

# Call for Papers

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Meeting**

**London South Bank University**

**London, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## General Theme

**Looking Back to Move Forward**

## Important Dates

Submission of abstracts:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Notification of decision about abstracts:	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Submission of full papers for initial review:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Notification of decision on full papers (after initial review):	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Submission of final papers:	23:59hrs GMT Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Notification of final decision on full paper (after final review):	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

ARCOM was formed in 1984 to nurture and develop research and researchers in the emerging field of construction management and held its first annual conference at Southbank Polytechnic in London. To celebrate ARCOM's 40th anniversary we are returning to the now London South Bank University (LSBU) for our 40th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting. The last four decades have seen ARCOM establish itself and evolve beyond its UK focused origins to an organisation with a global reach reflected through our international membership and representation of delegates at the annual conference.

The 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate our achievements, but also to reflect on the evolution of construction management research in terms of its thematic coverage, its engagement with other disciplines and a growing broadening of our scope to reflect management issues related to the delivery and maintenance of the wider built environment. Recent ARCOM conferences have reflected a growing focus on research which seeks to respond to paradigm shifting challenges associated with climate change, delivering sustainable development, progressing social justice and responding to the rapid progress in the digital world and the opportunities and difficulties it presents. The general themes of our conferences in the last decade have responded to this with focus on sustainability, rebuilding and recovery, productivity, and the wider contribution to the common good.

The conference programme will provide our community the opportunity to look back at our achievements over the last 40 years and revisit traditional research questions with a contemporary focus. However, as we move forward, there is a need to consider how we can continue to evolve and ensure that our research contributes to the paradigm shifting agendas of the future. We welcome you to join us and contribute to this conversation by submitting papers aligned with our Conference Theme 'Looking Back to Move Forward'.

We are particularly interested in receiving submissions within the following areas

Contract management	Infrastructure development
Design and technology	Offsite construction
Digitalisation	Performance
Disaster management and resilience	Procurement
Equality, diversity and inclusion	Sustainability
Health, safety and wellbeing	Pedagogic research
Human resources management	Other related topics

## Submission Process

### SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Please submit an abstract of around 170 words and include up to 5 keywords online via the MyARCOM portal. Abstracts will be sent to two referees for peer-review. From this peer-review process, an abstract will be either accepted or rejected. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 12 January 2024**.

### SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR INITIAL REVIEW

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers. Full papers must not exceed 10 sides of A4 (including all references, tables, graphics and illustrations) and must be submitted on the ARCOM paper template, which is available for download at [www.arcom.ac.uk](http://www.arcom.ac.uk). Each paper will be sent to two members of the Scientific Committee for peer-review. From this peer-review process, a paper will be accepted, accepted with minor alterations, accepted with major alterations or rejected. The deadline for the submission of full papers for initial review is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 5 April 2024**.

### SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR FINAL REVIEW

After initial review, authors of papers accepted with minor alterations or accepted with major alterations will be invited to revise the papers and resubmit for final review. The final review will lead to papers being either accepted or rejected. The deadline for the submission of full papers for final review is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 14 June 2024**.

### PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF ACCEPTED PAPERS

If a paper is accepted, its authors will be invited to present the paper in person at the conference. At least one of the authors must register for the conference and be able attend conference and present the paper. Authors of accepted papers will have a choice of making their paper available as an ARCOM working paper or publishing their paper as an indexed paper within our annual conference proceedings.

## Looking back to move forward

The conference provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the progress made over the last 40 years in construction management research in the themes explored, the framing and nature of the research questions posed but also in the evolving methodological approaches deployed. As a community we are increasingly collaborating with other disciplines, and challenging ourselves by asking more progressive research questions. The 40th conference asks us to not forget to look back and revisit some of the more traditional research questions through a contemporary theoretical lens or methodology as the potential exists for new insight. However, as we move forward it is important to ensure that the applied nature of our research is not lost and that we learn lessons from past research and continue to develop more effective ways to involve policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders in our research.

## Recognising that CM research is evolving

The themes presented at ARCOM conferences over the last 40 years have reflected an evolution towards a more holistic view of management issues within the built environment and needing to reflect wider societal challenges. This has seen construction management research and scholarship moving beyond its traditional focus and increasingly collaborating with other academic disciplines. We are seeing evidence of a community which is showing signs of challenging itself by asking more progressive research questions with a view to facilitating a better understanding for those managing within the construction industry and wider built environment.

## Readiness of CM research to address paradigm shifting agendas

The 39th ARCOM conference focuses on the Future for Construction, but it is apparent that our research will require greater engagement with agendas requiring a fundamental rethink around how the built environment is procured, planned, designed, constructed and ultimately disposed of and reused. The 40th ARCOM conference allows us to ask how ready are we as a community to contribute to these paradigm shifting agendas and the associated research questions requiring to be asked and explored. Looking back at recent ARCOM conferences a growing number of paper submissions are associated with two dominant threads reflective of this need for a paradigm shift: 1) Net Zero and Circularity, and 2) Digital Construction and Artificial Intelligence.

