

# The Wellbeing W099 Newsletter

An official CIB Publication

Issue 2 (March 2021)



## 'Virtual' Conference Delegates - Glasgow 2020



This one-day conference was due to be held at Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow Campus, but became an on-line event due to restrictions on conference attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GCU Built Environment & Asset Management (BEAM) Centre hosted the conference, which is the third of its type held in the UK and the first in Scotland. Since 1996, this is the 28th meeting focused on at least one of the CIB groups' topics. The conference provided an international forum for researchers and practitioners to put forward their research and ideas on how to improve safety, health, wellbeing, and the life of people in construction. The theme of this year's conference was "Good health, wellbeing, and decent work", aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 (good health and wellbeing) & 8 (decent work and economic growth). Proceedings of the Joint CIB W099 & TG59 International Web-Conference 2020: Good Health, Wellbeing & Decent Work

### Conference Proceedings

Conference Proceedings available for download by clicking the file below



### In this issue

W099/TG59 Conference .....	2
Conference Proceedings .....	3
Award Winners .....	4
W099/W123 2021 Event .....	5
COVID & Construction .....	6
W123 People in Construction .....	8
CIB Flag .....	9



## Review of Joint CIB W099 & TG59 International Web-Conference

Prior to the global lockdown, the conference received 99 abstracts. Post lockdown, 39 scientific research papers were submitted and after a strict peer-review process, 32 were accepted for publication. These papers had 81 authors from 15 countries, demonstrating the global research community that contributes to the groups' important research areas:

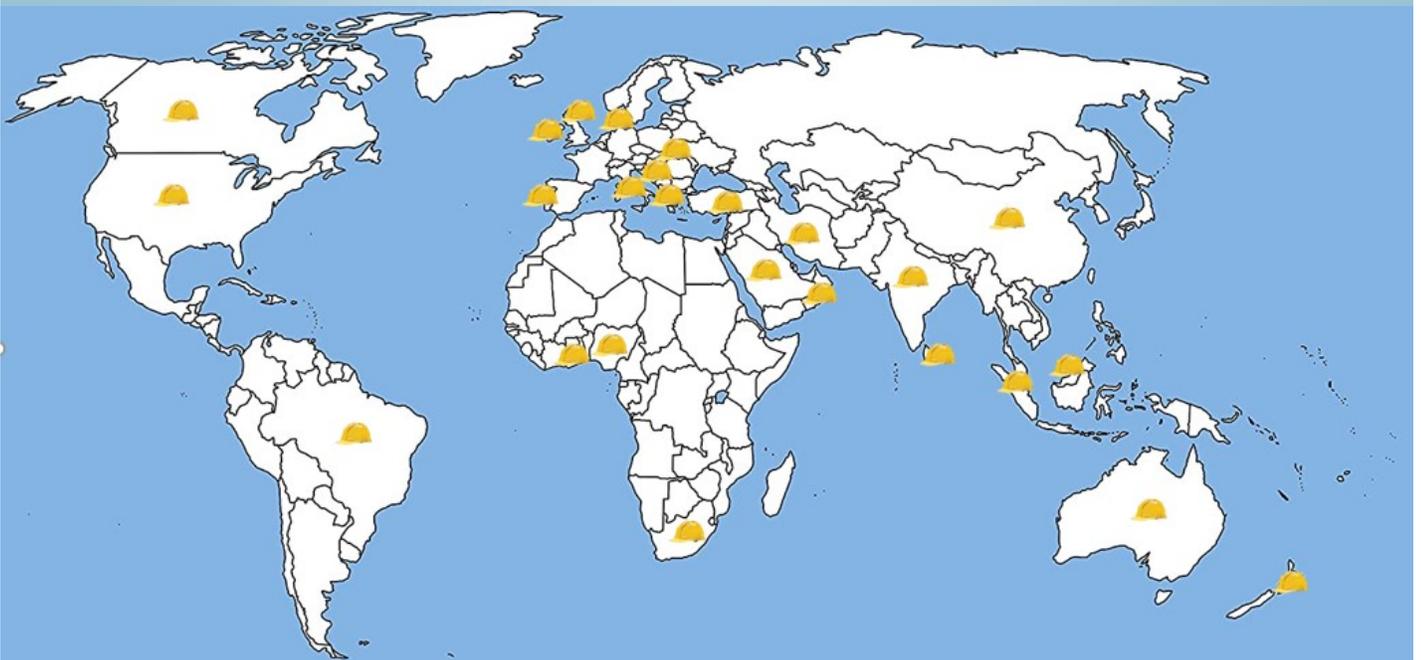
Paper were divided into six themes:

