

RAILWAY DIVISION CHAIR'S ADDRESS:

The long History and exciting Future of Railway Systems Thinking

Felix Schmid, FIMechE, FIRSE, FPWI, Professor emeritus University of Birmingham



22nd October 2020 – On line event (please see below for booking)

Talk starts at 17:30 and ends around 19:00

Description

Felix Schmid has chosen “The Long History and Exciting Future of Railway Systems Thinking” as the theme for his chair’s address. He will define systems and, unavoidably, he will briefly talk about the history of the railway as a system. He will reflect on some of the good (and not so good) examples of systems thinking during the early days of the railways as a means of transport for people and goods. He will review some of the major technical breakthroughs that enable today’s high-performance railways and he will reflect on some recent developments, where he has had an involvement. Felix will argue that technological progress does not always lead to successful system. He will include some thoughts on his career industry and academia, as an engineer and innovative educator. He will also talk about his students, the best elements of his job to date!

About our speakers:

Felix Schmid graduated from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland, with an MEng in electrical and electronic engineering. He worked for two years as a software analyst in Zürich and Solothurn, in the days of microcomputers with 32kb of RAM and 32kb of programme memory. He then moved to England, to GEC Traction (later to form part of Alstom) in Manchester, where he spent 3.5 years designing control systems for electric locomotives. Following stints as an electronics research engineer at UMIST in Manchester and as a research assistant in mechanical engineering at Salford, he took on lecturing role at Brunel University. He taught control engineering and computer integrated manufacturing and completed the research for his doctoral degree. Felix took a sabbatical in Switzerland in 1993-1994, where he worked as a railway inspector with the Swiss Federal Office of Transport. He returned to Britain in summer 1994 and accepted a new position at The University of Sheffield, where he created the MSc programme in Railway Systems Engineering. In 2005, he transferred with the programme to the University of Birmingham, where he became director of education of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education. Felix retired in June 2020 and is now Professor emeritus of Railway Systems Engineering at the University of Birmingham.

The Event is FREE and open to all!

<http://nearyou.imeche.org/near-you/UK/Eastern/milton-keynes-rd-centre/Events>

Booking for this event close on 21st October. Log-in details will be sent on morning of 22nd October; if these have not been received by 13:00 on 22nd October, please email:

marco.baretta@networkrail.co.uk

