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Additional Information

1 **MARKET DEMANDS ON CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT: A VIEW FROM**  
2 **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

3 Eugenio Pellicer<sup>1</sup>, Víctor Yepes<sup>2</sup>, Alejandro J. Ortega<sup>3</sup>, Andrés Carrión<sup>4</sup>

4  
5 **ABSTRACT**

6 The construction industry demands managerial skills for professionals working within it,  
7 especially from those having an undergraduate civil engineering degree, which is generally  
8 pursued through graduate programs (M.Sc. degrees) in the construction management field. This  
9 paper checks how graduate students' views are relevant in order to assess and improve these  
10 M.Sc. programs. The research is performed through a survey based on a sample of 534 graduate  
11 students from several American and European universities. Using confirmatory factor analysis  
12 with the survey data, it has been corroborated that the construction management field can be  
13 mapped according to two dimensions: the infrastructure life-cycle and the organizational  
14 breakdown. Furthermore, by means of an exploratory factor analysis, six components or  
15 approaches for a graduate program in the construction management field are highlighted as  
16 important by the respondents: leadership, built environment stakeholders, innovation and quality,  
17 economics, business management, and project management. The organizational point of view is  
18 clearly identified by the students: its four variables are highlighted as principal components.  
19 However, regarding the infrastructure life-cycle, certain important facets, such as feasibility

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<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor, School of Civil Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia, Spain. Corresponding Author: Phone +34963879562; Fax: +34963877569; E-mail: [pellicer@upv.es](mailto:pellicer@upv.es).

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, ICITECH, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia, Spain. E-mail: [vyepesp@upv.es](mailto:vyepesp@upv.es).

<sup>3</sup> Graduate Student, School of Civil Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia, Spain. E-mail: [alejandro.ortegallarena@gmail.com](mailto:alejandro.ortegallarena@gmail.com).

<sup>4</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia, Spain. E-mail: [acarrion@eio.upv.es](mailto:acarrion@eio.upv.es).

20 analysis and operation and maintenance of infrastructures, are considered by graduate students  
21 less important than the classical design and construction. The findings of this research can help  
22 improving the curricula of graduate programs in the construction management field.

23

24 **KEYWORDS:** Curricula, Construction Management, Graduate Students, Market Demand,  
25 Survey

26

## 27 **INTRODUCTION**

28 The 19<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the birth of construction-related university degrees in Europe and  
29 America, basically civil engineering and architecture (Ledbetter 1985; Schexnayder and  
30 Anderson 2011; Navascués 1996; Allaback 2008). These degrees were focused on the design of  
31 heavy civil works and buildings, respectively. In civil engineering degrees, the curriculum had a  
32 strong base of mathematics, physics and strength of materials, whereas in architecture the  
33 curriculum had a strong base regarding drawing and art topics (Navascués 1996). Graduates from  
34 these degrees basically worked for owners and design organizations (Oglesby 1982 and 1990;  
35 Chinowsky 2002). On the other hand, contractors employed craft persons trained on the job to  
36 perform managerial tasks (Oglesby 1982 and 1990; Ledbetter 1985; Arditi and Polat 2010).

37 After the second half of the 20th century, civil infrastructure and building projects  
38 became more numerous and complex (Gann 2000). Contractors started hiring university  
39 graduates (Oglesby 1982), mainly civil engineers (Harris 1992). This trend continued through the  
40 years; therefore, universities were forced to take into consideration the demands from  
41 construction companies, requiring professionals with some knowledge of construction costs,  
42 scheduling and methods (Oglesby 1982; Chinowsky and Diekmann 2004; Schexnayder and

43 Anderson 2011). Civil engineering university degrees incorporated these subjects in different  
44 ways (Oglesby 1982 and 1990; Goodman and Chinowsky 1997; Chinowsky 2002; Arditi and  
45 Polat 2010): as mandatory or elective courses at the undergraduate level, or even as a  
46 specialization in construction engineering on its own. Moreover, other degrees were created or  
47 demanded a more prominent role in the construction field: quantity surveyor in the United  
48 Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries (Lowe 1991), technical architecture in Spain  
49 (Pellicer and Victory 2006), or architectural engineering (Fritchen and Tredway 1997; Baur et al.  
50 2010) and construction engineering (Oglesby 1982; Tatum 1987; Hauck 1998) in the United  
51 States.

52         Currently, managers lead projects and organizations in the construction industry aiming  
53 to improve productivity and competitiveness (Goodman and Chinowsky 1997; Abbudayyeh et al.  
54 2000; Chinowsky 2002; Hegazi et al. 2013; Lee et al. 2013). Employers (i.e. owners, design  
55 companies or contractors) require from professionals the combination of technical and  
56 managerial competencies in order to improve decision-making (Tatum 1987; Fondahl 1991;  
57 Goodman and Chinowsky 1997; Chinowsky 2002; Wilkinson and Scofield 2002; Milosevic et al.  
58 2007). However, their education is still mainly focused on technical subjects: the “engineers’  
59 paradigm” as named by Pries and Janszen (1995). Hence, there is a growing demand from the  
60 industry to increase “soft” or managerial skills for construction professionals, especially from  
61 those having an undergraduate civil engineering degree (Berger 1996; Wilkinson and Scofield  
62 2002; Chinowski 2002; Russell et al. 2007; Yepes et al. 2012); leadership and communications  
63 skills are the most required demands (Oberlender and Hughes 1987; Fondahl 1991; Harris 1992;  
64 Berger 1996; Welsh 1997; Russell et al. 2007; Riley et al. 2008; Hegazi et al. 2013). Very often  
65 this has been pursued through graduate programs (M.Sc. degrees) in construction management

66 (Oberlender and Hughes 1987; Tatum 1987; Oglesby 1990; Lowe 1991; Walesh 1997;  
67 Chinowski 2002; Lee et al. 2013; Pellicer et al. 2013).

