

ARCOM

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

Volume 31 Issue 1

September 2014



UK Government Chief Construction Adviser,
Peter Hansford's keynote presentation at
ARCOM 2013 Conference

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Welcome from the Chair!



"I confidently expect that someone among the 200 or so delegates at this year's conference in Portsmouth, hopefully one of our younger delegates, will be leading the 46th conference in 2030!"

To ARCOM members everywhere, and our 30th Annual Conference delegates in particular, welcome to this conference edition of the ARCOM Newsletter.

I am in a mixed mood as I write this. Whilst on the one hand I am very pleased to have left the organising of this conference to Dr Ani Raiden, ARCOM's Vice-chair and current Conference Chair I am aware of just how much I enjoyed organising the two previous conferences, in Edinburgh and Reading. It is immensely satisfying to have been a part of quite simply a major undertaking in getting a conference ready for the 3 days that delegates and authors actually spend together. As I wrote last year the cumulative effort from many people is immense – I calculated that for every hour of actual conference more than 100 hours of work from authors, reviewers and organisers was spent.

This year the effort involved is likely much greater – we marked a 25% increase in the number of abstract submissions and, while final numbers are not known as I write this 8 weeks before the conference itself, the final accepted paper count is likely to be a similar increase on last year. Part of this increase is that in 2014 we welcome CIB's Law & Dispute Resolution Working Commission (W113) who are having their own annual meeting & conference as part of ARCOM instead of their more traditional RICS COBRA home. ARCOM are extremely pleased to

be able to host Paul Chynoweth and his W113 team of authors and delegates and I have no doubt that the contribution will enhance the breadth and richness of the 30th ARCOM conference.

Another reason for the increase in papers this year (following a trend of year-on-year increases for the last 7 years) is partly I suspect through the increasing popularity of the ARCOM conference and a recognition of what the committee have strived for – that is an increase in the quality of the conference papers. This is a nice position for us to be in: improved quality leads to greater recognition and esteem which leads to greater awareness and popularity that in turn leads to increased submission rates. Greater numbers of papers allows the Editors and Scientific Committee to apply even greater quality demands and thus the cycle continues. The increase in quality we have enjoyed closes the gap between conference and journal publishing. This has led to the first 'Conference Issue' of an academic journal, dedicated to enhanced versions of work that first appeared in the 29th ARCOM conference in 2013. That this journal is Construction Management and Economics (Volume 32, Issue 7, July 2014) is a particular reason to acknowledge the international esteem that ARCOM has gained.

But this 'nice position' brings also responsibility. The ARCOM committee must not be allowed to relax and take for granted continued success. We must be



Group photo – ARCOM 2013 Conference, Reading, UK



Dr Simon Smith addressing delegates

aware of a number of issues. Principally that ARCOM exists for the whole of the research community and this very much includes younger academics and PhD students. We have to nurture and encourage their work, provide critical feedback and not allow ourselves to apply the kind of quality standards that more experienced academics expect. Only this way can the long term success of ARCOM be sustained. I first experienced this supportive environment as a young academic sixteen years ago at Will Hughes' 14th ARCOM Conference in 1998 and I confidently expect that someone among the 200 or so delegates at this year's conference in Portsmouth, hopefully one of our younger delegates, will be leading the 46th conference in 2030!

We must also not forget that success such as we have enjoyed at ARCOM in recent years tends to isolate this community from the realisms of academia and the construction industry. Difficulties remain, investment is still low as we hopefully emerge from a terrible 6 years and, while optimism is improving we must remember the picture painted at last year's conference debate of vulnerability and precariousness: careers in academia are not secure and research funding remains at very low levels.

This Conference Issue of the ARCOM Newsletter contains a number of articles that reflect our activities in the last 12 months. We continue our Doctoral Workshops series which in 2014 has so far had two events – a very successful and unique 'Defending your PhD' workshop in Salford delivered by Prof. Charles Egbu and a more recent 'Sustainable Urban Retrofit and Technologies' workshop at London South Bank University last month. This year we saw ARCOM take steps in a new direction with the first of what I hope will be a long series of ARCOM Seminars. Dr Scott Fernie and Prof. Andy Dainty organised and hosted a one-day seminar on Industrial Policy and Strategy.

As I approach the end of my term of ARCOM chair – handing over to Dr Ani Raiden at this conference – I'd like to acknowledge the voluntary efforts of a very wide range of people too numerous to mention individually. I wish Ani every success with this year's conference in Portsmouth, next year's in Lincoln and two years of ARCOM chairship. I sign off filled with the same level of enthusiasm and affection for this highly dedicated and effective community that I first experienced in 1998.

*Dr Simon Smith
Edinburgh, UK
July 2014*



Dr Simon Smith and Professor Will Hughes at ARCOM 2013

Editor letter....



Welcome to this issue of ARCOM Newsletter!