- Healthy Bodies
- Healthy Minds
- Digital Solutions
- Policy & Performance
- Design & Technical Skills
- Leadership & Engagement

Country	No. of Authors
Australia	8
Brazil	4
China	6
Croatia	3
Ghana	1
Greece	1
Ireland	1
Oman	1
Portugal	2
S. Africa	21
Saudi Arabia	1
Singapore	4
Slovakia	1
UK	24
USA	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>



## Conference Delegates

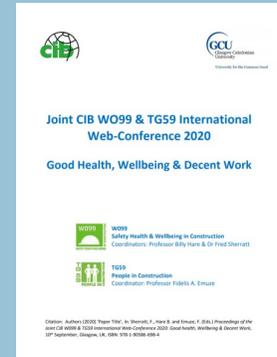




## Conference Proceedings

The proceedings are published under the umbrella of the CIB, the purpose of which is to provide a global network for international exchange and cooperation in building and construction research and innovation. 'CIB' is the acronym of the French (former) name: "Conseil International du Bâtiment" (in English this is: International Council for Building) first established in 1953. In the course of 1998, the abbreviation has been kept but the full name changed into: International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction. CIB has a world-wide network of over 5000 experts from about 500 member organisations active in the research community, in industry or in education. They cooperate and exchange information in over 50 CIB Commissions covering all fields in building and construction related research and innovation. These include Working Group 099 (Construction Safety, Health and Wellbeing) and Technical Group 59 (People in Construction).

### Download Proceedings here



## W099 Working Group Committee Meeting (Sept 2020)

Previous minutes (2 September 2019) accepted as an accurate account of the meeting

- 2021** 8th – 10th September 2021 confirmed
- Conference** Plan for a blended event with face to face (if possible) and web-conference audience. Theme – suggested 'lessons learned from 2020 covid' theme
- 2023 Venue** Consider alternating face to face with web-conference, allowing institutions who are unable to host a face to face. Invitation for expressions of interest will be circulated (Prof B Hare).
- Newsletter** Now that we have a network to draw on to produce it as well as a wide content of people to contribute, a regular newsletter should be circulated. Member input needed.
- TG59** Now officially Working Commission W123. It was agreed that cross-disciplinary collaborations between other TGs and WCs should be encouraged.
- AOB** It was agreed webinar series should continue with a specific topic presentation followed by discussion. M Behm suggested W99 lead a student workshop. CIB W099 Archive: if/when website established (Prof J Smallwood has/is digitising records. B Hare suggested that webspace should be purchased if next the 2021 was economically successful, a permanent website is required. Prof F Emuze suggested that all events should be costed to allow funding maintaining the website. M Behm suggested that the Commission Co-ordinator should petition CIB to have a better website allowing for individual groups webpages. F Sherratt & B Hare will gather support from group members as well as other co-ordinators from other working groups for inclusion at the CIB Meeting in October.



## Award Winners

An on-line vote at the end of the conference placed 'Digital Solutions' as the favourite theme.

There were awards for best papers in two categories: The Jimmie Hinze Best Paper & Best Student Paper

**Jimmie Hinze Best Paper:** Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Workshop: Reducing Stress of Construction Professional (Mei-yung Leung & Khursheed Ahmed)

**Best Student Paper:** Impacting Construction Health and Safety Performance Using Virtual Reality - A Scoping Study Review (Mark Swallow & Sam Zulu)

### Jimmi Hinze Prize



**Prof Mei-yung Leung & Dr Khursheed Ahmed** from City University Hong Kong were awarded the Jimmie Hinze Award for their paper titled: Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Workshop: Reducing Stress of Construction Professional

### Best Student Paper



**Dr Mark Swallow** from Leeds Beckett University was awarded the Best Student Paper Award for his paper titled:

Impacting Construction Health and Safety Performance Using Virtual Reality - A Scoping Study Review

