Call for Papers

34th Conference and Annual General Meeting

Queens University, Belfast, Riddel Hall
3—5 September 2018

In partnership with Dublin Institute for Technology – 'Bridging any divide'

General Theme

A Productive Relationship:
Balancing Fragmentation and Integration

Important Dates

Submission of Abstract	23:59hrs GMT on Friday 12 January 2018
Notification of acceptance of abstract	Monday 19 February 2018
Submission of first draft of paper	23:59hrs GMT on Friday 6 April 2018
Refereeing decision	Friday 18 May 2018
Submission of final paper	23:59hrs GMT on Friday 29 June 2018

A Productive Relationship: Balancing Fragmentation and Integration

ARCOM 2018 returns to Belfast, drawing on the hospitality of Queen's University in partnership with the Dublin Institute for Technology. We are fortunate to host this conference at one of the oldest UK Universities and its historic campus. The main conference will be in the Grade II listed Riddel Hall, with the social event in the University's Great Hall and Gala evening in Titanic Belfast.

Our research communities are coming together to achieve more than political rhetoric

At a time, when the world grapples with the challenges of divided nations, the need for greater collaboration to build communities of practice for resilience and sustainability seems paramount. Northern and Southern Ireland, not without their political challenges, are rich in communities and enterprise that surpass much of the divide. Important to this conference are the feats of great engineering borne from cultures that embrace technology and a willingness explore. The progressive mobile have and continue to shape our built environment. Without such transient and powerful workforces, holding on passionately to their culture, would we achieve so much?

The more traditional vies of a fragmented construction industry has often been highlighted as a problem, and as a reason to integrate. Yet, there is a need to deepen our understanding of fragmentation and to understand whether it is not only problematic, but also a productive force for good. Questions are raised around whether fragmentation is necessarily a bad thing and whether integration is always the solution. Should we be striving for a balance between fragmentation and integration? What does this balance look like, and what implications will balancing fragmentation and integration have on policy, practice and research in construction?

We are currently calling for abstracts that address the topics listed, that continue to bind the ARCOM community together as well as those that address the central theme, 'Balancing fragmentation and integration' and the track proposals listed below. The ARCOM Conference is an **inclusive conference** that covers a wide range of topics pertinent to construction work.

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

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](#) where you can also select your preferred thematic track (see overleaf). Abstracts will be sent to two referees. Only the authors of abstracts that pass this peer-review process will be invited to submit full papers. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 12 January 2018**. Full papers must not exceed 10 sides of A4 and should adhere to the ARCOM paper template, which is available for download at www.arcom.ac.uk. Each paper will be reviewed by two members of the scientific committee. If the paper is accepted its authors will be invited to present the paper at the conference. At least one of the authors must be able attend the conference. Authors of accepted papers will have a choice to publish their paper as a working paper or an indexed paper.

We invite authors to respond to the following themes and tracks when developing the full papers. Emerging themes include, though are not restricted to:

Construction and the digital divide (unequal distribution of who has access, skills and competence): Practices in the construction industry have recently been transformed with the use of more digital technologies. This is arguably pursued at the relative neglect (and expense) of the analogue world. There are questions raised around the unequal distribution of who has access, skills and competence to digitalise construction. Moreover, how policy-makers, practitioners and researchers value the non-digital in order to build a stronger, more productive construction industry?

Who counts as a stakeholder and how are they engaged: Who and what counts as a stakeholder and how do they count? Stakeholder engagement has been a longstanding matter of concern in managing construction. The call to balance integration and fragmentation has also, in recent times, been manifested in the tensions found between democratisation and privatisation of the built environment. Current scholarship on stakeholder engagement has also broadened to consider the influences of humans and non-humans alike. What do these developments mean for changing the ways in thinking about which stakeholders count and how stakeholder engagement is done?

Construction Management Research: Construction management as a research field has developed over the past few years to engage with scholarship in the wider management and organisational studies, as well as theories from the social sciences. While this engagement has resulted in more rigorous, theoretically-informed studies in construction management, there is also a need to maintain the distinctiveness of the field. In our attempts to mainstream construction management, how can we engage more fruitfully with the other disciplines and fields such that we maintain a strong sector-based identity while contributing to the mainstream?

