

CALL for ABSTRACTS and Conference Preview



Geo-Congress 2019

8th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA | March 24-27, 2019

Case Histories – Capturing the Accomplishments of our Profession

About PHILADELPHIA

Located between Washington DC and New York City, Philadelphia is the 2nd most populous city in the eastern U.S. As a First World Heritage City, you will be captivated by its iconic 300 years of history amidst a vibrant 21st-century city full of inspired, young, creative culture.

Whether you are visiting the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall or more recent iconic sites such as the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, immortalized by Sylvester Stallone's triumphant run in the film "Rocky," you will find picturesque and friendly streets lined with parks, shops, public art, restaurants and museums. As civil engineers, a visit to City Hall, the world's tallest masonry building, is a must. City Hall is just one of four Civil Engineering Historic Landmarks located here. The options are endless—and all within walking distance!



Join Us for Geo-Congress 2019!

*On behalf of the Program Committee, you are cordially invited to participate in **Geo-Congress 2019: The Eighth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering**, which will be held March 24-27, 2019.*

From the early days of modern geotechnical engineering, sharing field experience of the performance of geostuctures—dams, foundations, tunnels, landfills—in the form of case histories has driven the advance of geo-knowledge for the profession. Starting in 1984, Professor Shamsheer Prakash formalized this tradition, organizing the First International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering. This conference brought together about 190 engineers from 30 countries to share their experiences, learn from each other, and advance the profession. By 2013, the 7th conference in this series had grown to nearly 320 engineers from over 40 countries spanning the globe, culminating in symposia to honor Ralph B. Peck and Clyde Baker. But the essence of the conference had not changed: to advance our profession through shared engineering judgment.

For the first time, the ASCE Geo-Institute will be organizing its annual Geo-Congress around the theme of case histories. Following Dr. Prakash's series of acclaimed international conferences, Geo-Congress 2019 will be the Eighth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering, and will bring together researchers, practitioners, students and policy makers from around the globe to share their Geo-Accomplishments and carry on the tradition of using case histories to cultivate engineering judgment as espoused by Terzaghi, Peck, Prakash, and so many other legendary geoengineers.

Geo-Congress 2019 will feature experiences and observations from hundreds of geoengineering projects, including recent "Mega Projects." The conference will include a wide range of knowledge-enhancing technical and panel sessions, short courses, and workshops. Join us in Philadelphia to share in this celebration of our geo-accomplishments!

Geo-Congress 2019

Join us in the heart of Philadelphia—a vibrant city with a rich history—for the annual ASCE Geo-Institute meeting, which will celebrate the accomplishments of our past and embrace the opportunities of our future.

Philadelphia Convention Center | Philadelphia, PA, USA

Mark your calendars and submit your abstract now!

You are invited...

...to submit an abstract to any of the technical tracks listed below. Submitted abstracts must meet the following requirements:

- The submitting author should be the author that will upload the draft and final versions of the paper, receive and respond to reviews, and present the final paper at the conference.
- Abstracts are expected to be between 100 to 400 words and can not contain images, tables, or other graphic elements.
- Abstract submissions must include the full names, credentials, affiliations, contact information and email addresses for all authors.
- During submission, Authors may select between two paper types to indicate the intended format of their final submission: Technical Paper (6 to 10 pages in length) or Case History Paper (up to 15 pages in length).
- Authors may also choose if they want to submit their paper for a GSP- or GPP-level of review.
- Submit your abstract to one of the following topics:
 - TOPIC A/ Mega Projects, Design/Build, Public-Private Partnerships, Baseline Reports
 - TOPIC B/ Foundations (Deep and Shallow), Earth Retaining Structures
 - TOPIC C/ Embankments, Dams, Slopes
 - TOPIC D/ Underground Engineering, Ground Improvement, Grouting
 - TOPIC E/ Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering
 - TOPIC F/ Sustainability, Emerging Topics, Risk, Forensics
 - Topic G/ Site Characterization, Geophysics, Soil-Rock Properties, Computational Geotechnics
 - Topic H/ Geosynthetics, Unsaturated Soils and Erosion, Pavement Engineering
 - Topic I/ Geoenvironmental, Engineering Geology, Rock Mechanics
 - Topic J/ Geo-Future, Education, and Outreach
- Abstracts must be submitted via the online CATALYST Submission System: <https://catalyst.omnipress.com/#collection/212/submission>
- More information about how to log into CATALYST, create a new account, and navigate through the submission process is available: <http://www.geoinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/INSTRUCTIONS-How2CATALYST.pdf>.

