



## Thematic Session

### TS7. South-South Cooperation and Non-Alignment in the Construction World, 1950s-1980s

Chaired by: *Amit Srivastava* (University of Adelaide, Australia); *Peter Scriver* (University of Adelaide, Australia) and *Ljubica Spaskovska* (University of Exeter, United Kingdom)

Construction History opens up new opportunities to look at the political and economic dimensions of the building world. Recent scholarship has already taken the discussion well beyond the technical and material focus of construction to consider transnational transfers of systems and processes. However, considered within the context of a history of technological progress, these narratives are often limited by the epistemic hierarchies that privilege the colonial frameworks of power and knowledge transfer, from the developed to the developing nations. A renewed focus on the Global South and its internal geo-political networks allows us to transcend this bias and develop a more heterogeneous genealogy of the global construction world.

While material and technological exchange between the nations of the Global South long predates the colonial context, contemporary trends in South-South Cooperation are intimately tied to the new world economic order promoted by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Group of 77 (G-77). The NAM, though institutionalised in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961, was conceived in the early 1950s and sought to develop solidarity between newly decolonised nations of the Global South, to avoid economic control by either of the emerging new superpowers. The G-77, formulated just years later in 1964, helped articulate this collective economic interest within the United Nations system and created a new framework for economic cooperation and development. The subsequent focus on Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC) further allowed for fruitful exchange within the construction worlds of the Global South. Indeed these structures also overlapped with others such as the Colombo Plan Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS), promoting greater transnational transfer of materials, technology, and processes and supporting the common agenda of development.

This session invites papers to explore patterns of exchange for materials and processes within the construction worlds of the Global South, with a specific focus on transfers intended to subvert the hegemony of the colonial and postcolonial imperial powers.





*Esprato que ... a buma  
das duas pontas para o centro e de lá para  
fora com as calções e os sapatos para a  
Cidade de pi com a língua e a boca de deusa de  
... a que de deus e porra de madrepátria ...  
... a que de deus e porra de madrepátria ...  
... a que de deus e porra de madrepátria ...  
... a que de deus e porra de madrepátria ...*

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Possible topics include, but are not limited to: transnational expansion of construction companies; production and trade of specific materials; inter-governmental exchange of experts and expertise; impact of policies to promote the new economic order; discourse on appropriate technology; new pedagogical frameworks and training; and construction for events promoting non-aligned solidarity. We also welcome discussions of the economic and political frameworks developed during this period, as long as their impact on the construction industry is clearly articulated.



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