Preparing the industry for the future provides a strong theme for this issue with three related articles of Peter Hansford's keynote speech, prospects and precariousness debate and industry strategy seminar. This issue also reports two workshops on sustainability and defending PhD, the Langford lecture and the best paper awards presentation during 2013 conference. I wish to thank to all contributors in this issue, particularly to Dr Stephen Gruneberg who is leaving ARCOM Committee. Stephen has been a regular contributor and I hope, he will be contributing to the future issues.

The newsletter serves a unique medium to document ARCOM activities and contributions to the CM communities. With three decades of ARCOM, there is a collection of past newsletters which have been scanned and uploaded in the ARCOM website (www.arcom.ac.uk). I invite you to visit and browse.

I would welcome any comments, and wish to invite your contributions to the newsletter. Please get in touch, by sending e-mail to R.Soetanto@lboro.ac.uk!!

*Dr Robby Soetanto
Loughborough University*

The Peter Hansford's keynote speech at ARCOM 2013

Peter Hansford, the UK Chief Construction Adviser, delivered one of the most important keynote speeches at the 2013 ARCOM conference in Reading. The theme of his presentation was his vision for construction by 2025. Coming in the wake of many reports on the construction industry he presented the government's well known position. Key words included efficient, sustainable, leadership, digital, growth and global trade, all terms that the industry has been familiar with for many years.

Setting ambitious targets for the construction industry to meet by 2025, he proposed that contractors should seek to lower costs by 33 per cent, speed up delivery by 50 per cent, reduce emissions by 50 per cent and increase exports by 50 per cent. It is one thing to be ambitious. It is quite another to be realistic.

He gave little indication of how these ambitions might be achieved. Nor was there any discussion of the possibility that these targets might not be met on time, a disappointment that could lead to a sense of failure across the industry. This would risk tarnishing the industry's reputation if it failed to reduce prices as was achieved in the IT sector or to speed up production like that achieved in the car industry, or reduce emissions like that in the nuclear energy industry or increase exports by a similar proportion to the 54 percent increase in exports of ships and aircraft between 2002 and 2012. There are good reasons for those achievements in those other industries, reasons that do not apply to construction. The comparison with other industries is unfair and this difference still needs to be made clear to policy makers.

Mr Hansford wanted an industry "known for its talented and diverse workforce" but did not say how this was to be achieved or funded. He also wanted to improve "the image of the industry by inspiring young people, health and safety and performance in the repair and maintenance market but again without mentioning the means by which this aspiration was to be reached.

Asking for an industry that is "efficient and technologically advanced" is not to recognise the industry for what it is. When firms have to operate on 2 or 3 per cent profit margins, there is simply no room for inefficiencies and waste implicit in Construction 2025, the government's industrial strategy for construction. The inefficiencies that occur in the construction process are part and parcel of the nature of the flexible, fragmented, combative and litigious production process itself, not due to wanton profligacy on the part of contractors.



Peter Hansford's presentation slide

What the Chief Construction Adviser did recognise, which was welcome, was the need to "develop and refine the pipeline of future work opportunities." His recipe for growth included creating "conditions for construction supply chains to thrive by addressing access to finance and payment practices", a long held view of those firms lower down the food chain in the construction sector.

And finally he called for "clear leadership from a Construction Leadership Council", which, according to an article entitled "Construction Leadership Council: a new agent of change?" published in CIOB's Construction Manager magazine on 5th July 2013, only meets three times a year, excluding other meetings of a smaller executive grouping. One can only question the underlying theory of change in the construction industry that is assumed to underpin this approach to improving the performance of firms in the industry.

Peter Hansford's presentation was welcome and well received at the conference. It was thought provoking and stimulated discussion. His visit to our conference in Reading was much appreciated by delegates, as it recognised the serious contribution that ARCOM now makes to discussing, understanding and improving the construction industry.

*A summary and observation by:
Dr Stephen Gruneberg
University of Westminster*



ARCOM Seminar: The industrial strategy and construction management research

Guided and overseen by the Chief Construction adviser to the Government, Peter Hansford, the recently published industrial strategy for construction is underscored by familiar rhetoric similar to the Latham and Egan reports, but has an undeniable 'futures' orientation as it attempts to paint reform against a canvas for 'Construction 2025'. The document is also not written as a review of construction but, rather as a strategy for reforming construction. It differs from the Government's Construction Strategy and previous reform discourses, as it is a joint strategy which sets out how industry and Government will work together.

To what extent it reflects and resonates with conceptualisations of industrial policy or evidence based policy is not clear but, tacit connections to other multiple Government public and social policies are clear. What is perhaps less clear though is where the strategy fits within the policy landscape and what it means specifically for the research landscape and industry practice.