### 1) Net Zero and Circularity

Net Zero and Circularity in Construction are going to drive change and innovation in the years to come and will require to be embedded across all aspects of the delivery and maintenance of the built environment requiring a holistic view of how it fits with the wider economic, social and environmental systems. This is a challenge not for the faint hearted, and the 40th anniversary of ARCOM provides an opportunity for us to look back but also forward to ask how we can make a meaningful contribution to their realisation.

### 2) Digital Construction and Artificial Intelligence

The advancement of the digital world provides the potential to fundamentally change the way the built environment is delivered and maintained, but also how society engages and uses it. A need exists through our research to not only respond to the related needs of today but to consider the future possibilities and challenges associated with the potential represented for the future. This will require a fundamental rethink, but represents both opportunity and challenges.

This conference provides the opportunity to reflect on the readiness of our community's research to respond to the ambition of these future challenges and facilitate a better understanding of the theoretical and practice implications.

In line with ARCOM tradition, the 40th Annual ARCOM Conference will be an inclusive conference. We invite paper submissions that not only address our traditional topics but also new and emerging topics. Furthermore, we invite authors to reflect on how construction management research needs to progress within respective topics, but importantly how we can continue to evolve and meaningfully contribute towards realising paradigm shifting agendas associated with Net Zero and Circularity in Construction; and Digital Construction and Artificial Intelligence.

## Organising Committee

Professor Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University  
Dr Apollo Tutesigensi, University of Leeds  
Professor Lloyd Scott, Griffith College, Dublin  
Dr Vivien Chow, Loughborough University  
Dr Nicola Callaghan, Glasgow Caledonian University  
Dr John Spillane, University of Limerick  
Dr Robby Soetanto, Loughborough University  
Dr Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo, Birmingham City University

...together with the other 13 members of the ARCOM Committee who will be confirmed at the ARCOM Annual General Meeting scheduled for 5th September 2023.



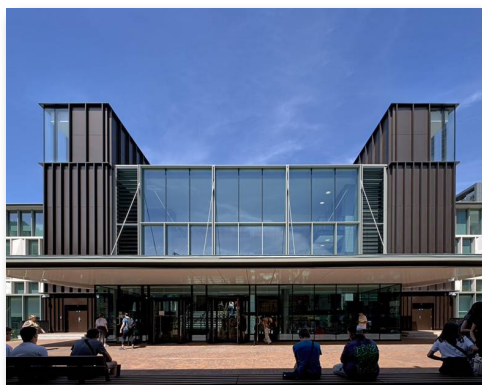
## Venue Information

London South Bank University was established in 1892 as Borough Polytechnic with an original aim 'to promote the industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being of young men and women' and this remains central to its mission today. The focus is on a practical and vocational approach ensures our students will leave equipped with the skills to meet the challenges of today's workplace. An institution which is rooted in its community in South London with three campuses. The conference is being held in the LSBU HUB which opened in the summer of 2022 and is the largest building in the Southwark Campus. The building has been awarded Architect Journals Higher Education and Campus Retrofit Award for 2023 and the Award for Transformative Sustainable Design through Minimal Intervention at the Structural Awards 2023. Our 40th anniversary conference dinner and awards evening will be held on the Tuesday and hosted at The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn within their historic estate which dates back to 1422.

## Conference Fee

The conference fee for ARCOM 2024 will be decided in the spring of 2024. An early-bird discount will apply for all registrations received by 23:59hrs GMT on Sunday 30 June 2024. The usual discounts for ARCOM members and students from ARCOM institutional members will also apply.

Please note that accommodation is not included in the conference fee. Information about preferential rates provided by local hotels will be advertised on the conference website by Monday 20 May 2024.



Left to Right: The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn - The Hub, LSBU – Dining Space, Lincoln's Inn

## Best Paper Prizes

....prizes will include:

ARCOM Award for International Issue(s)

David Langford Commemorative Award for Social Impact

ARCOM Award for Sustainability

Paul Townsend Commemorative Award for Research in Practice

Rod Howes Commemorative Award for Constructing for the Future

...and others

## Contact and Further Information

There will be regular conference updates so please visit the ARCOM website for ARCOM 2024 updates at

<http://www.arcom.ac.uk>

Conference Chair: Professor Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University

Conference Secretary: Dr Christopher Neilson, The University of Manchester

**Email queries should be directed to [conference@arcom.ac.uk](mailto:conference@arcom.ac.uk) in the first instance**