

ARCOM

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

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Doctoral Workshop on Health, Safety and Well-being
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30th Annual ARCOM Conference

A Reflection from the Chair



“We continually review the provision of workshops, web resources and other support mechanisms we offer to support education, dissemination and research in construction management!”

The 30th annual ARCOM Conference in Portsmouth was a true celebration of research in construction management. We were pleased to host 195 delegates from 28 different countries who enjoyed a three-day programme of research papers, keynotes, a debate, Langford Lecture and social events.

Our keynote speakers were Professor Tim Broyd (University College London) and Dr Libby Schweber (University of Reading). Tim Broyd and Libby Schweber also joined Professors Christine Räisänen (Chalmers University of Technology), Mark Addis (Birmingham City University) and Stuart Green (University of Reading) as panellists on the debate: “Do we need to have a method in order for us to be or become a community of construction management researchers?” The lively debate led us to think about a themed session on Comparative Studies for one of our future conferences. We are currently working with a number of authors interested to pursue this idea.

The 2014 Langford Lecture was delivered by Martin Löwstedt from Chalmers

University of Technology, Sweden. Martin reflected on social identity in construction and talked about the enactment and outcomes of social identity specifically. He employed social identity as a lens for looking at the ‘people-level’ (the micro-level) and identified much untapped potential in this field. He is currently researching the enactment and outcomes of social identity within a longitudinal study of construction managers in Sweden. The Langford Lecture was set up in 2011 in memory of Professor David Langford, the former Honorary President of ARCOM. Social issues and people in construction were central in David’s work.

Together with the plenary sessions, the conference programme was populated by 146 research papers that were accepted for inclusion in the proceedings and for presentation at the conference. This presents a final selection of excellent research in the field. In January 2014, an unprecedented 457 abstracts were submitted. Through a three-stage peer review process the 82 strong Scientific Committee

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Group photo—ARCOM 2014 Conference, Portsmouth, UK

Continued—A reflection...

(including the 20 members of the ARCOM Committee) employed five core criteria:

- Innovation and Creativity
- Thoroughness and Criticality of the Literature
- Contribution to the Field of Study
- Rigor and Robustness of Methodology
- Coherence.

Thematically, project management, building information modelling (BIM) and sustainability continued to draw a large number of submissions. Health and safety and wellbeing, and construction management education and learning also featured as important themes in the conference together with procurement and information management. Policy research emerged as a new area of interest. In addition to the construction management papers, ARCOM was pleased to host the CIB W113 Law and Dispute Resolution Working Commission as a specialist stream of the conference this year.

Altogether nine Paper Prizes were awarded, each attracting a monetary prize of £250 – you can read



about this year's winning papers on pages 6-7. The conference papers, including our prize winning papers, are now available for viewing and download via <http://www.arcom.ac.uk/abstracts.php>.

Alongside the formal conference programme, for the first time, Andrew Dainty and Scott Fernie from Loughborough University held an ARCOM fringe event. This was a follow up to the first ARCOM Seminar on 'the industrial strategy and construction management research' (see ARCOM Newsletter, Sept 2014, Vol. 31, p. 5). We welcome other such informal gatherings to use the conference space for meeting up and discussion on research agendas.

The conference dinner was enjoyed on the HMS Warrior after a drinks reception at the Historic Dockyard's National Museum of the Royal Navy where we had the opportunity to witness The Royal Navy Sunset Ceremony at HMS Victory.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Spinnaker Tower and hear about the challenges in building this seafront landmark.

Quite honestly there hasn't been many times in my

Continue next page...

*Editor letter....*

Welcome to this issue of ARCOM Newsletter!

This issue features three articles from the successful organisation of the 30th Annual Conference in Portsmouth. First, Dr Ani Raiden, the Conference Chair, provided a reflection on the conference. Then, Dr Paul Chan summarised the conference debate on method in construction management research. Dr Scott Fernie outlined the awards ceremony. The first doctoral workshop this year, on Health, Safety and Well-being was organised in the University of Edinburgh by Dr Fred Sherratt and Dr Simon Smith. A unique article on experience as a conference secretary was provided by Dr Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo. This issue also features detailed programme of Joint EPOS—ARCOM Doctoral Symposium, before profiles of new committee members and an update on the 31st Annual Conference in Lincoln. I wish to thank to all contributors in this issue.

