



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

1967 - 2017 50 YEARS

So BE it

School of the Built Environment Newsletter

November 2017, Issue 03

SoBE International Research Week

During the week 11-15 September, SoBE hosted its International Research Week in partnership with the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), and the GM



Chamber of Commerce. The event was opened by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Helen Marshall, and attended by over 400 presenters and delegates, and over 20 exhibitors. These international industry experts gathered to showcase and discuss the latest developments in the construction sector in a bid to help shape tomorrow's built environment. The event also included the 13th International PGR Conference (IPGRC). Feedback from delegates has shown it to be a well-received event, with the expectation to continue similar events in future. Full conference proceedings from the IRC and 13th IPGRC are available on USIR: <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/44058/> and <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/43913/>, respectively.

Congratulations!

At the 13th International PGR Conference, the following members of SoBE received prizes for their papers / poster:

- **Taha Al-Obaidi & Anthony Higham:** CIB best paper award on property and project management research for the paper *Examining And Mapping The Bidding Process of Iraqi Quasi-Governmental Construction Companies*
- **Ahmad Shabat & Chika Udeaja:** CIB award for best poster, titled *The Relationships Between Travel Patterns And Urban Land Use: Realising the 21st Century Gaza City?*
- **Rana Muhammad Qasim & Zeeshan Aziz:** Best paper on Construction ICT for the paper *Improving Productivity Of Road Surfacing Operations By Using Value Stream Mapping And Discrete Event Simulation*
- **Hamed Samir, Claudia Trillo & Antonio Toriello:** Dean's prize for best paper award for built environment research for the paper *Managing Challenges to Local Culture In Construction: Preserving Architectural Identity In the City Of Basra*

International Workshop Grant

Dr Komal Aryal, Research Fellow, has been selected to present his research at the 1st International Workshop on 'Seismic Loss, Rehabilitation and Post-Earthquake Crisis Management of Critical Infrastructure', to be held in



Istanbul, Turkey, 20-24 November 2017. The workshop will be jointly organised by Istanbul Technical University, Turkey and The University of Sheffield, UK. The event was funded by the Researchers' Link programme of the British Council and TUBITAK. During the workshop Komal will share his ongoing longitudinal research on the cascading impacts of the 2015 Nepal Gorkha Twin Earthquakes.

Inspire Summit

On 6 September, Nicky Harris, Nova Turner and Andy Fleming attended the Inspire Summit for the construction, housing and engineering sectors at the Bridgewater Hall. The event was aimed at improving the inclusiveness and diversity of the construction industry. This



event supported the School's Athena Swan agenda whilst raising awareness of low numbers of females in the Built Environment sector and how this can be addressed. Nicky and Nova gave insightful accounts of their careers in the industry, whilst Andy Fleming gave a presentation highlighting potential courses and apprenticeship opportunities. The event was attended by industry professionals, professional bodies and students, and an invitation to attend next year's event!

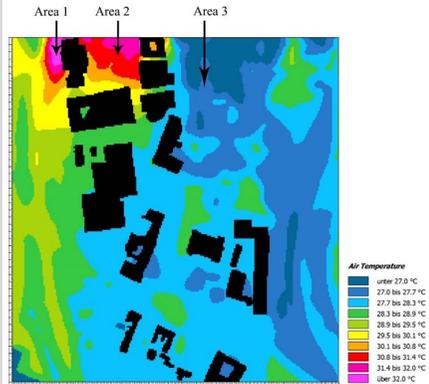
Academic Writing Club

A shared aim of SoBE is to improve writing outputs, particularly with REF 2021 on the horizon. Professor Jason Underwood and Dr Nick Davies invite colleagues to meet on a monthly basis, bring drafts and ideas, discuss, and write in relative silence, in a supportive, inclusive, collegiate and inspiring atmosphere, away from the interruptions of the everyday. Ultimately, the group aims to highlight and encourage the pleasure of writing. The workshops are open to all staff with the first scheduled for 8 November, 13:00-15:00 (venue tbc). Refreshments will be provided. Please contact n.j.davies@salford.ac.uk if you wish to attend.



