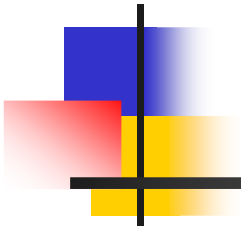


Regulatory practices as dialogical activities



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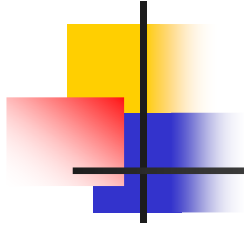
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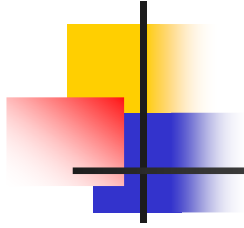
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Cambridge, 2007, september, the 12th



1. Theoretical frame
2. Field study
3. Conclusions and perspectives



1. Theoretical frame

1. A dialogical approach of activity
2. Regulations are instruments of activity
3. Activity is interactional and transactional



1.1 A dialogical approach of activity

- *"Human act is a potential text..."*
Mikhail Bakhtin



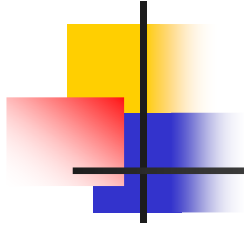
1.2 Regulations are instruments of activity

- Any human activity is mediated by systems of signs: languages and tools (Vygotsky)
- Regulations are some of these tools



1.3 Activity is interactional and transactional

- Actors interact in many ways. They must, synchronise their activity and ensure coherence in resource allocation
- Groups of actors achieve together some transformation of the world, such as providing a schedule, information, or a building, etc.
- Risk emerges with lack of coherence between interactions and the expected transaction



2. Field study

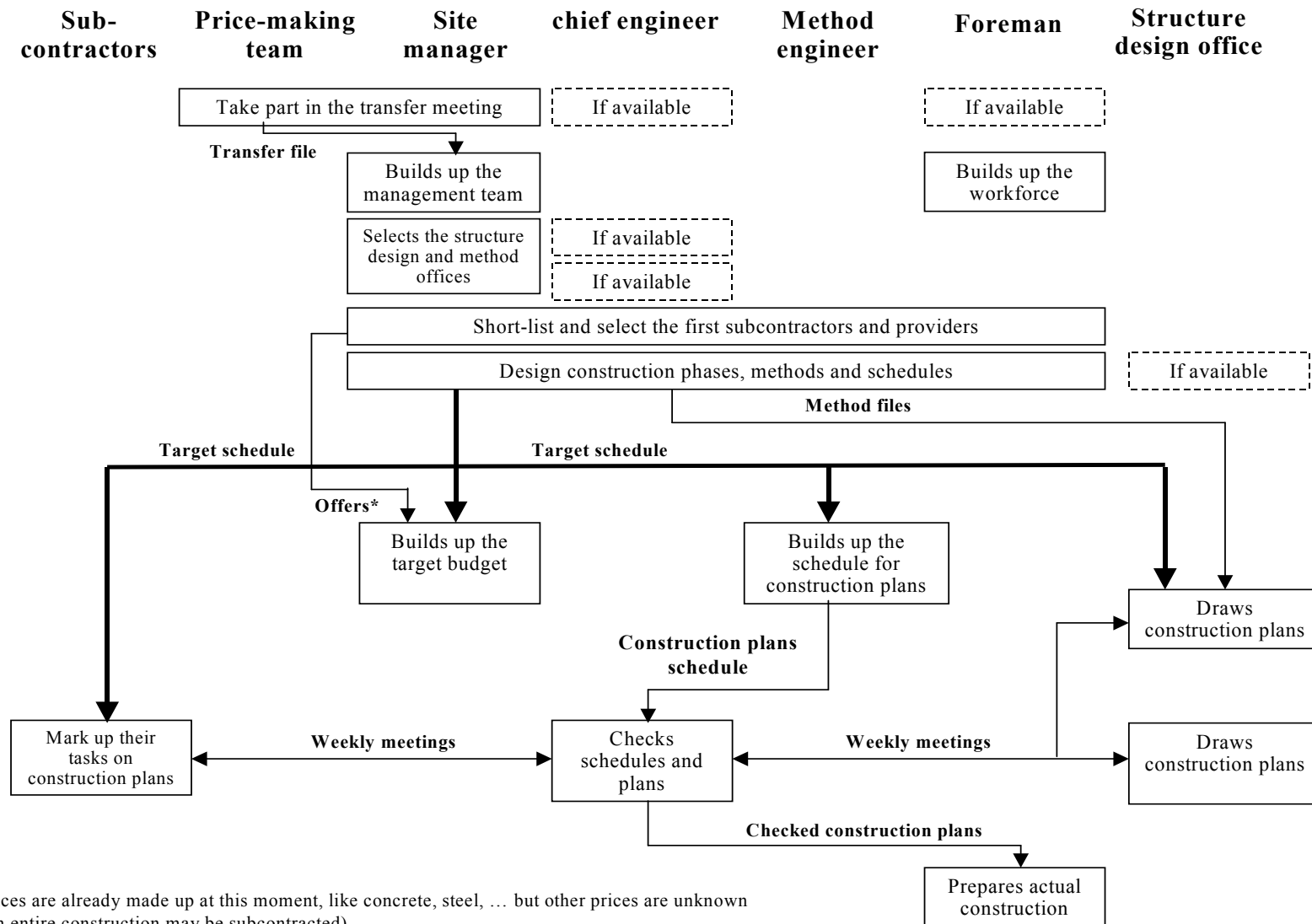
1. Methodology
2. An example of research instrument
3. Examples of enacted new regulations
4. An example of dangerous situation



2.1 Methodology

- Our methodology is reflexive: we organise a reflection of the actors about their own collective activity
- Like any activity, this reflection is dialogical
 - The dialogue within the working group connects design activities with actual construction activities
 - This dialogue could reveal mismatches between interactions and the expected transaction

2.2 An example of research instrument



*some prices are already made up at this moment, like concrete, steel, ... but other prices are unknown (almost an entire construction may be subcontracted)



2.3 Examples of enacted new regulations

1. *“Design engineers should identify critical tasks with site managers when designing a project, and plan resources devoted to their short term on-site preparation”*
2. *“Design engineers should involve site managers and subcontractors when scheduling a project”*

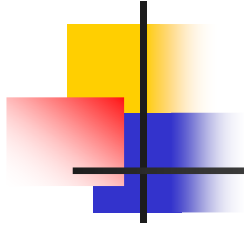
2.4 An example of dangerous situation





3. Conclusions and perspectives

- Regulation does not determine activity
- It is a heuristic tool engaged and interpreted in situated activity
- The key issue is “what kind of regulation is likely to improve safety when engaged in situated collective interpretation?”



Appendix: The main stages of the approach



The main stages of the approach

Field observation:

- 12 days in price making staffs
- 100 days on construction sites

Interviews: transcript the whole process and identify the first research paths of organisational factors of risk

- 26 interviews with design/preparation and realisation actors
- 6 interviews to analyse cases

2 working groups to analyse processes and to build action paths

- one group about the design/preparation on projects: 8 meetings
- one group about the actual realisation process: 5 meetings

The reunion of the 2 working groups to analyse the relevance of the action paths: 7 meetings

Presentation of the results to a steering comity by the co-convenor of the workshop

2005

2006

2007