



## **Renaissance and Renewal of Firms and Societies**

### Track Chairs

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Researchers are debating the theoretical foundations of project management research while practitioners are questioning prevailing views of project management dominated by control theory, operations research or systems theory that are largely normative and prescriptive. These issues have been the focus of strong EURAM tracks in the past, and Liverpool provides the opportunity to take stock of recent developments in the field:

**Renaissance of Societies:** major projects are the principal means of planned social change, from urban regeneration and physical infrastructure development, to major IT projects such as introducing ID cards or health-care programmes. Typically, such projects are characterised by their size, complexity, and stakeholder challenges.

**Renewal of Firms:** many firms are renewed and sustained through projects with project delivery as their core business. This theme will focus on the business model of the project-based firm and the creation of new products and services bringing together project management and innovation researchers focused on sectors from heavy engineering to the creative and media sectors.

**Rethinking Projects: Complexity and Criticality:** project management deployment in public and private organisations has stimulated a renaissance and renewal of the discipline. This theme will build on recent work on complexity in project management, rethinking project management and making projects critical to provide a forum for debate on the development of project management as a (multi-)discipline and the kinds of education that 21<sup>st</sup> century project managers require.

Constructively critical papers concerning current norms of project management theory and practice, accessible to a multi-disciplinary audience, are encouraged. Particular attention should be paid to theoretical roots of arguments presented.

The best papers from the track will be considered for publication in the *Project Management Journal* or *International Journal of Project Management*.