The seminar therefore aimed to encourage broad and critical scrutiny of the industrial strategy in an attempt to better understand interpretations of it as policy and how it connects with construction management research. In doing so, the seminar brought together 15 academics with an interest in policy and industry reform from within the UK and beyond to primarily address the following questions:

1. What is Construction policy?
2. What is the Industrial Strategy for Construction?
3. Does policy matter and if so why and, to whom?
4. What role is there for the research community regarding policy?
5. What research is required?



An exhausting but very informative debate ensued that provided significant insights into the construction management community's collective understanding of policy and the Industrial strategy for construction. Whilst I cannot report that the seminar concluded with widespread agreement and consensus, I can, from my own perspective, present a number of highly selective conclusions. Firstly, there is significant mileage in developing a deeper grasp and understanding of policy and the policy landscape. Secondly, what constitutes construction policy and how disparate public, social and industrial policies relevant to construction connect is necessary to help academic researchers both understand opportunities for analysing policy as well as informing policy with analysis. Thirdly, our taken-for-granted assumptions about what boundaries constitute the construction industry need to be challenged as they are fundamental in both framing policy research and responding to disparate public, social and industrial policy. Lastly, whilst there was agreement that policy matters, the importance and relevance of the industrial strategy was less clear cut. The role and type of research to unpick and address the strategy and its was debated and relies heavily upon the first three conclusions. Indeed, construction management research would be all the stronger if it could be positioned and located within policy if, for no other reason than to widen its case for impact.

A concluding thought: if the construction management community similarly responds to the industrial strategy as with previous reform agendas can we too, like the policy makers, simply be accused of 'at it again'?

*Dr Scott Fernie
Loughborough University*

Sustainable Urban Retrofit and Technologies

As part of ARCOM's series of Doctoral workshops, London South University hosted a joint doctoral workshop with Northumbria University on Sustainable Urban Retrofit and Technologies on 19th June 2014. The workshop provided a platform for doctoral students to share their theoretical and empirical insights on sustainable urban retrofit and technologies research. The workshop examines the areas of sustainable urban retrofit and the role of technologies in delivering sustainable development.

The workshop was well attended with 8 doctoral papers, keynote speaker and 2 industrial guest speakers. In all 26 people including senior academics staffs, doctoral students and industry practitioners participated in the workshop. Professor Andy Ford who is the Director of the Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in building (CEREB) at the London South Bank University opened the day by addressing how society could create the future built environment. He examined the role of energy in achieving a sustainable built environment by reducing individual energy needs and delivering communally low demand energy buildings that make use of appropriate renewable technology.

Dangana et al. from the University of Plymouth opened the first session of the workshop by considering stakeholder perspectives in the selection of Innovative Sustainable Technologies (IST) for existing retail buildings. Pomponi et al. from the University of Brighton evaluated the life cycle environmental performances of double skin façades for office refurbishments in the UK whilst Aiesha of the University of Greenwich considered the drivers, barriers and motivations for energy efficiency housing retrofit. Kibwami and Tutesigensi of the University of Leeds presented a carbon measurement tool to promote sustainable construction in the Ugandan construction industry. During the second session, Bayat of the University of Salford provided Architects' perspective on performance gap issues in Retrofit processes of hard-to-treat properties in



England. Ozoemena et al. considered a hybrid stochastic method that combines the advantages of the traditional Data Quality Indicator (DQI) and the statistical methods to improve uncertainty estimate of CO₂ emissions by analysing Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of a small off-grid wind turbine.

Spierings of Radboud University, Netherlands looked at the effects of physical scale on the social quality of housing and level of facilities in sheltered independent living for the elderly in Netherlands. ElBanhawy finally concluded the workshop with a presentation on designing an integrated infrastructure to support full electric vehicles (EV) in urban areas using the UK city of Newcastle as a case study. In-between these two sessions, Kate Terriere who is the Assistant director of Sustainability at the Deloitte Real Estates examined the urban sustainability challenge and the role of the cities towards sustainable development. Robin Brylewski, a consultant at Sweett Group considered the role of Passivhaus in a sustainable built environment.

The workshop was very successful with excellent post-workshop feedback from participants. It was a good opportunity for doctoral student to get feedbacks on their work and also to network.

*Workshop Convenors:
Dr Alex Opoku (London South Bank University)
Dr Chika Udeaja & Dr Victor Samwinga
(Northumbria University)*



ARCOM Interactive Doctoral Workshop: Defending your PhD

The workshop was held in the futuristic THINKLab at the University of Salford, the PhD students were informed, encouraged, entertained and occasionally scared by Professor Charles Egbu as he presented his take on the PhD viva.

The session began with an exploration of expectations from a variety of perspectives, and was followed by a presentation by Prof Egbu exploring the PhD regulations, the formation of the viva panel, the conventions around the event, and the potential outcomes. From his vast experience as an examiner, Prof Egbu was able to enlighten the students as to typical questions, including the difficult ones, and how to prepare for the event as a whole.