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*

Continued—A reflection...

academic life that I have worked as hard as we did to put together and run the 30th ARCOM Conference. Equally, few 'jobs' have been this rewarding!

I look forward to serving our community and leading the ARCOM committee in the near future. Next year, 7-9 September 2015, the 31st annual ARCOM conference is in Lincoln.

ARCOM turns 30 with a special Conference Issue of Construction Management and Economics. To celebrate ARCOM's 30th birthday, we were pleased to present the Inaugural Conference Issue of Construction Management and Economics in Portsmouth. The 14 papers contained within this special conference issue were especially selected from the 2013 conference, many of which were nominated and awarded Best Paper prizes. The publication of this special conference issue signifies the high quality papers that are presented at the ARCOM annual conference. Please visit <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rcme20/32/7-8#.VAs9CcJdWSo> to access the special conference issue. The second ARCOM Conference Issue of Construction Management and Economics is also underway - we are working with a number of authors who presented their work at the 30th ARCOM Conference in Portsmouth.

It is clear that over the 30 years ARCOM has developed into a popular and professional research association; our annual conference is attracting ever increasing number and calibre of research students, lecturers, prolific researchers and practitioners internationally. In addition to the conference, ARCOM organises research workshops and academic seminars, and hosts a publications database. ARCOM



has 15 institutional members and facilitates international co-operation with many international research institutions.

The ARCOM committee continually and critically reflects on the issues facing our field and industry. We also continually review the provision of workshops, web resources and other support mechanisms we offer to support education, dissemination and research in construction management. Our aim is to further the advancement of knowledge in all aspects of management in construction. We are committed to developing the quality of research and publications in our field and look forward to working with you for decades to come.

*Dr Ani Raiden
ARCOM Chair*



A method for construction management research? A summary of ARCOM 2014 Conference Debate

As ARCOM comes of age and celebrated turning 30 at the ARCOM 2014 Conference in Portsmouth, the conference debate provided an opportunity for reflecting on how the field is maturing. A notable area where construction management research appears to be growing in confidence lies in the area of methodological sophistication. Although there is still a sizeable proportion of studies in the field that adopt the positivistic tradition from the natural sciences (often evident in the wealth of survey work reported in the field), we have witnessed a broader repertoire of methodological approaches applied to capture the social complexities often associated with the management of construction work. The papers included in the ARCOM conference proceedings is evidence that research in our field is becoming more theoretically-informed, and the methodological approaches we adopt more varied.

The question asked at the ARCOM 2014 Conference debate is this: as the community grows beyond its first 30 years, should there be a method that defines the community of construction management researchers? Should there be a method that characterises construction management research in the same way ethnography dominates in anthropological research and experimental methods prevail in psychology? To discuss and debate these questions, a panel of senior academics in the field was called upon to discuss this question, including Professor Tim Broyd from University College London, Professor Stuart Green from the University of Reading, Professor Christine Raisanen from Chalmers University of Technology, and Dr. Libby Schweber from the University of Reading.

There was consensus among the panellists that construction management research and its community should not be defined by a single method. Tim Broyd took the view that the problems the construction industry faces are multi-faceted, and thus demand a variety of methodological approaches to answer different lines of inquiry. Stuart Green reiterated that construction management is a field of research that borrows and learns from pure disciplines. Therefore, methodological approaches ought to be based on whichever disciplinary position the researcher takes. It is crucial to recognise that the community is not and cannot be a single, uniform group of researchers given the complexities and peculiarities of construction.

