

2nd International Workshop “When social science meets lean and BIM”

Venue: University of Helsinki, CRADLE

Date: November 25-26, 2013

Lean construction and building information modeling are central means of ongoing transformation in construction industry. However, the conditions for implementation and outcomes of course depend upon social phenomena, and a question about the needs and opportunities for a social science perspective in this context arises.

It can be argued that the current transformation, happening just under our eyes, provides a challenge for social science oriented research, by its nature multi-paradigmatic and fragmented. Historically, the field of management, understood as social science, has dissociated itself from concerns related to design and production. This provides a challenging problem at the outset when it comes to explaining phenomena that are intrinsically embedded in productive activities. However, some approaches, such as socio-technical systems approach, activity theory, actor network theory and technomethodology, embrace phenomena belonging to production and the uses of artifacts, and provide new possibilities.

The current transformation is also a major opportunity for social science researchers to observe such interesting social and psychological phenomena as creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, commitment and trust, which may lead to improved methods and models of management. The evolving landscape provides many interesting puzzles and contradictions for researchers to study.

In view of these issues, the ambition of the workshop is to discuss and clarify the following: What are the important social science research questions in relation to Lean and BIM? Which social science approaches and methods are effective and useful in this context? How can we reconcile the apparent contradictions between technological, sociological and psychological viewpoints to construction activity?

Organised by CRADLE (Center for Research on Activity, Development and Learning) of the University of Helsinki in collaboration with the School of the Built Environment of the University of Salford and Aalto University.

Chairs of the workshop:

Professor Reijo Miettinen, University of Helsinki

Professor Lauri Koskela, University of Salford

Professor Jan Holmström, Aalto University

The workshop consists of presentations of senior researchers and representatives of industry (about 30 min) and of PhD students (about 15 min).

Abstract submission: Please, submit your presentation abstract on one page by September 30 (to jenni.korpela@helsinki.fi). (It is expected that each presenter will have slides to share. A written paper or summary of the presentation is optional but not necessary)

Registration of participation: Please, inform about your intention to participate by October 18 by an email to jenni.korpela@helsinki.fi

See further information <http://www.helsinki.fi/cradle/bim/SocScLeanBIM>