In the afternoon, Maimoona Al Rawahi, a PhD student at the University of Salford, presented her work and took part in a 'mock-viva' with Prof Egbu. All the students were very grateful that she had agreed to take part, and her session added a great deal to the workshop. Afterwards, reflection and a lively discussion amongst the participants established some key areas of concern, such as methodology and how to deliver it within the thesis and the viva, and more fundamentally how to manage your supervisor!

Following the session the participants were asked to share their thoughts, some key learning points from the day were:

- ◆ The need to be confident in my work
- ◆ Respecting examiners' comments and criticism
- ◆ The depth of information needed during the viva
- ◆ How to tackle tricky and difficult questions
- ◆ That the viva is do-able!

*Dr Fred Sherratt
Anglia Ruskin University*



The THINKLab, the University of Salford



Dr Simon Smith and Professor Charles Egbu



ARCOM Conference Debate 2013: Prospects and precariousness in the construction industry

As green shoots begin to appear in the UK economy, it would seem that the prolonged period of negative growth seen in the UK construction industry over the last few years was starting to turn a corner. There was still much to celebrate over a year on from the pride and glory of the 2012 London Olympics, in which the reputation of the UK construction industry – at least in terms of on-time, on-budget, and safe delivery of the infrastructure required for the high-profile event – was sealed. Yet, at the same time, there were still much to remain cautious for. Property development still lacked the confidence last seen during the years of boom prior to the onset of the 2007 debt crisis. Unemployment was still a critical concern; in countries such as Spain and Greece, youth unemployment was still stuck at a staggering and politically-dangerous level of over 50%. Given this backdrop, the theme of the 2013 ARCOM Conference Debate session was fittingly entitled ‘Prospects and Precariousness in the Construction Industry’. The panel was composed of Lawrence Waterman OBE (Head of Health and Safety for the Olympic Delivery Authority), Peter Hansford (UK Government Chief Construction Advisor), Professor Alistair Gibb (Loughborough University) and Dr. Elena Navarro-Astor (Universidad Politécnica de Valencia).

The debate session opened with each panellist providing a brief overview of their respective positions on the theme. It is unsurprising to find the industrial panel members, Lawrence Waterman OBE and Peter Hansford, to sound a more optimism note. Lawrence reiterated the achievements of the UK construction industry not only in terms of the record shown during the 2012 London Olympics, but also in the continuous improvement and professionalization he saw taking place in the industry. Lawrence’s pitch echoed some of the positive impacts mentioned during the ARCOM Conference Debate session in Edinburgh. Peter Hansford talked about Construction 2025, the industrial strategy for the UK construction industry. Peter stressed that there is joint commitment between industry and the UK government in framing this industrial strategy, and that support has been secured from the Construction Leadership Council to drive its implementation. Contained within this strategy were a number of headline performance targets that sought to make the UK construction industry greener, smarter and more competitive.

For the academic panellists and audience, there was a sense that such rhetoric from industry have been well-rehearsed decades before, and many still remember



the exhortations of Latham and Egan. Nevertheless, there is still much to do about improving various aspects of the industry. Professor Gibb accepted that great strides have been made to develop an industry that is safer, but stressed that there is always room for improvement. He also talked about the role academic researchers can play in articulating, in collaboration with practitioners, pathways for more improvement. However, the panel conceded that funding for research into the affairs of the construction industry was likely to be prohibitive given the constraints in fiscal budgets. Dr. Navarro-Astor shared her personal story in Spain where she described how certain research fields were being marginalised (and in some cases, delegitimized) by the academy as academics were competing for an ever-shrinking pot of money. Peter Hansford noted that there would be a stronger push by funding agencies to demand for the demonstration of impacts when considering funding for research proposals. There was a sense that what really mattered was to get the economy going, and this would benefit researchers as well as those working in the industry.

The panel discussion provoked a number of responses and questions from the audience. Some queried whether the industrial strategy actually captured the realities of those working at the coalface of construction. Some talked about the problems of the image of the industry, and how exploitation intensified during the deep recession over the last few years. Examples of long working hours and disenfranchised workers prompted the panel to remember such classical publications as *The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists* (Robert Tressell, 1914) and *the Blue-collar Aristocrats* (E. E. LeMasters, 1975). Indeed, there was a feeling that the voice of the worker needed to be strengthened in taking any industrial strategy forward into the future.

Continue next page...

Langford Lecture: Is there any 'common sense' in health and safety legislation?



As an early career researcher in the field of Construction Management, it was a great honour to be invited to give the Langford Lecture at the 29th Annual ARCOM conference. Literature review for my PhD research led to an interest in 'good' Health and Safety (H&S) practices among workers of small construction firms. The literature search revealed that small firms were overlooked in many of the Health and Safety Executives' (HSE) regulations. This was an astonishing revelation considering I had approached the research project assuming that 'most' small construction firms often carried out poor safety practices.