There was, however, an argument for developing more rigour in the use of methods. Christine Raisanen



noted that while the community cannot be defined by a single method, it is critical that researchers understand the methods they adopt in answering their research questions. She stressed the importance of not simply applying methods without clarifying the assumptions made. Libby Schweber highlighted the importance of engaging with (social) theories in making methodological choices. She noted how construction management researchers are disadvantaged when compared to sociologists because we are not familiar with some of the core texts used in the social sciences (e.g. Max Weber, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim etc.).

The open discussion highlighted the need for the community to continue growing in their confidence and comprehension of methods, and that this should begin in undergraduate education in the field. It was also noted that research in the field should aspire to be accumulative and not fall into the trap of chasing the fad. An example of this can be found in research on building information modelling (BIM), where it is crucial to recognise that BIM is not simply a new theoretical problem, but one that can be found in earlier problems of technological development and adoption.

So, the debate concluded with the view that ARCOM should not rely on a method to define the community. Instead, it is important to continue reflecting on why we do the research in the ways we do. Perhaps we will all meet in thirty years' time debating the very same issue, but this is not necessarily a bad thing.

*Dr Paul Chan
The University of Manchester*

The Annual Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony



The HMS Warrior on the Historic Dockyards at Portsmouth and Gunwharf Quay became the latest esteemed venue to host the Annual ARCOM Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony. After a thoroughly fascinating walk around the National Museum Royal Navy Portsmouth and a thorough gaze upon The HMS Victory we made our way over The HMS Warrior to board for dinner. Dinner was served on the main deck onto benches and tables lowered from the deckhead. Food was served from the Galley and fortunately, we were spared traditional ‘plum duff’ and provided with a wonderful meal instead before sitting down to learn which authors would be successfully taking home the prizes this year. So, filled up with good food and wine and surrounded by cannons, ropes, anchors and all forms of Victorian seafaring garb, the annual prestigious prize award ceremony began. These wonderful prizes reward and recognise high quality papers that make significant contributions to the conference and the field. There were nine prizes awarded between the main course and sweet that included:

The Paul Townsend Commemorative Award for Best Paper in Project Management

Pieter Eisma and Leentje Volker— *“Exploring the field of public construction clients by a graphical network analysis”*



The Taylor and Francis Award for Best Theoretically Informed Contribution

John-Paul Smiley, Scott Fernie and Andrew Dainty — *“Construction policy research: beware reason masquerading as truth”*



The CIOB Award for the Best International Paper

Natalie Galea, Martin Loosemore, Abigail Powel and Louise Chappell— *“Gender equality in construction professions: a new institutionalists perspective”*



The ‘Rod Howes’ Commemorative Award

Martin Lowstedt— *“Taking off my glasses in order to see”: exploring practice on a building site using self-reflexive ethnography”*



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*Continued—Award ceremony...***The Wiley-Blackwell Best Technical Paper**

Fred Sherratt — *“We will force you to be well: positive liberty, power and the health and wellbeing of construction workers”*

**The ‘David Langford’ Commemorative Award**

Melissa Teo and Martin Loosemore— *“Getting to heart of community action against construction projects”*

**The RICS Sustainability Award**

Pippa Boyd, Graeme Larsen and Libby Schweber — *“Perspectives on the Specification of Building Integrated Photovoltaic (Bipv) Technology in Construction Projects”*

**The Emerald Research Methodology Award**

Dennis O’Keeffe, Derek Thomson and Andrew Dainty — *“Exploring the methodological consequences of the evaluation of the design of hospitals within a practice order network”*

**The CRI Innovation and Sustainability Award**

Anders Viking and Sofia Lidelöw— *“Exploring industrialised house-builders’ perceptions of local requirement setting - an institutional logics perspective”*



With the prize awards over, all delegates were given the opportunity to roam and explore the four huge decks of The HMS Warrior at their leisure and, imagine what it must have been like for those sailors who first took to the seas in her in the 19th century. This was a perfect way to end the evening and, a great way to relax and enjoy the company of colleagues and friends. Just another fantastic and successful Annual Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony really – looking forward to the next one in Lincoln already.

