

Public-Private Partnership Conference Series - *Public Perceptions of Public-Private Partnerships*

University of Limerick, Cornell University, and Universitat de Barcelona

Fourth International Joint Conference

New York City

September 15-16, 2015

Attendance by invitation only

Conference Theme and Motivation

Public-private partnerships are gaining in popularity as a public infrastructure delivery method around the globe. The adoption of PPPs in many countries, however, has been slowed and in some cases halted by public skepticism and broadly negative perceptions.

Questions surrounding the public perception of PPPs remain poorly understood. This conference continues a series of events that commenced in 2012 and aims to again assemble top international scholars in the PPP space to better understand the interactions between public perceptions and the use of public-private partnerships.

Conference organizers

Rick Geddes, Cornell Program in Infrastructure Policy (Principal Organizer); Eoin Reeves, University of Limerick; Germà Bel, University of Barcelona

Conference sponsors

The Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure;
Public Works Financing;
Parsons Corporation;
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation;
The University Transportation Research Center - Region II, China

Conference Background

This is the fourth in a series of international public-private partnership conferences. It will focus on the broad theme of *Public Perceptions of Public-Private Partnerships*. The first meeting was held in Copenhagen in 2012 (on the theme of “economic advantage”); the second in Vancouver in 2013 (on the theme of “political economic and business strategy”); the third was in Melbourne, Australia in 2014 (on the theme of “The Challenge of Governance”).

These conferences have assembled key scholars to examine public policies toward PPPs, to articulate the strengths and weaknesses of this delivery approach, to weigh the empirical evidence against the theoretical advantages of PPPs, and to assess the conditions under which PPPs are likely to be advantageous for government, for citizens and for businesses.

Anthony Boardman, University of British Columbia; Carsten Greve, Copenhagen Business School; Graeme Hodge, Monash University

Conference Organization

The conference will proceed in two distinct phases. The first one and one-half days (Tuesday morning through lunchtime on Wednesday) will include scholars only. Paper presentations will be 15 to 20 minutes followed by a short comment and discussion period. The currently planned number of scholars is 20. Attendance at the academic phase is by invitation of the Organizing Committee only.

The second half of Day Two will include a group of about 30 selected practitioners. It will begin with a keynote speech at lunch on Wednesday, following with scholars interacting with practitioners in breakout sessions (by mixing scholars with practitioners at a series of tables) and conclude with a cocktail reception.

The conference will be held at two locations. Sessions on day 1 will be held at *Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Conference Center* at 16 East 34th Street in midtown Manhattan. On the second day sessions will be held at Club 101, at 101 Park Avenue in New York.

Conference Programme

All Day 1 meetings will take place at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Conference Center. The conference center is located at 16 East 34th Street in midtown Manhattan, which is one block from the Empire State Building.

8AM: Continental Breakfast available at the ILR Conference Center

8:15 to 8:30AM: Welcome and introductions

8:30AM to 10:15AM: Session 1

- Robert Roole, Reason Foundation: "Lessons Learned from America's First 25 Years of Highway P3s"
- Donal Palcic and Eoin Reeves, University of Limerick: "Road PPPs in Ireland: What we know, what we wish to know"
- Jonathan Gifford, George Mason University, "Public-private partnerships and bankruptcy policy: a comparative analysis of the U.S. and Europe"

10:15AM to 10:30AM: Break

10:30AM to 12:15: Session 2

- Koen Verhoest, University of Antwerp: "Why do countries differ in terms of government support for public-private partnerships? Explaining variations in PPP support in twenty European countries"
- Michael Garvin, Virginia Tech: "Public concerns and PPP projects: what are the real issues?"
- Marian Moszoro, University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School: "A Note on Public versus Private Cost of Capital in Infrastructure Development"

12:15 to 1:30: Lunch at the ILR Conference Center

1:30 to 2:40PM: Session 3

- Veronica Vecchi, Bocconi University: "Do public guarantees to infrastructure investments engender moral hazard of private bidders? A multiple agents based simulation"
- Rui Marques, University of Lisbon: "The Public Perception of Public-Private Partnerships"

2:40PM to 3:00PM: Break

3:00PM to 4:15PM: Session 4

- Eric Boyer and David van Slyke, George Washington University and Syracuse: “Identifying the Influence of Public Participation in Public-Private Partnerships”
- Roundtable Discussion led by John Ryan (Greengate LLC) and Rick Geddes, (Cornell).

Day 2: Wednesday, September 16th

All Day 2 Meetings will take place at Club 101, at 101 Park Ave., T (212) 687-1045, (see <http://www.club101ny.com/>)

8AM: Continental Breakfast available at Club 101

8:30 to 9:50AM: Session 5

- Matti Siemiatycki , University of Toronto: “Public-Private Partnerships as Drivers of Innovation? Lessons from Ontario, Canada”
- Carsten Greve, Copenhagen Business School, “International Public-Private Partnership Policies: Convergence in themes from ASEAN, the European Union, IMF, OECD, the UN, and the World Bank?”

9:50 to 10:10AM: Break

10:10AM to 11:30 Session 6

Martijn van den Hurk, University of Antwerp: “Making progress or standing still? Learning to contract in public-private partnerships for road infrastructure”

Anthony Boardman and Mark Hellowell, University of British Columbia and Edinburgh: “A Comparison and Evaluation of Government Approaches to Value for Money Analysis”

11:30 to Noon: Organizational session for future meetings, led by Oliver Gao and Eoin Reeves

From Noon to 5:30PM

Industry / Academia Roundtable Discussion on PPP, Public Perceptions and Education.

Specific topics include:

- What is the best way to ensure private party accountability? How does the public think about “accountability” in the context of PPP?
- How is the public’s perception framed? What role do different types of media (print, radio, etc.) play in the formation of the public’s perception of PPPs?
- How are the benefits of P3 best measured and articulated? What role should VfM analysis play?
- What is the best way to dispel the notion that P3’s are not a funding solution, but a delivery mechanism that may deliver benefits to users and the public partner?