Refereeing decision	Friday 20 May 2016
Submission of final paper	Friday 01 July 2016

In 2016 the ARCOM Conference heads to the city of Manchester for the first time. Manchester has become known for its many technological revolutions, from the industrial revolution in the 18th century that saw widespread mechanisation of industry, to the introduction of the first steam passenger railway in the world. Contemporarily Manchester is where the recent discovery of graphene is set to revolutionise material science with potentially sizeable impacts for the construction industry. Aside from these scientific and technological firsts, Manchester is also associated with a number of social revolutions. These include the creation of the cooperative movement, the British Suffragette Movement, and the formation of the Trade Union Congress. Following this spirit of adventure our 2016 conference will be the first themed conference in ARCOM's history, which seeks to critically question and reflect on how construction work and the worker are changing.

- How have technological and social change transformed the nature of construction work and the character of the construction worker?
- Who is the construction worker in the context of ever-extending, multi-layered and global subcontracting? How is the organisation of construction work and construction workers changing in the normalisation of non-traditional forms of employment (e.g. agency work, self-employment)?
- There is increasing recognition of rising inequalities at work, demonstrated by the growing gap between the income of managerial elites and that of the worker. What implications does this growing consciousness of difference have on construction work and the worker?
- Work is an incalculable noun. Yet, much work in construction management research is still concerned with measuring and managing the calculable. What are the complementary and conflictual logics between the research and practice of construction work, and how might we address the tensions?
- How can we put construction to work? The field is replete with studies that seek to establish the critical success factors of delivering construction work. What is the (strength of the) evidence base as to what works and what doesn't, and for whom? How can we translate these success factors into reproducible practices for the benefit not only for construction work, but also for society more generally?

To address these questions, a number of thematic tracks are offered alongside our more conventional 'general track'. The general track is described below, and summaries of the thematic tracks can be found overleaf.

General Track

The aim of the ARCOM conference is to explore current advances in construction management research. Research papers reporting work in progress are welcome. In particular, we welcome papers which demonstrate innovation and insight, have well-defined research aims and objectives, and discuss research strategy and methodological issues. Papers must not have been published previously nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. In the general track we invite contributions around the following topics, and encourage authors to connect their work with the central theme of the conference – Construction Work and the Worker?

- Building information modelling
- Equality and diversity
- Human resources management
- Information management
- Infrastructure development
- Offsite construction
- Planning, productivity and quality
- Research and education
- Sustainability in the built environment
- Disaster management
- Construction design and technology
- Health, safety and well-being
- Law and contracts
- Project management

Submission of Abstracts and Keywords

Please submit your abstract of around 300 words and include up to 5 keywords on-line via the MyARCOM portal on www.arcom.ac.uk, where you can also select your preferred thematic track (see overleaf). Abstracts will be sent to two referees and only the authors of abstracts that pass this peer-review process will be invited to submit full papers. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 15 January 2016**. Full papers must not exceed 10 sides of A4 and should be submitted on the ARCOM paper template. This is available for download at www.arcom.ac.uk. Two members of the scientific committee will review each paper. If the paper is accepted its authors will be invited to present the paper at the conference and have it included in the published annual conference proceedings. At least one of the authors must be able attend the conference.

Track 1: Safety in construction (Lead: Dr Fred Sherratt and Dr Simon Smith)

Safety in construction remains a concern; accidents on sites affect workers in myriad ways, beyond immediate individual and organisational impacts and out into the social sphere. This track seeks to bring for presentation, dissemination and discussion the latest work in the consideration of safety in construction.

Track 2: Health and wellbeing (Lead: Dr Fred Sherratt and Dr Simon Smith)

Health and wellbeing are the 'slow-burn' impacts of construction, distinct from the immediacy of accidents and safety. Hazards to health and wellbeing involve people, places and organisation over longer-term perspectives, with consideration throughout the construction project life-cycle, from the workers on sites to the end-users of our completed built-environments. This track seeks to bring for presentation, dissemination and discussion the latest work in health and wellbeing within construction.

Track 3: Human resource management (HRM): engagement, well-being and big data (Lead: Dr Ani Raidén)

Contemporary HRM provides managers with a challenge: on the one hand there is an increasing expectation that they understand and are able to carefully manage 'soft issues' such as well-being and employee engagement. On the other hand managers need skills in working with big data. We seek contributions that critically discuss these multiple and parallel challenges in contemporary HRM and how they manifest in construction organisations.

Track 4: 'Ways of knowing' construction work (Lead: Professor Andrew Dainty)

The construction management field has a rich history of undertaking practice-based research. Many researchers seek to engage with practice and practitioners in myriad ways to either learn about, or to hold up a mirror to, the realities of construction work. In this track we welcome theoretically informed contributions which not only expose aspects of practice, but reflexively considered how practitioners – and construction workers in particular – know what they know in (and through) practice.

Track 5: Building Information Modelling (BIM) and the future of the construction worker (Lead: Dr Rod Gameson)

Debate on the application of BIM And its benefits to the construction industry has been, and is increasingly being, widely publicised and critically reviewed in both industry and academic publications. There are significantly less examples of BIM usage and the impact of BIM on site for construction operatives. Given other industry drivers, such as off-site manufacturing, this track seeks to explore how BIM is impacting upon the site operative in terms of their current and future work on site, their training and their skills. Will BIM contribute to a de-skilling and/or re-skilling of the construction worker? Is this good or bad for the future of the construction industry and society?