*Yours, this year’s prize reporter
Scott Fernie
Loughborough University*

ARCOM Doctoral Workshop on Health, Safety and Wellbeing, 11th February 2015, University of Edinburgh

This workshop attracted 20 abstracts, from which nine developmental papers were selected for presentation. The level of interest suggests a healthy growth in the area of researching health, safety and wellbeing in the sector. In his introduction to the session, Dr Simon Smith reflected on this growth to raise a number of aspects that are perhaps under-researched, including refocusing attention on health and wellbeing, comparisons between developing and developed countries, the role of and respect for the worker, and comparative analyses for example at the inter-sectorial and inter-firm levels. Simon also reiterated the purpose of doctoral workshops, which are designed to facilitate developmental discussions on work-in-progress by PhD students.

The first presentation was by David Oswald from the University of Edinburgh, reflecting on his journey midway through his PhD. David's research is investigating intentional unsafe acts in the sector, with a focus on the building of the new Forth Replacement Crossing involving over 30 nationalities. He identified a number of challenges he is confronting in his research, including understanding methodology and philosophy, difficulties of defining and measuring unsafe acts, and problems of studying a cross-cultural context.

Stephanie Eaves from Loughborough University talked about her research on improving health and wellbeing in the construction sector given an ageing workforce and society. Stephanie also reflected on the challenges she faced when undertaking the study, including the difficulties of staying focussed to the funded research programme, the problems of getting closer to the 'truth' in practice, and the trouble of the exclusion criteria.



Clara Man Cheung from the University of Maryland presented her conceptual model for exploring safety leadership. She stressed the importance of asking 'why' rather than 'how'. Her study is inspired by the question of figuring out why some companies are more 'successful' in developing a positive safety culture. This took her to the role of leadership. In developing her conceptual model, she stressed the crucial role played by psychological factors in influencing positive safety behaviours. She introduced the construct of psychological capital, including dimensions of self-efficacy, hope, optimism and resilience, and how this when combined with wellbeing elements (i.e. hedonic emotions, eudemonic or external interactions to meet basic psychological needs, and evaluative means by which people evaluate their lives) can drive the propensity to behave more safely.

Babajide Talabi from Loughborough University outlined his work reviewing the antecedents, current thinking and research directions on actor safety behaviour in construction. He presented a conceptual model that integrates more holistically how social, operant and classical conditioning (and the use of incentives and penalties) can help afford positive safety climate and culture. Babajide is also building on the work of Pybus to identify a variety of contexts to explore how these antecedents play out in practice, from traditional rule-based contexts to transitional controls to innovative contexts driven by new styles of management that emphasises team working and trust.

Robert Baughan from the University of Edinburgh talked about his work investigating competence management in the UK heritage railway industry. He gave an overview of the heritage railway industry,



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Continued—Doctoral Workshop...

emphasising the voluntary nature of the maintenance work and how this can create challenges for regularising the management of competence. He presented some preliminary comparative analysis into how the heritage railway industry differs from the mainline railway industry.

Gabriel Raviv from Technion Israel Institute of Technology outlined his work analysing near misses in crane-work environments. He discussed the challenges of capturing near misses, including working within a culture of underreporting. He also presented a framework for categorising and identifying the causes and consequences of near misses in crane work. His work was highly quantitative, and demonstrated how this academic approach can bring clear insights and conclusions that are highly relevant to industry, and have the potential to bring practical and beneficial changes.

Graham Hayne from Glasgow Caledonian University presented the final paper on connecting building information modelling (BIM) and health and safety. He distinguished between the philosophy of engineering and design; according to him, while engineering increasingly values professional knowledge as the basis of informing its craft, design is about trial-and-error approximation. He also discussed the implications of the digital world on



shaping professional sensemaking (and senselessness) to question whether automating digital models is necessarily a good thing.

Fred Sherratt led a summative review of the papers, presentations and questions throughout the day, which enabled everyone to participate in a discussion of the key areas of contemporary health, safety and wellbeing research. This included consideration of the applicability of research to practice, the need to ensure rigour and applicability in both methodology and method, and also the emergence of new thinking around wellbeing and health. Most critically, we asked whether we are measuring safety or un-safety (with reference to Hollnagel's ideas of Safety -I and Safety-II), and if the ongoing inclusion of health and wellbeing alongside safety in a seemingly unbreakable amalgam is detrimental to both its research and improvements in practice.