Campus Thermal Conditions Study

At the International Research Conference 2017, Mohammad Taleghani presented a paper on the thermal conditions within our University campus. The study, in collaboration with Dr Richard Fitton and Professor Will Swan, looks at air temperature within the campus, using a Computational Fluid



Dynamic (CFD) program, ENVI-met. It was shown that during a heatwave in summer, there could be up to a 5°C temperature difference between the vegetated park and the dark stony areas. The authors are continuing this research for the upcoming winter with the expectation that the results will help us to have a more thermally comfortable campus.

ABERG Research Update

The Applied Buildings and Energy Research Group (ABERG) will have two papers appearing in Energy and Buildings regarding their world leading retrofit work that was undertaken with Saint Gobain. Working with the team at Leeds



Beckett, the team undertook a staged retrofit of the Salford Energy House to get an understanding of how different retrofit measures impact the energy efficiency of a property. The retrofit, which was carried out using commercially available products, led to a 63% reduction in heating energy. However, what made the study unique was that, thanks to the team's ability to control conditions, the retrofit was deconstructed stage by stage. This allowed the team to test the performance of the retrofit measures independently. More detail on the high level results can be found [here](#).

Mobilise Project Launch

On World Humanitarian Day 2017, the “Multi-agency Platform for Building Resilient Communities (MOBILISE)” project was launched. This project is funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF)



and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The project was officially launched by Professor Terrence Fernando, Principal Investigator, with Co-Investigators, Dr Chaminda Pathirage and Dr Udayangani Kulatunga, in the presence of academics and senior government officials responsible for disaster risk management from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia and the UK, and Ms. Luana Avagliano, Head of Resilience Direct, Civil Contingency Secretariat, Cabinet Office, UK. Prof. Karl Dayson, Dean of Research, welcomed the international partners on behalf of the University.

UN International Conference Invitation

Dr Komal Aryal, Research Fellow in the THINKlab, has been invited by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA), as a disaster risk governance



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

UN-SPIDER
www.un-spider.org

expert, to organise a session at the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction - "Building Resilience through Integrated Applications", 23-25 October, Beijing, China. The conference is organised in collaboration with The Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MoFA); the China National Space Administration (CNSA); the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO); and, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (RCSSTEAP).

THINKLab Annual Seminar Series

On 27 October 2017, the THINKlab started a Seminar Series on Local Risk Response and Resilience Planning in collaboration with the Centre for Disaster Resilience, which will take place over 2017/2018. The seminar series intends to enhance students' and researchers' positive experience at the University of Salford by:



- creating opportunities to interact with possible future employers or senior academics in disaster studies.
- providing information during the series of events on paid and unpaid internships in the UK and abroad, job and further studies opportunities, research funding programmes and study visits etc.

For further details, please click [here](#).

Resilience Direct Annual Conference

On 6 September 2017 Professor Terrence Fernando presented THINKlab's expertise in Disaster Management at the ResilienceDirect Annual Conference held at UKFast Head Office. Chaired by Luana Avagliano, Head of Resilience Direct, the event focused on facilitating knowledge transfer, promoting best practice, and the role of technology in providing resilience connectivity. Speakers included John Nichol who was shot down during the first Gulf War in 1991, and Lawrence Jones MBE, founder and CEO of UKFast. Terrence participated in the Resilience Room 101 session and THINKlab showcased our virtual incident training environments, flood simulation platforms and CityData Explorer, a local intelligence platform for multi-agency collaboration.



£1m Innovate UK funded project success!

We are delighted to announce securement of a £1m Innovate UK Project to create a “Virtual Incident Training Simulation Platform”. The THINKLab research team will be led by Professor Terrence Fernando with Dr Simon Campion working alongside Sean Murphy and the Evidential team. The project



brings together Evidential, who specialise in the presentation of evidential material, and the THINKLab, who have an international reputation in the area of virtual reality technology and applications. The project aims to create a fully immersive and adaptable training platform, giving the User power to create their own scenarios and introduces artificial intelligence, which creates unique experiences each time. This will create a platform for collaborative training amongst Emergency Services across the world and have significant societal impact in creating a safer environment for people to live in.

SoBE School Away Day

On 22 September, SoBE staff members had their biannual away day, which was held at the stunning Mottram Hall. The day was relaxed and enjoyable, and colleagues had an opportunity to take in the beautiful grounds before going head to head on the Enigma challenge: six



teams battling it out to be crowned winners in a fast-paced team building experience against the clock. Congratulations to the winning team: Tim Blackburn, Nikki Carter, Damilola Ekundayo, Joanne Elson, Thomas Hillsdon, Diane Lloyd, Alex Marshall, Peter McDermott, Athina Moustaka, and Ged Wood!