All abstracts are due by April 4, 2018

IMPORTANT: Authors are required to sign the ASCE Copyright Transfer Agreement during the submission process, stating that 1) all authors listed on the manuscript are aware of their authorship status and qualify to be authors on the manuscript, 2) all content, figures (drawings, charts, photographs, etc.), and tables in the submitted work are either original work created by the authors listed on the manuscript or work for which permission to reuse has been obtained from the creator, and 3) the author transfers copyright to the ASCE. Further details are available at: <http://ascelibrary.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1412622184009/ASCE%20Authorship%20originality%20and%20CTA%20form.pdf>

Notice of Registration Requirement

Every paper awarded final acceptance for presentation must have one author attend the conference and present the paper. Publication in the conference proceedings without registering for the conference and presenting the paper is not possible. If you will not be able to attend, please do not submit an abstract.

Conference Proceedings

The Geo-Congress 2019 conference proceedings will be published as a series of volumes organized around particular topics. Most of the volumes will contain technical papers and be published as Geotechnical Special Publications (GSP). Other volumes, reserved for case histories and lessons learned in general practice, will be Geotechnical Practice Publications (GPP).

- **Geotechnical Special Publications (GSP):** GSPs originated with the proceedings of the first geotechnical specialty conference (held in 1960 on the Shear Strength of Cohesive Soils), and the G-I has administered the publications ever since its formation in 1996. GSPs are the G-I's primary outlet for continuing the tradition of geotechnical knowledge transfer. They are recognized internationally as premier publications for geotechnical engineering and the geoprofession. Papers published in a GSP are indexed in Civil Engineering Database, Google Scholar, and others. A GSP is special because the content is subject to rigorous technical review during a three-phase submission process. Each paper must receive a minimum of two positive peer reviews before final acceptance.
- **Geotechnical Practice Publications (GPP):** GPPs showcase practice-oriented papers presented at conferences, and serve as a means to make material developed by practicing engineers available to a broader audience. Papers included in a GPP must be reviewed by an editorial board or receive one positive review from a designated reviewer.

The Proceedings volumes will be released as e-books from the [ASCE Library](#).

NOTE: Copies of the proceedings will be provided ONLY to those who register for and attend the conference, or to those who purchase a copy after the conference. Complimentary copies of the proceedings are not automatically provided to authors—only to conference attendees.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

- **For technical support related to the CATALYST submission system:** Once signed in, click on **Support** at the top to submit a support ticket. If you are unable to log in, contact the CATALYST Help Desk by clicking on **Site Support** at the bottom of the login page.
- **For all other issues:** Helen Cook, Geo-Institute – hcook@asce.org

GSP Submission Process and Deadlines

(deadlines are be subject to change; authors will be notified as appropriate)

Phase One — Abstract Submission

- Authors submit abstracts (see guidelines above) for consideration by **April 4, 2018**.
- The Program Committee will review all abstracts. The committee will decline abstracts that do not fit the theme of the conference, do not have strong scientific merit, are too commercial, or are unlikely to produce a quality paper.
- Notice of these decisions will be sent to the authors by **April 25, 2018**.