To close the workshop, Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo from the University of Brighton offered the final reflections of the day, outlining his doctoral research journey and the various hurdles he had encountered – but gave a very positive perspective from the finish line!

Workshop Convenors:

Dr Fred Sherratt (Anglia Ruskin University)

Dr Simon Smith (University of Edinburgh)



Workshops.....

Doctoral Workshop on Research Methodology, 10th April 2015, Dublin
EPOC/ARCOM Doctoral workshop on Novel methods in growing the field of engineering project organization, 23rd June 2015, Edinburgh

My experience as ARCOM Conference Secretary.....



I attended my first ARCOM Conference in 2011 when my PhD project was still in its early stages. Having been encouraged by my supervisors to present on my work beyond Nottingham Trent University, ARCOM was suggested as one of the most welcoming research groups that would offer the constructive feedback I needed in developing my ideas and networking with researchers that share similar interests. This was a daunting task as it was out of my comfort zone. One of the first things I noticed at my first conference was the welcoming and supportive environment that existed amongst the delegates. The mentorship received from seasoned academics and researchers from institutions such as Loughborough University and University of Edinburgh at ARCOM both directly and indirectly played a significant role in my PhD journey and overall career development. Several thought-provoking questions and constructive comments were offered during my presentation at the conference. These led me to develop better research ideas and strengthen my methodological considerations. I successfully completed my PhD programme in July 2014.

I have attended four ARCOM conferences so far. I intend to stay a member of ARCOM even though I have achieved my planned goal of attending the conference i.e. to obtain feedback on my doctoral research. ARCOM as I have noticed helps researchers of all stages to discuss their ideas and develop their works further and I intend to make use of this opportunity. Also, I intend to help welcome newer members and offer some

constructive and formative feedback in relation to their research.

Having been contracted as an Hourly Paid Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University for over two years, I have used the supporting techniques I learnt from senior members of ARCOM. For instance, I encourage my students to share their ideas so that all members of the class can learn from them and more importantly offer their views and comments on the issues raised. This helps foster the students' creativity and critical thinking.

As ARCOM Conference Secretary, I had the privilege of working closely with committee members (especially Dr Ani Raiden, the Conference Chair) in organising the 30th Annual ARCOM Conference. I have been involved in a wide range of activities including arranging conference venues and delegates' accommodation, editing and organising conference papers, and ensuring the needs of delegates are catered for. From the first hour of opening entries for abstracts to the last minute of closing entries for full papers (where most authors decide to submit their works), I have enjoyed the adrenaline rush that comes with the role. The mental and physical roller coaster was rewarded once a genuine sense of appreciation was expressed by conference delegates. I would like to use this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Dr Simon Smith and Dr Dominic Ahiaga-Dagbui for all their support. From personal tutorials on 'how to be an ARCOM secretary' to driving across the nation to deliver conference materials, they have been immensely helpful.

The 'success' of the 30th Annual ARCOM Conference has created further opportunities for my career. I have subsequently been invited to help organise a conference for a team of Criminologists at Loughborough University. Furthermore, I believe my role as ARCOM Conference Secretary was one of my selling points when I applied for jobs after my study. I have been offered a fulltime lecturing post at the University of Brighton and I hope I will be able to keep contributing to the good works of ARCOM from the south coast.

*Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo
2014 Conference Secretary
Nottingham Trent University*

Joint Engineering Project Organization Society (EPOS) and ARCOM Doctoral Symposium

The Engineering Project Organization Society (EPOS), in collaboration with ARCOM, will run a Doctoral Symposium to be held in conjunction with the Engineering Project Organization Conference at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (see www.epossociety.org/EPOC2015/). This builds on the success of two previous Ph.D. Days organised by EPOS in 2013 and 2014, and the regular series of doctoral research workshops run by ARCOM.

