

THEORY

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The starting point for theory discussions in the International Group of Lean Construction has been provided by the various theories of production (transformation, flow, value generation), as they have been applied in the construction context. Theories for managing production, especially in relation to planning, execution and control have been considered for many years. From this base, the theory discourse has extended and evolved into many different directions. While the initial focus was in the theoretical decoding of conventional and novel practice, the emphasis rapidly shifted to interaction between theory and practice. The application domain has been generalized from construction to project management and beyond or specified into a narrower domain, such as design or safety. The implications of different ontological assumptions underlying our theories have been addressed, and in this respect new ground has been broken especially through work based on the complexity approach. Finally, there has been initial work towards an integrative theory map, which would show the interconnections of relevant theories which fall into different sciences (natural sciences, social sciences, technical (or design) sciences), but which have to be simultaneously applied and mastered in a practical production situation.

Papers that extend the existing theory base of construction management (and related fields) are invited to the theory session of IGLC conference. The papers may address any relevant aspect of theory building and testing.