Mapping fields of interest

A systematic literature review on public clients in construction

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Introduction
Method

- Research questions
  - What are the main research themes in the scientific field of public commissioning?
  - Which knowledge gaps can be identified?

- Systematic literature review
  - Explorative quantitative analysis
  - Explorative network analysis

- Search query in Scopus and JSTOR
  - English articles, published after 1990
  - public, client, discipline and tasks of client
Part 1: Explorative quantitative analysis

Total sample (967) → Full text available (684) → All actors public construction & infrastructure (171) → Client (62) → 109 papers: category 2 → 62 papers: category 1
Challenge the future

The Chair of Public Commissioning is made possible by the Dutch Construction Client Forum

Results – papers per year

- Increase in publications
- From 1997 substantially more publications
- Low in 2003
Results - authors

- Many publications by few authors
- High number of co-authorships
- Strong client focus
Results - journals

Two groups:
1. On construction and engineering
2. On management sciences and governance

Two main journals: CME and JCEM
Results – paper per continent

- In Europe larger focus on public commissioning and the client
- In Asia focus on all actors, instead of only the client
Results - government types

- More flawed democracies in category 2 due to Asian papers
- Type of government influences focus on public commissioning
Results – research methods

- Majority of cat.1 describes public commissioning from sociological point of view
- Category 2 more focused on modelling and conducting surveys
Results - themes of papers

- Project organisation: 66%
- Develop brief: 13%
- Organise people: 10%
- Govern assets: 5%
- Public realm: 11%
- Organise: 4%
- Develop: 16%
- Cat. 1
- Cat. 2

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Conclusions from part 1

- Number of papers on public commissioning is limited
- Growing field of science
- Small number of authors, mostly from Europe and Australia
- Often referring to each other’s work
- Published in few journals
- Limited scope: project management, procurement, and performance
- Mostly qualitative research methods
Part 2: Explorative network analysis

Concept

- Network with papers as nodes and citations as connections
- Example:
  - A cites B
  - C also cites B
  - Colour based on shared connections
Results from network analysis (1)

1. Collaboration
2. Contractor selection
3. Project performance
4. Service delivery
5. Public private collaboration
6. Modernising construction
7. Delay and cost overruns
8. Innovation
9. Integrity
10. Public project management
Results from network analysis (2)

- Four groups centrally positioned in the network
  - 1. Collaboration
  - 6. Modernising construction
  - 8. Innovation
  - 10. Public project management

- Two groups at edge of network
  - 5. Public private collaboration
  - 9. Integrity
Conclusions from part 2

• Tightly knit network
• Two research fields
• Focus on two levels: project level and industry level → organisational level is missing
• Future research should incorporate public private collaboration, integrity and other public values
Research agenda (1)
Research agenda (2)

1. The client as a professional public organisation
   - Focus on organisational structure and competences of the client
   - Perception of professionalism
Research agenda (3)

2. **The client as a strategic asset manager**

   - Aging building stock in the Netherlands and other (European) countries

   - Need for transformation and renovation more prominent
Discussion

• Need from practice for practical guidelines and instrumental tools → valorisation strategy?

• Link to other fields? How?
  • public administration
  • law
  • organisation sciences
Thank you for your attention