

OMEGA CENTRE

Centre for Mega Projects in Transport and Development

A global Centre of Excellence in Future Urban Transport
sponsored by Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF)



**HSL- Zuid
Brussels to Amsterdam**
Highspeed TGV railway



**Jubilee Line Extension
London Underground**
Urban Metro link



**City Link,
Melbourne**
Highway extension



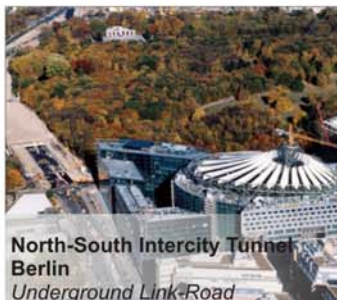
**Millau Viaduct
A75, Midi-Pyrénées**
Highway bypass



**Shuto Expressway
Greater Tokyo Area**
Metropolitan Expressway



**Big Dig
Boston, Massachusetts**
Highway tunnel



**North-South Intercity Tunnel
Berlin**
Underground Link-Road



**Monorail
Chiba**
Urban Metro link



Rion-Antirion Bridge
Bridge over the Gulf of Corinth



The OMEGA Centre Seminar will be launched in January 2009 on topics related the planning, appraisal and evaluation of mega transport projects and their impacts on development.

This event will allow the OMEGA Centre to present findings of our UK-based case studies and engage the public both from academic and industrial sectors.

The Centre has undertaken a wide range of research on several pressing issues related to "Treatment of Risk, Uncertainty and Complexity", "The Importance of Context" and "Sustainability" for the study of mega projects in transport and development. We will invite a number of speakers who are involved in a variety of aspects of transport projects in this kind in order to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge transfer.

Programmes of these seminars comprise contributions from the OMEGA Centre and external speakers, including journalists, bureaucrats, planners, industry leaders, and academics. This event will open to everyone who is interested in these issues, especially those associated with major transport project development. All these seminars will be recorded and published on the OMEGA Website.

www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk

By drawing on experts from many disciplines, we can stimulate debate and further discussions on certain crucial topics, such as transport infrastructure investment, challenges of sustainability, and financing mechanisms within the global market. This event can illuminate emerging issues surrounded the major transport projects and foster generation of ideas on tackling problems, threats and risks in contemporary and future environments.

2009 OMEGA SEMINAR SERIES

Insights from the narratives of CTRL key-decision-makers

Dr. John Ward & Phil Wright

Research Fellows

OMEGA Centre, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

17:30-19:00, Wednesday 17th June 2009

Room 401 (4th floor), Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

Wates House, 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB.

Directions available at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/about-ucl/location/maps/>

This talk covers the OMEGA Network's approach to the use of pre-hypothesis research (storytelling) in its investigation of Mega Urban Transport Project Case Studies¹ (MUTPs). In addition, it highlights some of the key research findings from the use of this methodology as applied to the OMEGA Centre's first Case Study project - the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The OMEGA Centre commenced operations in October 2006 and has established a network of nine Academic Partners in Europe, USA, Asia and Australia, supported by non-academic partners in each country. The Centre and its Partners are seeking to address the key question of 'what constitutes a successful MUTP' by undertaking some 32 Case Studies using a variety of data collection and analysis techniques.

Part of the original research programme proposal was the use of 'pre-hypothesis' research as a means of capturing contextually rich data from key stakeholders involved in/affected by MUTPs. This research method comprises an open discovery approach using (mainly) narrative extracted from project stakeholders in the form of anecdotes and experiences. The anecdotes are captured by 'naive' interview techniques and are analysed using specially designed software to identify patterns of knowledge emanating from the stories that are shared with us by key stakeholders.

John joined the OMEGA Centre in January 2007 after four years as researcher at the Centre of Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) where he developed micro and macro scale models of pedestrian movement as part of his PhD 'Models of Urban Movement: The Analysis of Pedestrian Behaviour'.

Phil became a Research Fellow at the OMEGA Centre in October 2006 after thirty years as a professional town planner. He has worked in a variety of environments in the UK and overseas - for local and national governments, urban regeneration agencies and as a consultant. During his career Phil has maintained a strong interest in strategic planning and policy analysis/formulation.

This event is free and all are welcome.

If you like to attend this seminar, please reply to Yen-Ning, Tseng: yen-ning.tseng@ucl.ac.uk