

On-Site: Observations and conversations on the design and production of the built environment

*Nick Beech, Linda Clarke and Christine Wall*

This workshop engages with the question of what role and contribution construction labour and the labour process play in determining the design and realisation of architecture. At a site visit to a major construction project in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne region [tbc], delegates will have an opportunity to observe social and technical processes of production and talk to those responsible. A workshop including representatives from the workforce, contractor, client and design team will then discuss with participants the different ways in which the production process on the site concerned is understood by them and how each perceives the roles and responsibilities of the other.

Biographies:

Dr Nick Beech is Senior Lecturer in Architecture at Oxford Brookes University. His current research is concerned with the history of industrial and professional transformation, as this occurred through the production of the built environment in Britain during and after the Second World War.

Prof Linda Clarke is co-Director of ProBE (Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment), at the University of Westminster and on the Board of the European Institute for Construction Labour Research (CLR). She has long experience of research on labour, labour history, vocational education and training, skills, employment and working conditions, and gender in the construction industry across Europe.

Dr Christine Wall is Reader in the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Westminster. Her most recent research is a Leverhulme Trust funded project *Constructing Post-War Britain: building workers' stories 1950-70*, and the recently published *An Architecture of Parts: architects, building workers and industrialisation in Britain* (2013) Routledge.