### Commendations were also given for first and second runner-up papers:

1st Runner Up (Silver): Tuning into Heat: Acclimatisation on Construction Site and Horizontal Integration in Major Project Management (Andrea Y. Jia, Dean Gilbert, Nicholas Tymvios, Yang Miang Goh, Michael Behm, Steve Rowlinson)

2nd Runner Up (Bronze): Impact of construction work environment on quality of life of ageing workforce (Alex Torqu, Turker Bayrak, Stephen Ogunlana, Albert Ping Chuen Chan, Amos Darko and De-Graft Owusu-Manu)



## W099 & W123 Annual International Conference 2021

As the 2020 Glasgow event was curtailed due to the global pandemic, we are delighted that the Conference will run again this year. We had hoped this would be a 'blended' format of both virtual and actual delegates. However, to ensure the safety of all of you, the 2021 Conference will be a fully online event taking place over 2½ days.

If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting a future W099 & W123 Annual Conference, please send your expression of interest to : [B.Hare@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:B.Hare@gcu.ac.uk)



[Further details can be found here: WWW.W099W1232021.com](http://WWW.W099W1232021.com)



## Objectives & Scope

### W099 (Construction Safety, Health and Wellbeing):

The Commission is committed to the advancement of safety health and wellbeing of construction workers. The tools necessary to accomplish this end include designing, preplanning, training, management commitment and the development of a safety culture. A country's involvement with construction safety, health and wellbeing is influenced by factors like: varying labour forces, shifting economies, insurance rates, legal ramifications and technological development.

### TG59 (People in Construction):

The Task Group focuses on "boots on the ground" managers, professionals and workers. The Task Group aims to involve representatives of employers, workers and governments, and researchers in both developed and developing countries, and aims to foster dialogue and collaboration. Main research activities of the Task Group focuses on various items related to people in construction, including: competencies, aging workers, gender issues, disability, work and labour conditions, H&S, work/life conditions and socio-economic issues, stress, respect for people, skills supply and employment relationships.



## COVID-19 and Construction: Early lessons for a new normal?

Wendy Jones, Vivien Chow Alistair Gibb  
Loughborough University



This research was commissioned to provide a rapid ‘snapshot’ of the impact of COVID-19 on construction. There are opportunities for further work to build on the findings: to improve understanding of the impact of the changes made, what benefits may arise from their adoption long term and what measures might be needed to ensure that new ‘good behaviours’ are retained.

The response to COVID-19 seems to have been rapid and effective on the six projects studied for this research. Site layouts and working practices have seen substantial changes in a short space of time and these changes have been successful and generally well received. There is emerging evidence of additional benefits to worker effectiveness and productivity and a perception of improved safety and health.

“this isn’t actually too bad; this is how we should have done this in the first place”

More time is spent planning work tasks; with front-line workers typically deployed in smaller groups than usual and trades working in sequence rather than side by side. This has led to increased worker effectiveness and productivity, and improved housekeeping on most sites. It has helped to mitigate project challenges arising from other COVID-19 impacts, such as a reduced workforce and problems with material supply. There may well be long term gains from maintaining these ways of working.

There is a perception that general safety and health risk might have been reduced as a consequence of increased planning, fewer workers and improved

housekeeping. Changes made to induction processes and to welfare and hygiene arrangements were reported and have the potential to improve the safety, wellbeing and motivation of the workforce if maintained longer term.

At the same time, there have been very high demands on many of the staff involved in managing or re-planning sites and projects, with adverse impacts on wellbeing for some. It is important that relevant employees have time and opportunity to recover and regroup, particularly as a ‘second wave’ of COVID-19 could make further demands.