Track 6: Organisational studies in construction: connecting the scales (Lead: Dr Paul W Chan)

Construction organisation has variously been theorised as a project-based quasi-firm, and as a temporary network of coalition partners. Current scholarship has seen a further shift towards a more practice-based view of organising construction. In this track, we build on these variegated units of analysing construction organisation to seek ways in which we can connect between these differential scales, from the individual to the collective, organisationally and societally.

Track 7: Adapting the built Environment to the challenges of extreme weather events (Lead: Dr Colin Booth)

Changing climate patterns are forecast to lead to increased frequency of extreme weather events. Appropriate control of urban development and the form of the built environment are central to the minimisation of future extreme weather events and their associated impacts. In this track, we seek contributions that explore the management of this transition process towards more sustainable buildings, adoption of new construction practices, a focus on flexibility and adaptability that will require sharing of building information and a construction profession with greater knowledge of the materials and designs that are resilient to extreme weather events.

Track 8: Exploring the role of management in delivering sustainable construction (Lead: Dr Craig Thomson)

Sustainable construction has emerged as a clear agenda over the past decade and is driven by a desire to realise the potential economic, social and environment benefits from a more efficient and sustainable construction industry. This track seeks to progress this body of work by exploring the role of construction management (programme, project, process, site and asset management) in facilitating the delivery of the sustainable construction agenda in practice. Contributions which explore the role of the construction manager in terms of their ability to inspire and encourage others to respond to what remains a clearly challenging agenda to deliver are especially welcome.

Track 9: The burden of sustainable construction practice (Lead: Professor Chris Gorse)

The built environment's demand on natural resource and contribution to global emissions require review if we are to effectively sustain an Ecosystem that supports Man's needs. As population, resource demands and waste increase there is a need to ensure measures to mitigate and control the effects of change are in place. Can the construction professional balance business and socio-economic demands and accommodate more sustainable practice or should it resist change? This track seeks to bring for presentation, dissemination and discussion on the latest work in the consideration of sustainable construction practice.

Track 10: Collaborative working in construction: use of information and communication technologies (ICT) (Lead: Dr Chika Udejaja)

Over the past decade, the industry has sought to improve the performance of its delivery by adopting a more collaborative working approach that uses information and communication technologies (ICT). Many authors working in this area have assumed that some of these tools (for example BIM) can have substantial benefits on project performance, although the majority of supporting evidence is either anecdotal or limited to individual cases. This track seeks to critically engage with research on the use of ICT in collaborative working in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) industry. We invite contributions on a diverse range of subjects ranging from the development of ICT applications supporting the construction lifecycle, to the development of information classification and building information/knowledge modelling standards.

Track 11: Rethinking infrastructure project initiation (Lead: Dr Apollo Tutesigensi)

A recent report by the McKinsey Global Institute suggests that there's widespread selection and implementation of the 'wrong' infrastructure projects which contributes to inefficiency in infrastructure delivery worldwide. Arguably, there continues to be missed in the implementation of many infrastructure projects a debate and clear articulation of the problem/need the project is/was meant to address. In this track, we invite contributions that seek to conceptualise infrastructure projects as solutions to problems; demonstrate the presence or absence of inefficiency in major infrastructure projects; identify relationships, if any, between articulation of the problem/need the project is/was meant to address and project performance in downstream project activities; and/or propose novel approaches to infrastructure project initiation.



Venue images: (Left) People's History Museum; (Centre) Bees' Landing, Manchester Town Hall, and; (Right) National Football Museum

Venue Information

Manchester is well-connected with direct flights to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the USA. By rail Manchester is just over 2 hours from London. ARCOM 2016 will take place in one of the most iconic, Neo-Gothic buildings in the United Kingdom, Manchester Town Hall (www.manchester.gov.uk/townhall/info/8/about_the_town_hall). This Grade 1 listed building was designed by architect Alfred Waterhouse, who also designed the Whitworth Hall in The University of Manchester. The Town Hall was completed in 1877. For our social evening we will head to the People's History Museum (www.phm.org.uk), while the conference dinner will be in the National Football Museum (www.nationalfootballmuseum.com).

Best Paper Prizes

- Rod Howes Commemorative Award for the best paper on 'Innovation in Construction'
- Paul Townsend Commemorative Award for the best paper on 'Project Management'
- David Langford Commemorative Award for the best paper on 'Social Issues and Respect for People'
- CIOB Award for the 'Best International Paper'
- CIOB Award for the best paper on 'Innovation and Sustainability'
- RICS Award for the best paper on 'Sustainability'
- Wiley Blackwell for the Best Technical Paper
- Taylor and Francis Award for the most theoretically-informed contribution
- Emerald Research Methodology Award

Organising Committee

- Dr Ani Raidén, Nottingham Trent University
- Dr Paul W Chan, The University of Manchester
- Dr Simon Smith, University of Edinburgh
- Dr Apollo Tutesigensi, University of Leeds
- Dr Fred Sherratt, Anglia Ruskin University
- Dr Shu-Ling Lu, University of Reading
- Dr Robby Soetanto, Loughborough University
- Dr Colin Booth, University of West of England
- Prof David Boyd, Birmingham City University
- Prof Andrew Dainty, Loughborough University
- Dr Steve Donohoe, University of Plymouth
- Prof Charles Egbu, London South Bank University
- Dr Rod Gameson, University of Salford
- Prof Chris Gorse, Leeds Beckett University
- Dr Chris Harty, University of Reading
- Dr Scott Fernie, Loughborough University
- Dr Poorang Piroozfar, University of Brighton
- Dr Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Dr Niraj Thurairajah, Birmingham City University
- Dr Chika Udejaja, Northumbria University

Contact and Further Information

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