The Doctoral Symposium 2015 will be held before the start of the Engineering Project Organization Conference on Tuesday-Wednesday, 23-24 June 2015.

This Doctoral Symposium will focus on the theme of 'Novel methods in growing the field of engineering project organization'. Over the last decade, there is recognition that engineering project organization research has developed in methodological rigour (see e.g. Taylor and Jaselskis, 2010). Methodological debates of the mid-1990s (see e.g. Seymour and Rooke, 1995; Seymour, Crook and Rooke, 1997) have undoubtedly helped broadened the repertoire of methods applied in solving the problems of engineering project organization. Calls for embracing methodological pluralism have also promoted the growth of alternative approaches outside the confines of the positivistic traditions found in the natural sciences (see e.g. Dainty, 2009, and; Zou, Sunindijo and Dainty, 2014). Thus, conventional methods such as experimental work and survey research have gradually given way to ethnographies, action research and simulations.

While discussions on methodologies and methods have tended to be about their application in solving the problems of engineering project organization, there is also a need to consider how the field of engineering project organization can help advance methodological and method development more generally. Indeed, contribution to methodological and method development is in itself a contribution to knowledge that is worthy of a doctoral award. Therefore, this Doctoral Symposium will bring together Ph.D. researchers who are working with novel methods, both quantitative and qualitative, in engineering project organization research. In so doing, we seek to extend conversations about methodological and method development, with a view to raise the profile of engineering project organization research.

The Doctoral Symposium will be facilitated by a group of senior faculty members with a proven track record of researching engineering project organization. The symposium is designed to provide a unique, safe space for doctoral students to discuss their work with peers and established academics in the field. The symposium will begin at 10am on Tuesday 23 June 2015 and finish with lunch on Wednesday 24 June 2015. An indicative programme can be found as follows.

Tuesday 23 June

- 9:30am – 10:00am Arrival and registration
- 10:00am – 10:15am Introduction and welcome
- 10:15am – 11:15am Pitching in the wild: doctoral students will spend the first hour pitching their projects .
- 11:15am – 11:30am Coffee break
- 11:30am – 12:30pm Feedback from panel of mentors
- 12:30pm – 1:00pm Reflections on feedback
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm Lunch
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm Panel discussion; indicative topics include: Methodology and methods? Trends in the field of engineering project organisation research. Why methods and method development matter? Quantitative and/or qualitative research? Making research in the field of engineering project organisation count, and raising the quality. Methodological implications? For publishing, for seeking an academic post (tenure), for career development and profiling...
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm Reflections on panel discussion
- 3:30pm – 3:45pm Coffee break
- 3:45pm – 5:30pm Working in facilitated small group discussions to refine project pitches
- 5:30pm – 6:00pm Summary and close
- 7:00pm onwards Informal dinner and literary pub crawl

Wednesday 24 June

- 9:00am – 2:00pm The doctoral workshop will be open to a wider audience, and the doctoral students will present their novel methods at this workshop. Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

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Call for Proposals to run 'The ARCOM Seminar'

Building on the success of the ARCOM workshops, we are pleased to announce a new funding initiative, The ARCOM Seminar. The ARCOM Seminar is seen as a way to diversify existing provision of the ARCOM research/doctoral workshops and to raise the quality of the intellectual debate in the field of construction management research. The ARCOM Seminar should be distinctive from the established ARCOM research/doctoral workshops. To this end, the aim of the ARCOM Seminar is to sustain high-quality intellectual debates that would push the frontiers of knowledge in construction management research. The main objectives are:

1. To attract and engage leading scholars from the social science disciplines and fields of organisational and management studies who have an interest in, and can add value to, the field of construction management research;
2. To bring together a range of researchers (from early-career to established Professors) to actively discuss and debate on cutting-edge thinking and to provoke fresh agendas for construction management research, and;
3. To stimulate the production of scholarly outputs such as special journal issues and edited books.