Debates on safety in the construction industry is nothing new in the 21st century. Interestingly, nations worldwide, both developed and developing, discuss safety matters on a day-to-day basis due to how important and yet dangerous the construction industry is. In the United Kingdom, companies employing less than 13 workers constitute about 95% of the entire industry's labour force. For the purpose of this argument,

the industry is divided into large and small construction firms, i.e. firms that employ more than 13 workers and firms that employ 13 or less respectively. These two types of firms implement different strategies for their practices, especially on H&S matters. The differences are not only prominent in the sizes of the firms, but also their management techniques, training methods, communication styles and workers' interpersonal relationships. Large firms adopt official company policies and practices, often based on the HSE requirements whilst small firms approach safety management informally and rely on the culture they have built as a small group, and most importantly 'common sense'. Common sense in this context refers to the practical knowledge and judgement developed by workers after years of experience and practice on site.

Since current research often focus on large firms, it comes as no surprise that H&S legislation favours their practices. It is imperative to note that stakeholders will be incorrect if they consider small firms as 'little big' firms as they are completely different. Thus, if overall construction safety is to improve, provisions for the practices of small firms will have to be made in the current legislation. Small firms are not represented in such discussions as there is a fear of 'backlash' for demanding changes and amendments in current legislation. This fear has been vindicated by the recent findings of blacklists being used by large firms when recruiting subcontractors.

The question for today's discussion is: do the current H&S regulations take into account the approaches adopted by small construction firms?

*Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo
Nottingham Trent University*

ARCOM Debate – continue..

While future prospects of the industry (and for academic research) were discussed, there were a few delegates who questioned about the past. A question was raised as to what politicians and industry leaders did during the good times of the boom years to insulate the industry and the workforce from the recession. Were there any lessons that could be learnt moving forward? Disappointingly, there was a sense that we were stuck in the rut of a neo-liberal world, where we – including academic researchers, practitioners and policy-makers – remained as hapless pawns under the control of the ideology of free markets. In the quest to secure our prospects as 'successful' academic researchers in this neoliberal framework, all that we needed to do was to show how our research brought about short-term, economic impacts and avoid the more difficult, challenging question of whether such a framework ought to be taken for granted or not. As Lawrence Waterman and Peter Hansford indicated, we are all precarious in this regard!

*Summarised by Dr Paul W Chan
The University of Manchester*

Best Paper Awards



In 2013 we had a busy time with reviewing the many prize nominated papers and also the prize review criterion and process itself. As always both the ARCOM committee and wider scientific committee who review the papers submitted for our conference made nominations for the eight available awards. We had more than 30 nominations, of which a small group of ARCOM committee members had to choose the prize winning publications. This is always a difficult process as the work that gets nominated is diverse and many papers would qualify for the awards. To help us focus our decision-making, we streamlined the process and now use five criterion to rank each nominated paper on a scale of 1-10 (1: Low, 10: High).

1. Innovation and Creativity: To what extent is this article presenting fresh perspectives and insights?
2. Authorship: To what extent are the authors known to the ARCOM Community? (1: Well-known, 10: Not well-known)

3. Thoroughness and Criticality of the Literature: To what extent have the authors critically considered the breadth and depth of existing literature?
4. Contribution to the Field of Study: To what extent does this article push the frontiers of the field of study?
5. Rigor and Robustness of Methodology: To what extent have the author(s) demonstrated rigor and robustness in their explanation, justification and application of research methodology and methods?

Criterion two is specifically aimed at rewarding work early career academics or PhD students may have published on their own, and/ or collaborations with industry partners. This seeks to even out the playing field and encourage contributions from researchers outside of our community.

We also look at the reviewers' comments and consider our qualitative assessment of the papers. As some of our awards are themed (e.g. on innovation/ social issues), we weight specific criterion to identify winners suited for that category.

In 2013 the prize winning papers were presented in the following.

CIOB Innovation and sustainability award

Sage, D., Dainty, A., Tryggestad, K., Justesen, L. and Mouritsen J. – *“All that fuss, just for some bloody badgers? The politics of wildlife in infrastructure construction”*

The reviewers found this an excellent paper and discussion, which addresses an area of study little researched. Due to the unusual subject matter and fine wording of the title and main argument it provided a thought-provoking contribution to the conference.

Dave Langford President's award

Sherratt, F. – *“Et in Arcadia ego? 'Zero target' safety programmes in the UK construction industry”*

The reviewers identified this to be a strong, well-written paper which offers a very valuable contribution to the conference. “A clear winner.” The paper presents an insightful critical discussion of a topical issue and clearly identifies a methodological position, which allows the researcher to express a well-articulated position on 'zero' and safety programmes.



A. Dainty, C. Blythe and K. Tryggestad



S. Smith and F. Sherratt



B. Guerin and J. Smiley



D. Boyd and F.R. Bijleveld



C. Blythe and C. Ju



A. Tutesigensi and P. Gluch

Taylor and Francis award

Smiley, J., Dainty, A. and Fernie, S. — *“Analysing the discourses surrounding change and reform in the construction sector: the need for a marriage between critical theory and a socio-historical cultural perspective”*

The rationale for choosing this paper for the Taylor and Francis award was based on the strength of the conceptual material and the way the authors introduce abstract theoretical concepts to construction management research.