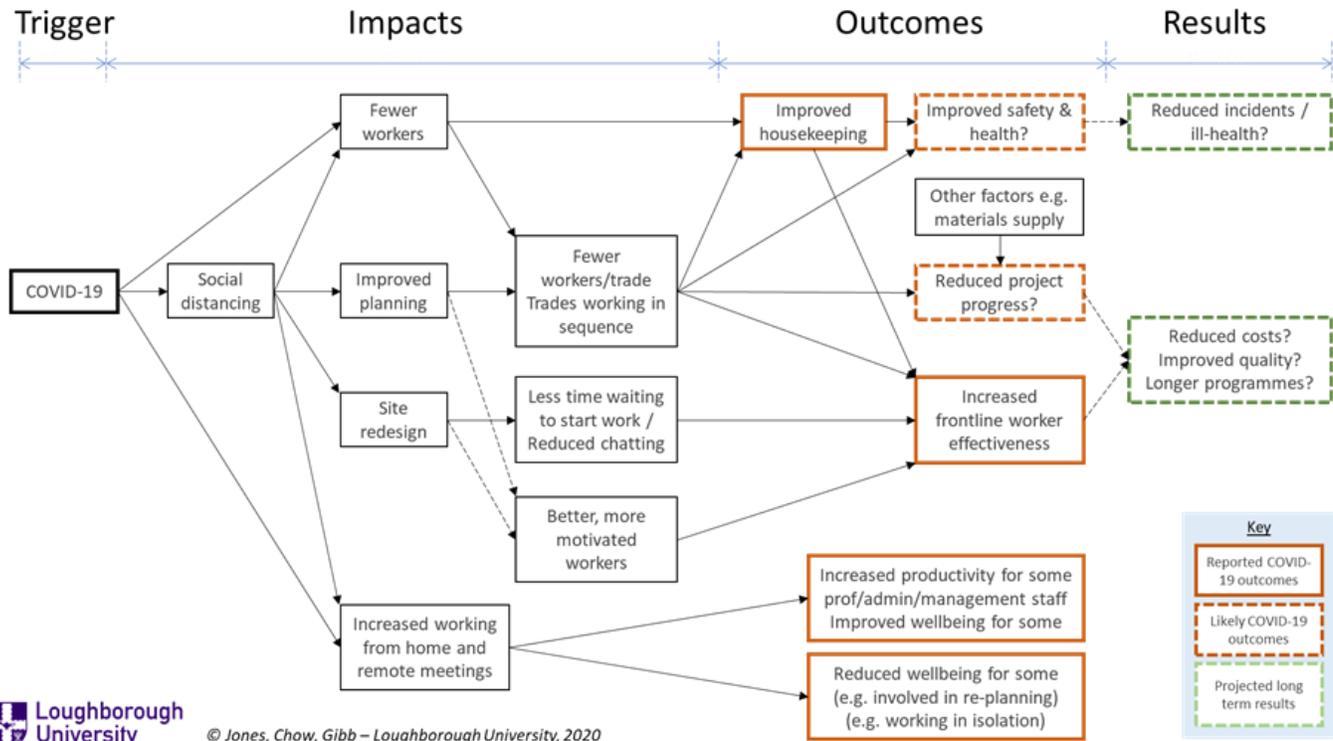
There have been increased expectations on the supply chain, and particularly black hat supervisors, with increased responsibility for worker engagement, briefing, induction; and increased communication between trades to facilitate safe working. This highlights the long-term importance of supporting and developing these individuals and the responsibility on Tier 1 contractors to help their supply chains develop.

"50% workforce reduction but only 30% reduction in output"

Employees who were able to work from home did so, and substantial benefits were reported in terms of cost, productivity and flexibility. However, if home working is to remain widespread in future (which appears likely), it needs to be carefully managed for

the best outcomes, as there was also some evidence of social isolation, unclear expectations and over-working. Occasional working from home for site-based staff is likely to be at least as important as designating some staff as home workers.

Increased use of technologies for remote meetings and virtual site visits has been very successful. These have good potential for long term use to enable cost savings, improved productivity and enhanced engagement.



## Acknowledgements

This research was commissioned by the following companies, who also facilitated access to interviewees from their own organisations and their supply chain. These contributions are appreciated.

Balfour Beatty  
 GKR Scaffolding Limited  
 Kier Group  
 Mace Group  
 Morgan Sindall Group  
 Skanska UK



Full report:

<https://www.balfourbeatty.com/media/318555/covid19-and-construction-early-lessons-for-a-new-normal.pdf>



## From TG59 to W123

Following a review of CIB Task Group activity, the Programme Committee of the CIB recommended TG59, People in Construction (PiC), be upgraded to a permanent Working Commission. During the October 2020 CIB Board Meeting, the CIB Board approved the recommendation.