If you are interested in hosting The ARCOM Seminar, you will need to complete an [application form](#) and email the completed form to info@arcom.ac.uk. It is important that you take note of a number of key principles of running the ARCOM Seminar. Participation in an ARCOM Seminar should be by invitation only. This does not preclude an open call, but prospective participants have to demonstrate the potential to actively contribute to the seminar discussion. Selection is typically made on the basis of an email application, with prospective participants stating their area of expertise, how their research interests and current work connect with the seminar theme, and what they hope to get out of the seminar.

Unlike the ARCOM research/doctoral workshop

where presenters have to prepare a six-page article for inclusion in a set of workshop proceedings, presenters at the ARCOM Seminar need not produce a full paper. Presenters may choose to produce an outline of their thoughts in a range of formats for the seminar (e.g. an extended abstract, a full paper, presentation slides, poster etc.), but the emphasis is on producing a coherent set of outputs after the seminar. Thus, the ARCOM Seminar should be viewed as a vehicle for stimulating further collaborative work (e.g. joint publications, special issue/edited book, research network etc.) after the event. **However, any output that is subsequently produced as a consequence of discussions at an ARCOM Seminar must acknowledge the financial support provided by ARCOM.** As the ARCOM Seminar is designed to encourage active participation of attendees, it is desirable to maintain a lower number of participants (i.e. maximum of around 20 participants). There is no fixed format for the ARCOM Seminar. A seminar can take place over a day or a residential weekend depending on interest and number of participants. A seminar can also be stand-alone or part of a coherent series.

Approval for the running of an ARCOM Seminar will be sanctioned by the ARCOM Seminar Working Group, based on (a) the contemporary nature of the proposal, **and** (b) its theoretical **and** provocative content. Proposers should also identify possible contributors, both within and outside of the construction management research community. Leading international scholars should also be invited where appropriate. Proposers should also work with the ARCOM Seminar Working Group member(s), who will play an active role in the organisation of the approved seminar. Finally, proposers should indicate intended outputs that can be developed after the seminar. In return for support of an ARCOM Seminar, proposers (who would normally be, but not restricted to, ARCOM members) must provide a summary/record of the event(s) for publication on the ARCOM website and/or newsletter. Please email info@arcom.ac.uk for informal queries about the ARCOM Seminar.

New Committee Members

Dr Niraj Thurairajah and **Dr Craig Thomson** have been elected as new Committee Members during the AGM 2014 in Portsmouth. Here is their personal profile.



Dr Niraj Thurairajah is the Director of Digital Construction Research Centre at Birmingham City University which explores wider impact of an information view of construction including the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM). Niraj's research interests cover people and process related aspects of built environment including how organisations and people work with technology, education and skills development, leadership and disaster resilience.

He previously held an academic coordinator position at the UK Higher Education Academy's Centre for Education in the Built Environment (CEBE). Between 2007-11, he has led several accelerating change initiatives to foster collaboration and dialogue between industry, higher education and professional bodies.



Dr Craig Thomson is a Lecturer in Sustainability and the Built Environment at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and Programme Leader for BSc Environmental Management. He holds a geography degree from University of Dundee, and followed this with 5 influential years with the Construction Management Research Unit (CMRU) at Dundee working on research in construction innovation, project management and maintenance management; gaining a MRes and PhD. Following a period within local government, he joined GCU in 2006 and has developed strong research interests in the areas of sustainability and project management; sustainability assessment, as well as leading the integration of sustainability within construction and project management teaching.

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31st Annual Conference and General Meeting, Lincoln, UK—Mon 7th—Wed 9th September 2015



Update on the conference.....

- The ARCOM committee has received 357 abstract submissions and invited the authors of 322 abstracts to submit full papers on a range of themes, including BIM and sustainability, and comparative studies (spotlight in 2015).
- Our rigorous three stage peer review is now 'double-blind' - the committee continually seek to increase the quality of the papers presented at the conference and also the processes which support the development of those papers.
- The Scientific Committee has been instated and first four papers received to date have been sent to review.
- The ARCOM committee held its February meeting in Lincoln and visited the facilities at the University of Lincoln. (see photos below)

For enquiries and information, please contact:

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