Paul Townsend Commemorative award

Bijleveld, F. R. and Dorée, A. G. — *“Method-based learning: a case in the asphalt construction industry”*

This was the highest ranking paper with Project Management orientation - it includes connections to project processes and quality control together with learning on multiple levels.

Wiley Blackwell Best technical paper

Stojanovic, V., Falconer, R., Isaacs, J., Gilmour, D. and Blackwood, D. — *“Interactive visualisation to support sustainability assessment in land use scenario planning”*

A commendable technical contribution to the conference: this paper reports on the development of a piece of software and link in with discussions about BIM. In the top ten of all nominated papers for prizes.

Rod Howes Commemorative award

Sergeeva, N. — *“Making sense of innovation in the UK construction sector”*

This paper encapsulates innovation and construction management practice well. It ranked highly on ‘authorship’ and the thoroughness and criticality of the literature review.

CIOB International award

Ju, C. and Rowlinson, S. — *“Institutional determinants of construction safety management strategies of contractors in Hong Kong”*

We were most pleased to award the CIOB International award to our conference delegates from Hong Kong; not only were the authors ‘international’ the paper itself discusses matters related to developing our understanding and knowledge of health and safety internationally.

RICS Sustainability award

Gluch, P., Gustafsson, M., Thuvander, L., Baumann, H. — *“Corporate environmental strategies and performance: a longitudinal study”*

This was the highest placed sustainability paper (along with the paper by Sage et al who won the CIOB Innovation and sustainability award) and fitted the prize criteria very well.

Best Reviewer Award

To recognise the contributions from reviewers, ARCOM has established an award for the best reviewer. For the ARCOM 2013 conference, the winner of the Best Reviewer Award, was Professor Andre Dorée from the University of Twente.

*Dr Ani Raiden and Dr Scott Fernie
Nottingham Trent University/
Loughborough University*



M. Metcalfe and V. Stojanovic,



P. Stephenson and N. Sergeeva



S. Smith and A. Dorée

Doctoral Workshops

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

11th February 2015 @ University of Edinburgh

This workshop aims to explore research of health, safety and wellbeing (HS&W) within the construction industry. Although safety has long been prioritised by both industry and academia, focus has shifted in recent years to also incorporate the more numerous health concerns associated with construction work, and most recently to address wider issues of worker wellbeing.

As well as seeking abstracts that present ongoing research of HS&W, abstracts are also welcomed that explore the methodological approaches made to this specific area of research within our community, and how we are able to undertake effective research which supports the development of initiatives that are able to positively address these issues in practice.

The workshop aims to provide a platform for doctoral students to share their theoretical and empirical insights on research of health, safety and wellbeing in the construction industry. It should be stressed that the workshops are aimed at works in progress and the aim is to develop discussion rather than the presentation of completed work. Accepted papers will be published in the ARCOM Doctoral Workshop proceedings series.

The workshop will involve the presentation of work from eight to ten researchers for about 15 minutes each, with 10 to 15 minutes of discussion for each speaker, as well as a keynote presentation. All construction management PhD students, PhD students from other disciplines who work empirically with the construction industry, construction academics and practitioners are welcome to attend the workshops.

There is no charge for attendance and buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided. Travel support is available for ARCOM members who are presenting their work and who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Important dates:

Submission of short abstracts (approximately 250-300 words): **3rd October 2014**

Notification of acceptance of abstracts: **17th October 2014**

Submission of first draft of papers: **28th November 2014**

Notification of refereeing decisions: **12th December 2014**

Submission of final papers: **12th January 2015**

Workshop Date: **11th February 2015**

Please send your abstracts and any other enquiries to the workshop convenors: Dr Simon Smith (Simon.Smith@ed.ac.uk) and Dr Fred Sherratt (fred.sherratt@anglia.ac.uk).

Future Workshops

April 2015 Methodology at Dublin Institute of Technology

June 2015 Research and Pedagogy, venue tba

ARCOM Travel Grant Recipient



Cynthia Omolola Adeokun
Covenant University
Ota, Nigeria

I was thrilled to find out that I had won the best research paper at the West African Built Environment Research (WABER) Conference in August 2013, but was even more thrilled to discover that the prize was the ARCOM 2013 Travel Grant. I quickly got in touch with Simon Smith at the University who, together with Dominic Ahiaga-Dagbui made all the arrangements for my flight and hotel accommodation for the Reading 2013 conference. I arrive in Reading the afternoon before the official commencement of the conference, but somehow managed to miss the pre-conference drinks! Thankfully, this turned out to be the lowest point of my conference experience.

