



## ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

### **ARCOM Doctoral Workshop: Introduction to Design Science Research in Construction Management**

#### ***Call for Participation***

**When:** 15-17 May 2024  
**Where:** University of Twente, Enschede, the Netherlands (in-person only)  
**Workshop convenors:** Dr. Andreas Hartmann, Dr. Marc van den Berg, and Dr. Léon olde Scholtenhuis, University of Twente

Researchers in construction management (CM) build on a wealth of epistemological and ontological stances that comprise compatible and conflicting methodologies. The methodologies we use have helped describe and explain CM phenomena, often resulting in mid-range theories. While insights from our work have the potential to change practice and processes in the industry, we seem to still be mostly reflecting rather than change-making.

The critical role that we should have as researchers, however, enables much more than just diagnosis and reflection. It gives us the opportunity to *advance* practice, policy, and governance. CM research may need to be more ‘responsibly rebellious’, as described in the ARCOM 2023 conference keynote by Andy Dainty. Such a role is more urgently needed in the current major transition towards a climate-resilient, nature-based, built environment in 2050. CM researchers should rethink the way they contribute not only rigorous but also relevant research.

This workshop is designed to stimulate discussion and action! We plan to discuss and develop propositions about how to engage further with empirical realities, intervene, and impact the Built Environment more intimately. The goals of the workshop are therefore to:

1. Familiarize participants with seminal Design Science Research (DSR) literature, reflect on ontological and epistemological stances, and explore the application of DSR to their projects
2. Conceptualize which direct and indirect impacts DSR projects have had so far on CM research and practice communities.

#### **Target participants**

Early career researchers and interested aspiring DSR users, willing to explore design-oriented and intervention-based methods for their construction management research.

#### **Costs and registration**

This event will be on-site only (in Enschede, the Netherlands) – there will be no option for online participation. Attendance is free, and lunches & refreshments will be provided.

You will need to make your own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Some funding support for travel may also be available for a selected number of participants.

To register your interest to participate in this workshop, please email a 300-word summary of your research project and your current experience with the DSR methodology to [leon.oldscholtenhuis@arcom.ac.uk](mailto:leon.oldscholtenhuis@arcom.ac.uk) by **1 March, 2024**.

## **Draft Programme**

The workshop will take place on Thursday and Friday, and will be preceded by an icebreaker event in the evening on Wednesday. The draft programme is as follows:

*Wednesday 15 May 2024:* Icebreaker Dinner in Enschede, Twente, the Netherlands

*Thursday 16 May 2024:* Workshop Day 1: theory and discussion

1. Designing, Engineering or Design Science Research: are there differences?
2. Are we researching it differently? Discussing Ontology and Epistemology of DSR.
3. Engineers and consultants cannot do better! Debunking the thesis, and requirements that DSR sets on researchers.
4. Examples of DSR in CM.

*Friday 17 May 2024:* Workshop Day 2: hands-on session

5. Keynote Speaker on Design Science Research
6. Friendly review of participants' DSR work in progress, group discussion
7. Summarizing the workshop
8. Discussing group ambitions

*For more information about previously held ARCOM Doctoral Workshops, please see:*  
<https://www.arcom.ac.uk/workshop-past.php>