Phase Two — Draft Paper Submission

- Authors submit draft papers for consideration by **June 13, 2018**.
- Draft papers must be formatted according to ASCE guidelines. A sample document that may be used as a template is available at:

<http://ascelibrary.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1452004406712/author%20formatting%20instructions.docx>

- Session Chairs will arrange for a minimum of two peer reviews for each draft paper based on the ASCE Guidelines for Peer Reviewers of Proceedings Papers, available at:

<http://ascelibrary.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1452004265291/reviewer%20guidelines.pdf>

Then, on the results of those reviews and their own judgement, the chairs will make preliminary decisions about whether or not to accept the draft paper. Papers may be declined for the same reasons as an abstract or for not following ASCE paper format.

Preliminary decisions about presentation formats (rescindable if the final paper is still not of an acceptable quality) may be made at this time, depending on the preference of the Program Committee.

- Notice of these decisions, along with the two reviews (presented anonymously), will be sent to the authors by **August 15, 2018**.

Phase Three — Final Paper Submission

- Authors submit final versions of their approved draft papers for consideration by **September 12, 2018**.
- Session Chairs will review the final papers for compliance with review suggestions made during draft phase.
Based on instructions from the Program Committee, Session Chairs will accept a specific number of papers for oral podium presentation at the conference. Usually, no more than six papers are presented at the podium during a 90-minute technical session. Other papers submitted to the session may be declined, or offered an alternative presentation type, depending on the conference. Final decisions about presentation formats will be made at this time.
- Notice of the final decision will be sent to the authors by **October 24, 2018**.

Conference Program Committee

- **Conference Co-Chair:** Scott M. Olson, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, University of Illinois
- **Conference Co-chair:** Allen Cadden, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, Schnabel Engineering
- **Technical Program Co-chair:** Sanjeev Kumar, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
- **Technical Program Co-chair:** Christopher L. Meehan, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, University of Delaware
- **Technical Program Co-chair:** Jared M. Green, P.E., A.M.ASCE, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
- **Proceedings Editor:** Christopher L. Meehan, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, University of Delaware
- **Student Programs Chair:** Stacey E. Tucker-Kulesza, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, Kansas State University
- **Sponsorships & Exhibits:** George R. Koerner, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, Geosynthetics Institute; Archibald Filshill, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE, AeroAggregates; Benjamin Dutton, Equipment Corporation of America; John R. Grillo, P.E., M.ASCE, Hayward Baker, Inc.
- **Local Liaisons:** James A. McKelvey, III, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, Earth Engineering Incorporated; Michael B. Fritzges, P.E., M.ASCE, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services; Conrad Cho, P.E., EIT, A.M.ASCE, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services; Eric S. Backlund, P.E., M.ASCE, Kleinfelder
- **Conference Program Specialist:** Helen Cook, Geo-Institute, ASCE

Why Case Histories?

Virtually every structure is supported on (or in) soil and rock. Because these materials were laid down by nature, they are inherently variable and challenging, making our profession as much of an art as it is a science. Therefore, engineering judgment is fundamental to a geotechnical engineer's success. As Steve Vick eloquently stated,

"The art of geotechnical engineering has been described as the ability to make sound decisions in the face of imperfect knowledge...so the engineer must apply judgment—the very real interpretive process that derives from the sum total of one's experience, insight, and intuition."

Ralph Peck defined judgment loosely as "a sense of proportion." Similarly, Steve Vick defined judgment as "a sense of what is important." For geotechnical engineers of all ages, engineering judgment is cultivated through experience—a good case history!

Invited often by Prof. Prakash, Ralph B. Peck was a regular speaker at the Case Histories conferences. During the 5th International Conference, Peck provided the best answer to the question above,

"...in the complex problems of today, the need for...case histories is no less than it was a half century ago. Indeed, the complexity of many modern projects demands some form of the...observational method, and the results deserve being included in authoritative case histories."

Preliminary Program Schedule

Sunday, March 24, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Short Courses and Workshops

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Welcome Keynote Lecture

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception with Exhibitors and Sponsors

Monday, March 25, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Keynote Lectures

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parallel Technical Sessions

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Student Competitions and Activities

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Social Event
(to be determined)

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Keynote Lectures

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parallel Technical Sessions

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Social Event
(to be determined)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parallel Technical Sessions

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Technical Tours
(to be determined)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session