It was really refreshing to meet researchers in the Construction Management sector more so because my background is in Architecture, mostly spent in professional practice in the UK and East Africa. The standards of the presentations were quite high with a varied range of topics, and approaches, and it was quite a task to choose which presentations to attend.

The paper that I presented at the ARCOM conference was from the WABER conference the month previously, and I was slightly apprehensive about how a paper titled "The Orowa House: A Typology of Traditional Yoruba Architecture in Ile-Ife, Nigeria" would be received.

The paper was part of a study of traditional and contemporary houses in South-west Nigeria from my PhD work, using qualitative analysis and Space Syntax Theory and Methodologies developed at the University College London (UCL). Many people had mentioned to me that they were looking forward to my presentation at the plenary session of the last day. My presentation seemed to connect with the audience even though it was not really within the scope of the ARCOM Conference, and I got a number of useful comments and contacts, which would enable me to expand the scope of work to include traditional housing in other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.

I also enjoyed the social aspects of the conference and found the organisers and participants to be very friendly and helpful, and I certainly would consider attending the next ARCOM Conference. I appreciate the opportunity given to me by WABER and ARCOM committees to interact with a different audience and hopefully the audience appreciate finding out a bit about traditional Yoruba Architecture and Space Syntax Theory and Methodologies.

ARCOM partners with CSCE

ARCOM is a partner to the Conference Organising Committee of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering (CSCE), alongside the ASCE's Construction Institute (Construction Research Congress), the US Construction Industry Institute, for the International Construction Speciality Conference (ICSC15) to be held on 8th – 10th June 2015 in Vancouver, Canada. This 'non-financial' partnership followed an MoU between two organisations, as an outcome of ARCOM internationalisation initiative (Thanks to Dr Stephen Gruneberg!). Members of ARCOM will be offered the same 'member' discounted registration and event fees as is offered to the CSCE members.

Abstracts are now being invited with a deadline of 16th September 2014. Further details of the conference is available on the conference web site: <http://icsc15.engineering.ubc.ca/>

ARCOM Membership 2014

Membership Secretary Dr Shu-Ling Lu provides an update:



ARCOM has 391 individual members and 15 institutional members!

The number of individual members is very healthy and on an upward trajectory, from 88 in 2010 to 391 this year (see Table 1). In terms of institutional members we have 15 institutional members (see Table 2).

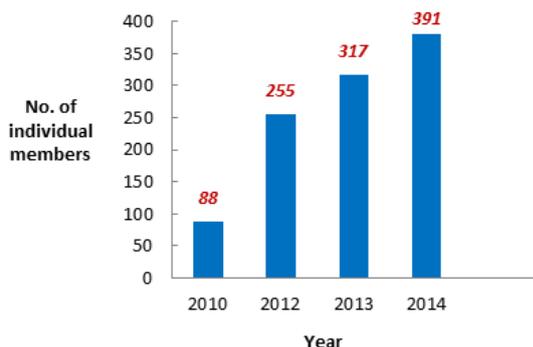


Table 1 Number of individual members between 2010 and 2014

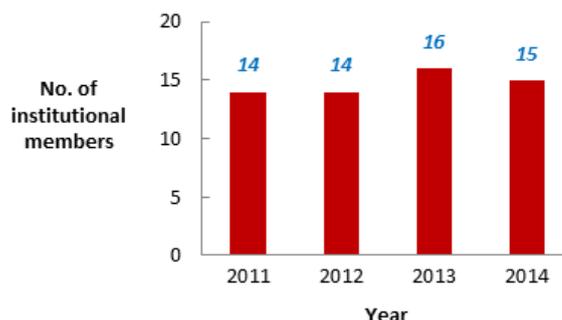


Table 2 Number of institutional members between 2011 and 2014

The geographic breakdown of the individual membership from 2012 to 2014 is shown in Table 3.

- Over 90% of the members originate from the Europe (40% in 2014 compared to 42% in 2013 and 41% in 2012), Sub-Saharan Africa (30% in 2014 compared to 26% in 2013 and 29% in 2012) and Asia Pacific (22% in 2014 compared to 23% in 2013 and 22% in 2012).
- In Europe the majority of the members come from the UK (73% in 2014 compared to 71% in 2013 and 76% in 2012), followed by Ireland (no change of 10%).
- In Sub-Saharan Africa region, the majority of the members originate from Nigeria (65% in 2014 compared to 63% in 2013 and 62% in 2012), followed by Ghana (14% in 2014 compared to 23% in 2013 and 16% in 2012).
- In the Asia Pacific region the membership is more equally distributed between four countries: India (28% in 2014 compared to 26% in 2013 and 23% in 2012), Malaysia (19% in 2014 compared to 19% in 2013 and 14% in 2012), Sri Lanka (14% in 2013 compared to 13% in 2013 and 19% in 2012) and Australia (9% in 2014 compared to 9% in 2013 and 12% in 2012).

