

ARCOM 2020

Building A Common Good in Construction – Call for Track Proposals.

Glasgow Caledonian University will play host to the 2020 ARCOM Conference, returning to Scotland and the welcoming city of Glasgow. It is right and fitting that we should focus on the chosen theme for the conference in 2020 and it is also fitting that Glasgow host us for this tremendous opportunity!

In the AEC sector, is it appropriate to say we have championed 'building a common good' and can we be recognised as a leader in this area? We have an opportunity to create an environment where this agenda can be discussed.

The ARCOM community has been building the "Common Good" throughout its thirty-five year history, that is what makes it such a strong network today. The bringing together of like-minded individuals conspiring to make the world in which we live a better place has been an underpinning goal of the organisation since its inception. The 2020 conference, at the Glasgow Caledonian University, will strive to keep on that tradition building on our past but also shaping the future!

We are calling on ARCOM research leaders and scholars to share their vision and experience, looking from within and outside of the field of construction. The main conference theme will focus on 'building a common good in the AEC sector', and the call for track proposals is now open.

With a population of around 620,000 people, Glasgow, situated on the River Clyde in the country's West Central Lowlands, remains the third most populous city in the UK. Inhabitants of the city are referred to as "Glaswegians" or "Weegies". Glasgow's impressive historical and modern architectural traditions have been celebrated down the years. Modern buildings in Glasgow include the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and along the banks of the Clyde are the Glasgow Science Centre, The Hydro and the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, which includes the Clyde Auditorium (the Armadillo to Glaswegians) which was designed by Sir Norman Foster. Back in 2006, Zaha Hadid won a competition to design the new Museum of Transport which opened on the waterfront in 2011, it is now called the Riverside Museum. The positive impact on the local area and community is the distinctive historical architecture, and of particular note is the 19th-century Victorian architecture, and of course the early-20th-century "Glasgow Style", as developed by now infamous Charles Rennie Mackintosh. We both encourage scholars to experience Glasgow and its welcoming community but also to embrace our research topics from different angles, maybe by stepping outside conventional wisdom, or exposing new research and fields of enquiry make a huge contribution to the 2020 conference.

The Glaswegian way has been not to relent after the 'common good' and it has always tried to set itself apart from the other cities by its commitment to recognising and actively seeking to address global social challenges; participating in the

community at a local, national or global level and in the Built Environment a commitment to sustainability/ environmental issues but also agendas like fuel poverty, social justice, climate justice and from a construction management perspective health and safety, migrant workers etc. Any mature city evolves over time and the engagement in the 1700s by the philosopher, Adam Smith, the first proponent of 'the common good' has certainly impacted well across society in Glasgow. His legacy lives on and there are many fine examples of the impact of his early work.

Creating a forum for discourse and debate among researchers in construction on 'building our common good' will create a significant event where in time those in AEC education and research will celebrate our contributions!

We therefore call for **track proposals** that address the changing nature of society through the built environment, in the construction industry. We welcome proposals of around 750 words (excluding the list of references) that respond to one or more of the following questions:

- There are a number of challenges in society where the influence of those in academia can provide a depth of context, an example that resonates relates to 'building the common good', where discourse and debate will provide that environment for change. For example, how might the construction sector influence society? What improvement strategies matter? What empirical evidence exists to show that certain strategies work more than others?
- Cities or urban developed areas with large population are important to society, mainly because human, social and economic activities have been concentrating there. Is that concentration positive for the 'common good'; how do we evaluate that? These are questions that should be discussed by the ARCOM research community.
- The AEC sector consumes 40% of natural resources globally, produces 40% of global waste and 33% of emissions (Ness & Xing, 2017) the pursuit of sustainable buildings is dominated by a focus on carbon neutrality and green, often overlooking resource consumption and its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and planetary degradation. Accordingly, a track might endeavour to focus and discuss the importance of a resource-efficient built environment, which enables required functions to be delivered with less assets, and to put forward an approach toward this objective and others.
- The notion of the 'common good' extends to future generations. So should we speak of sustainable development without considering other factors. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we should realize that the world is a gift which we

have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. What does the ARCOM research community want to contribute to the future generations? Or even to the debate and discourse?

- Is there a point to developing metrics to capture how well the AEC sector is doing around making a social contribution? In construction, policy-makers, researchers and practitioners have tended to focus on quantitative approaches, so could we better capture that contribution? If so how? What theoretical and methodological innovation can help us better blend quantitative and qualitative understandings of the sectors contribution to society?
- Where are the women in the construction workforce? With plenty of empirical data to demonstrate that more diverse teams perform better in the AEC sector is it time we devoted more to the discourse around this topic. What and/or how can aspects of a 'common good' approach influence change? How do we capture the evidence?

Informal queries and track proposals should be sent (in .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats) to tracks@arcom.ac.uk by **Friday 3rd May 2019 at 2359hrs GMT**. Please include a title for your track proposal, and the name(s) and affiliation(s) of the track proposers. Decision on final track proposals for ARCOM 2020 will be communicated by mid May and accepted tracks will be published in the Call for Papers for ARCOM 2020.

References:

Ness, D. A., & Xing, K. (2017). Toward a resource-efficient built environment: A literature review and conceptual model. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, 21(3), 572–592

We look forward to receiving your track proposals.

Professor Lloyd Scott
ARCOM 2020 Conference Chair