The upgraded task group, TG59, was established in 2004. The group has continually produced proceedings from conferences. The past coordinators of group, Dr Jill Wells, Ms Robyn Gordon, Prof Theo Haupt and Prof John Smallwood, provided the platform that Prof Fidelis Emuze, the current coordinator, is building upon. The new Commission will build upon the work and antecedent of TG59. As such, it will continue to involve scholars and practitioner identifying as employers (public and private), contractors and developers, regulators (government or NGOs), and all categories of people in construction operations (craft, technical, professional and managerial workers) in both developed and developing countries, in its activities.

The newly reconstituted Commission is named W123 (People in Construction). W123 will focus on ‘boots on

the ground’ and front-line managers, professionals, and workers as the people

in construction. The Commission will not take its eyes of the most valuable resource in construction – people. Despite the advancement in technology and industrial revolutions, onsite construction remains labour-intensive where the contributions of people have a major influence upon project, organization, and industry performance. The Commission will foster the exchange of ideas among members spread around the globe (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America). Topical issues affecting PiC concerning various SDGs (good health and well-being, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, education), cyber technologies for 4IR (AI, IoT, robotics), labour relations, workplace conditions, societal values, and unconscious bias, will continually be interrogated by W123.



## Logo Evolution

This year saw the





## Resurrection of the W99 Flag

The original blue W99 flag was handed over at our first Triennial Conference in Lisbon in 1996 and was later passed on at the Conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 2005, after which it was misplaced.



At the Glasgow 2020 Online Conference and after a 15 year absence, the familiar W99 flag re-emerged.

It will remain in Glasgow till the next handover in 2023.



## Hard Hats

### Professor Fidelis Emuze

Central University of Technology, SA



### Dr Fred Sherratt

Anglia Ruskin University, UK

For future publications, we would welcome photos of 'academics in the field'. Please send photos of you in your hard hat to [tres.hendry@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:tres.hendry@gcu.ac.uk)



## W099 Jimmie Hinze Prizewinners & Achievements

<b>2020 Glasgow UK</b>	Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Workshop: Reducing Stress of Construction Professional Mei-yung Leung & Khursheed Ahmed
<b>2018 Salvador Brazil</b>	Contributions of Resilience Engineering and Visual Technology to Safety Planning and Control Process. Roseneia Rodrigues Santos de Melo and Dayana Bastos Costa
<b>2017 Capetown SA</b>	Developing Worker Engagement Maturity Model for Improving Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Kenneth Lawani, Billy Hare and Iain Cameron
<b>2015 Belfast UK</b>	Inclusion of HIV/AIDS Awareness into Third-year Communication Courses for Students of Engineering and the Built Environment. Jane English and Sianne Abrahams
<b>2014 Lund Sweden</b>	David Oswald, Fred Sherratt and Simon Smith’s paper presenting a case study exploring how we measure safety on sites

Dr Kenneth Lawani, Professor Billy Hare and Professor Iain Cameron were awarded the prestigious Parkman Medal 2020 by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) for best journal paper in their peer reviewed publication *Management Procurement and Law*.

*The paper suggesting that wind-turbine technicians should receive virtual-reality training to combat skill decay identified that skill decay takes place within the first four weeks after training for both refresher and new wind technicians.*



[Download the paper here](#)

We want to encourage you to attend the second NIOSH-funded Prevention through Design (PtD) workshop, which will be hosted virtually on May 26 and 27 between 8:00 am and 1:00 Pacific Daylight Time. The theme of the [2021 workshop is “PtD as we move into the post-COVID Era.”](#) The current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world, specifically the response to the disease by industries such as construction. COVID-19 has changed the way industries approach protecting workers’ safety, and PtD holds the promise to reduce workers’ exposure to health hazards. The 2021 virtual and interactive PtD workshop will focus on what we have learned in the past year that can be translated to the future improvement of PtD as we move into the post-COVID era. Lessons learned from online collaboration, regulatory guidance, modularization, artificial intelligence, worksite ventilation, future building design, and prevention through design processes will be collaboratively explored providing a baseline for improvement. The workshop will create an excellent opportunity for architects, engineers, contractors, construction companies, project owners, insurers, students, and academics to exchange and leverage their experiences and expertise on PtD practices by meeting PtD leading experts worldwide. Registration will be announced soon. CEUs will be offered. [Click here for full details.](#)

This page is dedicated to the W099 and W123 families. Please share your achievements and good news with us for inclusion in the next edition of this newsletter.

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