

2014 SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 4th June - 5:30pm

Room 401

Bartlett School of Planning - UCL

*Prof. Virginia A. Greiman **

Boston University

The California High Speed Rail Project: Improving Megaproject Outcomes

The Seminar will focus on the challenges faced by the State of California in improving the management and delivery of California's \$68 billion dollar high speed rail project, the first true high-speed rail line in the United States. The presentation will include the unique approach taken to the planning of this megaproject and the outcome of recent hearings before the California legislature including how to best allocate roles between the public and private sector, the financing of this massive project, and the best structures for governance and risk management. The important lessons learned for California from the San Francisco Bay Bridge Project will also be presented as well as the impact they will have on improving the chances for success of this highly controversial megaproject.

* **Virginia A. Greiman** is a Professor at Boston University in megaprojects and planning and former Risk Manager and Deputy Chief Counsel to Boston's \$14.9 billion Central Artery Tunnel Project (The Big Dig). She is a recognized scholar and expert on megaprojects, project complexity, conflict management and dispute resolution, international law and development and project finance. Professor Greiman served as a diplomatic official to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development in Eastern and Central Europe, Asia and Africa on privatization and economic development, and has held executive and advisory positions with several of the world's largest megaprojects including Boston's Central Artery/Tunnel Project, the UK's Crossrail Project, the U.S. Nuclear Power Industry, and development in the South China Sea. She served as United States Trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice on several of the country's largest reorganizations. She also holds teaching and research appointments at Harvard Law School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She recently published a major case study book on megaprojects entitled: *Megaproject Management: Lessons on Risk and Project Management from the Big Dig*, John Wiley & Sons, publisher © 2013, New York, London, Hoboken.

All are welcome and participation is free.

Further details about the OMEGA Seminar Programme can be found on the OMEGA Centre's web site (<http://www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/outputs/seminar2.php>).

For enquiries and to join the mailing list, please contact Marco Dean marco.dean.11@ucl.ac.uk.