

# **Engineering Project Organization Journal**

## **Special Issue**

### **Call for Papers**

#### **Appreciating the Contribution of Professor Peter W.G. Morris, Ph.D.**

**Edited by Professor Andrew Edkins (UCL), Professor Hedley Smyth (Emeritus UCL), and Professor Jeffrey Pinto (Penn State)**

This is a call for journal paper submissions for the special issue in recognition of Professor Peter Morris's contribution to the study and practice of project management.

Since publication of the seminal works *The Anatomy of Major Projects* (1987) and *The Management of Projects* (1994), few researchers and theorists have had as strong an impact on the development of the project management field, both in research and practice, as Professor Peter W.G. Morris. Professor Morris has had a long association with and support of several key institutions and journals, including the *Engineering Project Organization Society*. His broad range of writing and teaching have had a profound effect on the manner in which project management professionals practice their discipline as well as the theories that researchers use to drive their work.

Professor Morris served as the Chairman of the Association for Project Management from 1993 to 1996. In 2008 he was awarded APM's highest honour, the Sir Monty Finniston Award, for a lifetime's achievement in project management. This followed Project Management Institute's Research Achievement Award, presented to him in 2005. In 2009 he was the first recipient of International Project Management Association's Research Achievement Award. He has written over 120 papers, articles and book chapters, together with six books, either as sole author, joint author, or editor.

Professor Morris's passion for teaching can be found in the programs he created and/or supported through his academic leadership, vision, and ability to attract the talents of unique academicians to his university posts. As the Head of UCL's School of Construction and Project Management between 2002 and 2012 he launched several new programs, grew both staff and student numbers significantly and built the School's international reputation. Prior to his position at UCL, he established the Centre for Research on the Management of Projects (CRMP) at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and launched a highly innovative Masters delivered in parallel in the UK, USA and Singapore. He has also been able to bring his management and extensive consulting experiences with Bovis, the former international construction company that now forms part of Lend Lease, and with the project management consultancy INDECO, as well as his theoretical insights, to light in the classroom and the pages of his publications.

While Professor Morris's work spans a number of sub-specialties within the project management field, including behavioral and critical success factors in project implementation and work with the bodies of knowledge, his "Management of Projects" paradigm, carried forward and developed in his recent work on "Reconstructing Project Management" (2013), demonstrates his broad and substantial contribution to the field.

This special issue seeks papers that clearly and explicitly address topics that Professor Morris has shown interest in or concern for. We believe that the breadth of topics we anticipate receiving will themselves be a testimony to the way in which his work has influenced so many elements in the project management field. For example, as Professor Morris notes on his academic website, "managing the front-end of projects is key to their success; managing them in relation to their context (environment) is also important, as is managing the technical and commercial issues; and that above all, projects begin and end with people. This is a big canvas on which to work and it provides much scope for research and teaching."

Much of his intellectual compass is explored in his recent book "Reconstructing Project Management" published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2013. Professor Morris's zeal was then turned to consideration of the role of project management in the context of climate change and the dramatic challenges it generates as captured in his report for the Association for Project Management published in 2017. It is recommended that potential contributors consider consulting these publications.

To be considered for this Special Issue, papers need to clearly identify which area or areas of Professor Morris's work they are seeking to address or build upon. Papers should seek to make a substantial contribution to theory in their chosen area of project, program or portfolio management research. Empirical papers are welcome if they make a significant contribution to theory. In recognition of the contribution made by Professor Morris, it is the principal aim of this special issue to advance theoretical debate in the field with a view to its future development. To this end papers from a wide variety of perspectives are invited.

Potential authors should submit an abstract of around 500 words by 17:00 (British Summer Time / London) on FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> August. If selected, full papers should be submitted for EPOJ peer review in the normal manner by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.