Remodelling facades to aid thermal environments, Abuja

Nigeria is struggling to meet its current energy demands; therefore, it is important to examine whether improvements made to future housing design can assist in reducing their energy use. This paper evaluates the performance of four of Abuja's common housing types and examines the impact of changing their fenestration design on occupants' comfort, using validated simulation. The investigation indicated a significant reduction in both the frequency of thermal and visual discomfort by adjusting the orientation of the facades and through the integration of shading components.

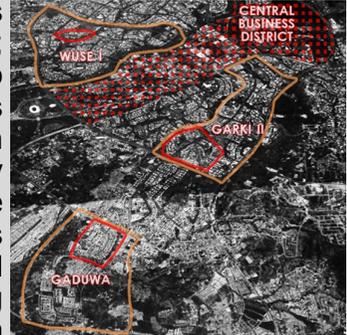


Image: Satellite photograph of Abuja showing the development of the city

RenoZEB Project Launch

The RenoZEB project, funded by the EC under H2020-EEB programme (£342,521) was launched in Brussels on 18-19 October 2017. The project will explore accelerating energy renovation solutions for zero energy buildings and



neighbourhoods. In this project, the THINKlab team is leading the work on the project energy efficient and value based concept and mapping it to construct a holistic methodology and decision-making support for near zero energy renovation. The THINKlab team will also develop a knowledge-based tool and integration within a collaborative platform. For further information, please contact Terrence Fernando (PI) t.fernando@salford.ac.uk or May Bassanino (Co-I) m.n.bassanino@salford.ac.uk

Congratulations!

At the School's recent Staff Away Day, the following received an award for their contributions in the listed categories:

- Dr Richard Fitton, Research & Innovation
- Nicky Harris, Engagement Award
- Charlotte Houghton, Administration
- Dr Ged Wood, Teaching & Learning

Congratulations to Simon McLean on his promotion to Senior Lecturer.

Congratulations also to recently graduated Ammar Dakhil who was Highly Commended for the Herbert Walton Award 2017 by the Association for Project Management (APM) for his thesis.

New Starters

Academics

- Professor Angela Lee, Associate Dean Engagement & International (commencing January 2018)

Professional Support Services

- Ms Annette Clare, interim PA to Dean of School

PhD Students

- Nourhan Abdelrahman, Supervisor: Hisham Elkadi
- Manal Al-Adwani, Supervisor: Andrew Fleming
- Mohamed Alhajeri, Supervisor: Zeeshan Aziz
- Robbie Beattie, Supervisor: Paul Tracey
- Lester, Ellyn, Supervisor: Will Swan
- Paul Long, Supervisor: Paul Coates
- Bernard Nzau, Supervisor: Claudia Trillo
- Itohoimo Obot, Supervisor: Chika Udejaja
- Ali Rachid, Supervisor: Paul Coates

PGR Successes

Student	Award	Supervisor
Laith Al-Ossmi	PhD	Vian Ahmed
Hasan Bayanouni	PhD	Zeeshan Aziz
Waleed El Nemr	PhD	Brodie McAdams
Siti Sarah Herman	PhD	Joanna Poon
Paul Jones	DBEnv	Julian Holder
Bhakti More	PhD	David Baldry
Emmanuel Olatokun	PhD	Chaminda Pathirage
Michael Potts	PhD	Peter McDermott
Leslie Sellers	DBEnv	Paul Chynoweth
Hisham Tariq	MPhil	Terrence Fernando

Changes to Academic Staff Roles

We are delighted to announce the following appointments:

- Dr Paul Chynoweth, Director Property and Building Surveying Directorate
- Brodie McAdam, Director Construction and Management Directorate
- Professor Peter Walker, Director Architecture and Digital Technology Directorate
- From the beginning of November, Professor Will Swan will be the Associate Dean Research.

Dr Udaya Kulatunga will be leaving SoBE in January 2018, returning to Sri Lanka. We wish her all the best and would like to thank her for all her hard work during her time with us.

Got a story to share?

Please email details (100 words max) and a photo / image to Charlotte Houghton, c.a.m.houghton1@salford.ac.uk