



Department of Civil Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
The University of Hong Kong



Centre for Infrastructure and
Construction Industry Development

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
faculty of architecture 建築學院
Department of Real Estate and Construction 房地產及建設系

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RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION TRENDS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

By

Will Hughes

Professor of Construction Management and Economics, University of Reading
Editor-in-Chief, Construction Management and Economics

Date: **September 13, 2010 (Monday)**

Time: **3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Venue: Room **526**, 5/F, **Knowles Building**, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

As Universities around the world face increasing costs and decreasing income, there are ever greater pressures on academics to do more for less. Recent developments in league tables and University rankings have added to the usual pressures of carrying out good teaching and good research. It is now incumbent on academics to demonstrate the quality of what they do by producing measurable outputs. Researchers are being pushed by their employers to publish only in journals that are included in certain lists, and academics seem to be making decisions about what and where to publish based on the impact that their papers will have in league tables. As a result, the motivation to publish is often more associated with demonstrating that an academic is active, rather than with reporting the results of research. How does this impact the quality of research that is being reported? In some countries, governments are selectively targeting specific areas of University activity for investment, and starving other areas of funds. In an applied area like built environment research, practitioners and academics are sometimes too close for comfort, and other times too distant from each other to be able to relate effectively to each others' needs. Publishers and funders of research are acutely aware of the need to be able to demonstrate business cases for publications and for funding research respectively. In many parts of the world, these conflicting pressures are leading to academic agendas being re-written. This seminar is aimed at exploring these issues and tensions so that attendees can develop tactics and strategies that will help them to develop effective research and publication agendas.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Will Hughes, MCIQB, BSc, PhD is Professor of Construction Management and Economics of the School of Construction Management and Engineering, University of Reading. He also currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the internationally renowned peer-reviewed journal – Construction Management and Economics. He has an international reputation in the field of construction procurement and project organization, focusing on commercial processes in construction procurement. His work at Reading has included major textbooks in construction contract law, as well as numerous publications on the organization and management of construction. His research interests include the control and management of building contracts, the management of design in construction, the analysis of organizational structure, and the analysis of procurement systems. The focus of his work is the commercial processes of structuring, negotiating, recording and enforcing business deals in construction.

- ALL ARE WELCOME -

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