



## CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

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February 2007

### Forthcoming Meeting

#### W092 – Procurement Systems

## International Conference: Interdisciplinarity and Multidisciplinary Intersections in Built Environment Procurement



23-26 September 2007, New Castle, Australia

by

Dr. Kerry London

### Introduction

To understand policy, process and practice procurement issues researchers are crossing disciplinary boundaries. Procurement is underpinned by the organisational strategy which brings together multidisciplinary teams at all levels in the supply chain.

This conference seeks to explore research and practice intersections between the traditional internal built environment disciplines (architecture, construction management, construction economics, property, facilities management) and the external traditional humanities disciplines (economics, business, sociology, law, design, linguistics, management).

Researchers tend to borrow, hybridise and develop new common ground. Disciplines carry images of being static, controlled, rigorous, conservative and well grounded but can also be too specialised, lack real world applicability, simplistic, rigid and lacking in

innovation. Interdisciplinarity carries connotations of and is valued as being dynamic, flexible, liberal and innovative and yet can be vague, lacking in 'discipline' and rigor.

How do we develop greater insights and capacity to understand procurement issues through interdisciplinary practice and multidisciplinary problems?

### Conference Themes

- Interdisciplinary context and discourse
- Interdisciplinary patterns of study: borrowing, hybridisation and common ground
- Interdisciplinary intersections: ontology, epistemology, methodology, modelling and methods



## Topics:

Policy, process and practice problems within:

- International Procurement: working across space, time and physical boundaries
- Built Environment Professionals: new professionals arising from intersections of disciplines
- Project delivery: working within multidisciplinary teams
- SMEs: social, cultural and economic influencing factors on design, construction and management firms
- Technology and systems: 'others' involved in the designing, constructing, procuring and managing of built assets through technology and systems
- Supply chain procurement: projects crystallise various supply chains linking diverse firm types

## Keynote Speakers

- Professor Roger Flanagan, Reading University
- Professor Steven Kellman, Harvard University

## Important Dates

Submission of full papers: **1 April 2007**  
Notification of acceptance & feedback: **18 May 2007**  
Final submission of papers: **8 June 2007**  
Early bird registration: **18 May 2007**  
Final date for registration: **8 June 2007**  
Conference dates: **23 Sept – 26 September 2007**

## Additional Information

Conference Chair: Dr Kerry London  
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