Track 1: Failure and Learning from Failure: What is failure? Can we quantify and measure it? What are its impacts? And how can we face up to failure, acknowledge it and learn from it? These and other perceptions on the role of failure in the built environment are to be explored through theoretical and/or empirical papers in this track.

Track 2: Theoretically-informed Research on Digitalization in Construction: In this track we encourage submissions that take on theoretically informed perspectives in order to further theoretical development of the field of construction information systems management, and thus the understanding of the deployment and use of digital technologies in construction. All kinds of papers are welcome but authors must provide critical reflections on the theoretical stance taken.

Track 3: Reconceiving Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Managing Design in Construction: Current framing of construction design management relies on the 'fragmentation-integration' dichotomy which has led to an inappropriate language and an unproductive focus on the problems of differences between various disciplines. Novel empirical, theoretical and methodological papers are invited to reconceptualise design beyond such dichotomy.

Track 4: Integration and Collaboration for a Sustainable Built Environment: This track focusses on the critical evaluation of the impacts of inter-disciplinary working and integration on project and business performance. Authors are invited to challenge the perceived wisdom that inter-disciplinary collaboration and integration is desirable in every project and every business, and to propose approaches to determining whether collaboration is necessary in specific contexts.

Track 5: Keeping up with the Digital Age: This track focuses on exploring the role of digital communication tools in management processes by construction companies, focusing especially on building up new management processes for integration with stakeholders and better performance. Digital communication tools especially social media is still a new technology that needs to be better understood in terms of its benefits, risks, barriers and strategic use.

Track 6: Mental Health, Stress and Wellbeing in the Construction Industry: While it is commonly recognised that mental health problems can be quite severe in the construction industry, the underlying causes and its long-term impacts remain largely unknown. We welcome theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions, particularly with experts from the medical field, to advance understanding on problems with mental health, stress and wellbeing in construction.

Track 7: Institutionalising Construction Management Research: Institutional theory has often been used to frame our study of industry practices as the object of inquiry rather than to subject our field to critical analysis of how knowledge in and about construction management is produced, and with what consequences. We seek interesting papers to better understanding of the institutional dynamics and effects of the production of construction management knowledge.

Track 8: This track seeks to explore the stakeholder barriers to PPP and the innovations in PPP models that seek to enhance and nurture stakeholder relationship. In doing so, we aim to gain better understanding of the dynamics of long term stakeholder relationship in infrastructure investment.

Track 9: Procurement is a fundamental driving force for innovation in the built environment but may also be an obstacle to change. Today, procurement is increasingly seen as a vehicle to reach ecological and social sustainability goals, and politics and policy aspects are becoming more influential. In this track we invite empirical and theoretical papers that investigate novel approaches to procurement for sustainable innovation.

Track 10: In our efforts toward building a sustainable environment, we need to find new ways of communicating through engaged collaborative research. In this track, we welcome theoretical, methodological and empirical papers that showcase attempts to 'walk the talk' in order to move beyond words to create productive communication between academia and industry.

Venue Information

Once the home of the Irish linen industry, tobacco production, rope making and the world famous Harland and Wolff shipbuilders, Belfast lays claim to a unique history. The conference sessions will take place in Queen's University's Riddel Hall. For our Conference Dinner, we will head to the £77 million Titanic Belfast building designed by Eric Kuhne and Associates.

Conference Fee

The conference fee for ARCOM 2018 is £465. **Accommodation is not included within the fee.** Information on preferential rates provided by local hotels will be advertised on the conference website. An early-bird discount will apply for all registrations received before Friday 30 June 2018. The usual discounts for ARCOM members will also apply.

Left to Right: The Lanyon Building, Riddel Hall and The Great Hall

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'

Taylor and Francis Award for the Most Theoretically-informed Contribution

Emerald Research Methodology Award

Organising Committee

Prof Chris Gorse, Leeds Beckett University

Dr Paul W Chan, The University of Manchester

Dr Ani Raidén, Nottingham Trent University

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 Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo, University of Brighton

Dr Colin Booth, University of West of England

Prof David Boyd, Birmingham City University

Dr Scott Fernie, Loughborough University

Dr Alex Opoku, University College London

Dr Libby Schweber, University of Reading

Professor Lloyd Scott, Dublin Institute of Technology

Dr Simon Smith, University of Edinburgh

Dr Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Niraj Thurairajah, Birmingham City University

Dr Chika Udeaja, University of Salford

Contact and Further Information

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