ARCOM currently has 16 institutional members:

- 13 institutions from the UK - Birmingham City University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Liverpool John Moores University, Loughborough University, Northumbria University, University of Brighton, University of Manchester, University of Reading, University of Salford, University of Wolverhampton, University of the West of England and University of Central Lancashire
- 2 institutions from Sweden - Chalmers University of Technology and Luleå University of Technology

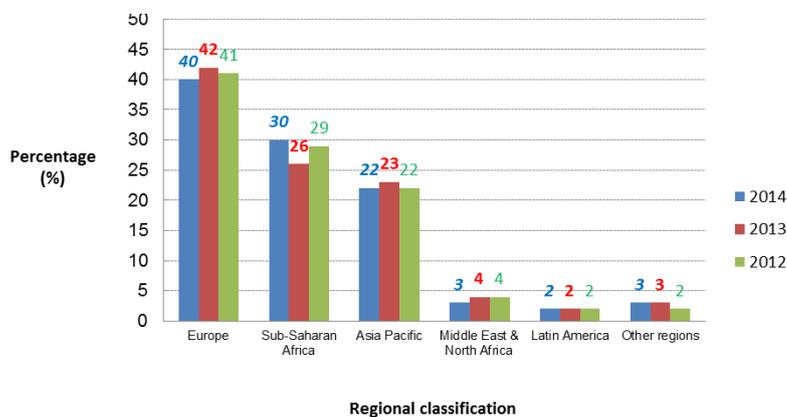


Table 3 Geographic breakdown of the individual membership from 2012 to 2014

New Committee Members

Dr Colin Booth and **Dr Apollo Tutesigensi** have been elected as new Committee Members during the AGM 2013 in Reading. Here is their personal profile.



Dr Colin Booth is based in the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, where he is the Associate Head for Research and Scholarship and also the Director of the Construction and Property Research Centre. He was previously a Reader in Construction Management, a Reader in Civil Engineering, an Overseas Tutor (Hong Kong), a Senior Lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering, a European Research Project Manager and he also held several Post-doctoral Research Fellowship posts. His academic journey from an applied scientist to civil engineer to construction manager has allowed him to publish widely on many themes, which are reflected in his research interests of sustainability in the built environment, environmental management in construction, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, water resources management, flood hazards and urban pollution. For further information or to contact him, see <http://people.uwe.ac.uk/Pages/person.aspx?accountname=campus\ca3-booth>



Dr Apollo Tutesigensi holds a BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering, an MSc (Eng) in International Construction Management and Engineering, an MA in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education and a PhD in Construction Project Management. Dr Tutesigensi gained industrial experience working in road design and construction project management in Uganda. He previously held academic positions at Makerere University and University of Portsmouth. He is, currently, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Engineering Project Management in the School of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds. His most current research interests are in infrastructure project initiation, health and safety in construction and sustainable construction.

ARCOM Committee 2013-2014

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30th Annual Conference and General Meeting

Portsmouth, UK

Mon 1st – Wed 3rd September 2014



Highlights of the conference

- University of Portsmouth is the top modern university in the UK (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) and seeks to support the highest quality research and develop excellent researchers within a sustainable research culture; aims well aligned to hosting the 30th annual ARCOM conference.
- Our keynote speakers are Tim Broyd (University College London) and Libby Schweber (University of Reading).
- Tim Broyd and Libby Schweber will also join Christine Räisänen (Chalmers University of Technology), Mark Addis (Birmingham City University) and Stuart Green (University of Reading) as panellists on our debate: 'Do we need to have a method in order for us to be or become a community of construction management researchers?'
- The 2014 Langford Lecture -set up in 2011 in memory of Professor David Langford, former Honorary President of ARCOM- is delivered by Martin Löwstedt (Chalmers University of Technology).
- 146 papers have been accepted for inclusion in the proceedings and for presentation at the conference. Authors come from 28 different countries.
- The papers have been reviewed by 82 strong Scientific Committee (including the 21 members of the ARCOM Committee) on five criteria:
 - ⇒ Innovation and Creativity: To what extent is this article presenting fresh perspectives and insights? This could be related to theoretical perspectives, the research process or the application of the research.
 - ⇒ Thoroughness and Criticality of the Literature: To what extent have the authors critically considered the breadth and depth of existing literature and presented arguments?
 - ⇒ Contribution to the Field of Study: To what extent does this paper advance construction management? Theoretically or practically.
 - ⇒ Rigor and Robustness of Methodology: To what extent have the author(s) demonstrated rigor and robustness in their explanation, justification and application of research methodology and methods?
 - ⇒ Coherence: Does the paper tell an interesting and well-presented story?
- Nine Paper Prizes will be awarded, each attracting a monetary prize of £250.
- The conference dinner will be enjoyed on the HMS Warrior after a drinks reception at the Historic Dockyard's National Museum of the Royal Navy.

For enquiries and information, please contact:

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