

Beyond surveys and interviews: Rethinking construction management research methods in disruptive times

Online Workshop (via Zoom), Friday 23 April 2021, 09:30h GMT to 15:30h GMT

Surveys and interviews with practitioners are well-established methods in construction management research. These methods are often used to capture perceptions and perspectives of practices in the architectural, engineering and construction (AEC) sector. In addition to these common methods, construction management researchers have also, over the past decade, increasingly adopted more engaged forms of scholarship such as ethnographic observations and action research.

Over the course of 2020, however, the Covid-19 pandemic has severely disrupted our everyday routines. With safe-distancing measures and travel restrictions in place, it has become increasingly difficult to engage with practitioners in our usual ways. For PhD researchers, these can be unsettling times as the fallout from the pandemic prolongs. Yet, is there also a silver lining in this crisis? Are there novel ways that we can turn to in order to find more creative solutions to get closer to practice? Is this also a moment to reflect on the limitations of our usual methods, to move away from perception-based data to find new (and perhaps more valid and reliable) representations of what goes on in practice?

In this workshop, we seek to bring together PhD and early-career researchers to share their experiences and exchange ideas on how we can undertake research that engages with industry practice in a meaningful way. This workshop also provides a platform for discussing methodological fit, i.e. how we can ensure that the method(s) we choose fits appropriately with the question we are trying to address and the contribution we are seeking to make. In so doing, we will explore novel methods that can help us achieve methodological fit and circumvent the disruptions faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. The workshop will also comprise a number of provocations to get us to think beyond the usual methods of doing surveys and research interviews.

In order to participate in this workshop, we ask that you submit an Expression of Interest by completing the form: <https://tinyurl.com/RethinkingCMMETHODS>. In this form, you will be asked to outline the following: (i) a brief description of your research, including the research question and overarching aim; (ii) the methods that you had initially planned for, and how these may have changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and; (iii) the challenges that you face and how you are trying to overcome these. The deadline for submitting the Expression of Interest is **23:59h on Thursday 1 April 2021**.

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