Bernard Sarchet Graduate Seminar Series

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Insights from Managing Complex Research, Technology and Engineering Projects in Academia

Monday, October 5th
3:00 - 3:50 pm (CST)
in Room 213 Butler-Carlton Hall* & via WebEx

Abstract: Complex research, technology and engineering projects in academia may have a number of characteristics, such as being high value, international, a large number of partners, possessing exacting requirements or demanding stakeholder needs that have to be met. The management of such projects may present a number of challenges, which can be technical, commercial or people related. Adopting a structured and process-driven approach through deploying project and engineering management principles can help to address these challenges and support the delivery of such projects. Over the last 12 years, the presenter of this seminar has been involved in the design and delivery of a wide range of projects at Imperial College London. This includes the development of university-industry research collaborations and international research programmes, establishing world-class research centres and overseeing the design and installation of complex engineering installations. The seminar will highlight practical applications of project and engineering management by drawing on this experience, which has been gained in a university environment and through extensive engagement with industrial companies.

Bio: Dr. Simon Philbin is Director of Programme Management at Imperial College London, where he leads the Programme Management Office (PMO) focused on supporting a range of research programmes and projects across the university. Dr. Philbin joined Imperial in 2003 and previously worked in scientific and managerial positions for QinetiQ Plc. and DERA (Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Ministry of Defence) for 9 years. He holds a BSc (University of Birmingham) and PhD (Brunel University), both in chemistry as well as an MBA with distinction (Open University Business School). In 2009 Dr. Philbin was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) and from 2009 to 2015 he was a Visiting Fellow at Imperial College Business School. Dr. Philbin has authored/co-authored over 40 journal and conference papers across several areas including university-industry research collaboration, project management, engineering management, and chemistry. Dr. Philbin is a recipient of the Merritt Williamson Best Paper Award from the American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM) as well as both the Rod Rose Best Paper Award and Best Annual Symposium Paper Award from the Society of Research Administrators (SRA) International. Dr. Philbin currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Engineering Management Journal, Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Research Administration, International Director and Board Member of ASEM and as a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics at Birkbeck, University of London.

* No food or drink is allowed in this room.