

TG23 - Culture in Construction



The inaugural meeting of TG23 - Culture in Construction will be in Cambridge, United Kingdom on 18th September 1997.

This has been scheduled to follow immediately the annual meeting of the *Association of Researchers in*

Construction Management - ARCOM.

TG23 has two joint Coordinators and we are pleased to present them below.

Dr. Richard Fellows

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Richard Fellows has a Bachelors Degree in Building Economics and a PhD in Construction Management. He is a Fellow of the UK Chartered Institute of Building and of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He has worked for a number of contractors in the UK.

Currently, he is Reader in Construction Management at the University of Bath and Director of Studies for the MSc in Construction Management. Richard's specialisms are in Construction Economics and Construction Law. Increasing lecturing and research in countries outside the UK have fostered interest in the factors which may give rise to why processes and performances vary - most notably, following the belief that, 'Management is making and implementing decisions concerning people,' there is a direct path to the notion that Culture is the critical variable to understand. Previous major research into various aspects of construction performance and market factors have confirmed the essential of the human factors in securing good performance. His current research into the effects of Culture on performance of construction projects demonstrates further the extent of understanding yet to be gained; continuous improvement through rigorous research is essential.

Dr. David E. Seymour

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David Seymour has Degrees in English Literature, Spanish and Sociology as well as a PhD in Construction Management. He has taught English in Canada and Italy and has taught and researched construction management at undergraduate and postgraduate levels since 1970.

He is currently Senior Lecturer and Leader of the Project and Construction Management Research Group at the School of Civil Engineering, University of Birmingham.

In view of his background, he has long had an interest in language and in the details of how people communicate with each other in the construction process and, particularly, in their views of it all. This interest has been intensified in recent years as a result of research done in Chile, India and Yemen and of having become a member of the International Group on Lean Construction. The Group's work

demonstrates how improvements can be achieved through detailed and systematic attention to the way processes are carried out and stresses the importance of understanding the meanings and 'mental models' which inform them.

His current research includes applying methods of continuous improvement to construction processes and examining the effects that the use of the New Engineering Contract may have on culture change.