68         Thus, many universities have adapted their programs in order to fulfill the growing  
69 demand for construction professionals to be better prepared in managerial skills, either through  
70 an improvement of an existing undergraduate degree, or the creation of a new degree  
71 (undergraduate or graduate program). Some contributors (Atalah and Muchemedzi 2006; Salman  
72 et al. 2011) have analyzed the procedure that a specific university followed in order to comply  
73 not only with the accreditation body, but also with the needs of each particular market. Previous  
74 work by the authors (Yepes et al. 2012; Pellicer et al. 2013) introduced a model (named MAC2),  
75 as well as a set of indicators, to compare and design programs in construction management  
76 aiming to meet market demands. Using a survey of the Spanish construction industry (CICCP  
77 2008), as well as a set of 21 graduate M.Sc. degrees related to construction management offered  
78 by leading universities in engineering and technology around the world (Yepes et al. 2012), the  
79 authors computed the adequacy of each of these programs to this particular market demand  
80 according to the MAC2 model (Pellicer et al. 2013). Following this research line, this paper takes  
81 a further step putting forward the following research question: What are the courses most  
82 demanded in the construction management field according to graduate students? The path to  
83 answer this question has two basic steps to pursue (each one is a partial goal of this research): (1)  
84 confirm the two dimensions of the theoretical model (MAC2) that maps the field of management  
85 applied to the construction industry considering the infrastructure life-cycle and the  
86 organizational breakdown; and (2) analyze the topics more demanded by graduate students. The  
87 data used to perform this research is based on a survey of 534 graduate students from several  
88 American and European universities.

89 This paper is organized in the following way. First, the theoretical model (MAC2) is  
90 introduced to the readers. Then, the research method used in this study is explained in-depth: the  
91 research questions, the sample, the questionnaire survey, and an overview of the statistical  
92 analysis. The next section displays the results of the analysis, considering the characterization of  
93 the sample, the confirmation of the MAC2 model and, finally, the identification of the most  
94 important courses on construction management (according to the respondents).

95

## 96 **THEORETICAL MODEL**

97 The construction management field can be mapped from two perspectives or dimensions (Yepes  
98 et al. 2012): infrastructure life-cycle and organizational breakdown (see Fig. 1). The life-cycle of  
99 the infrastructure is one of the dimensions of the model, measured in time. It is summarized in  
100 four main phases (Stuckenbruck 1981; Pellicer et al. 2014): feasibility, design, construction, and  
101 operation. The dismantlement, or deconstruction phase, is not taken into consideration because  
102 of its uncommonness and similarity in many ways to the construction phase: documents in  
103 advance describing the works to be performed, permits, and a contractor are needed too.

104 The organizational breakdown is the other dimension, measured according to the degree  
105 of fragmentation from an organizational point of view. Four facets are considered (see Fig. 1):  
106 the whole construction industry, the company, the team, and the individual. For the first facet,  
107 the construction sector as a whole represents the stakeholders' relationships and the built  
108 environment framework (Stuckenbruck 1981; Pellicer et al. 2014); it considers the entire life-  
109 cycle of a facility. This level takes into consideration topics such as regulations, ethics, project  
110 delivery methods, stakeholders' needs, etc. Innovative approaches such as integrated project

111 delivery or public-private partnerships, as well as topics as internationalization and globalization,  
112 should also be considered because of their current importance in the construction industry.

113         The second level is focused on the company and it deals with business management.  
114 Gaining experience throughout the years, engineers and architects can rise to intermediate  
115 positions as managers in their organizations (Russell and Yao 1996; Milosevic et al. 2007).  
116 Business management in the construction sector comprises topics such as operational and  
117 strategic planning, financial management, total quality management, control, marketing,  
118 knowledge management, etc. (Castro et al. 2012; Yepes et al. 2012). This level involves different  
119 types of organizations, for instance, public agencies and developers (feasibility phase),  
120 consulting engineering and architectural firms (design phase), contractors and specialty  
121 subcontractors (construction phase), and maintenance contractors, service operators, and  
122 concessionaires (operation phase).

123         <FIGURE 1 HERE>

124         Organizations in the construction industry work and manage by projects using teams to  
125 develop the tasks (Gann and Salter 2000; Winch 2006). Therefore, the team level focus on  
126 project management (Cleland and King 1968; Russell and Yao 1996). The Project Management  
127 Body of Knowledge (PMI 2013) provides a general set of procedures and good practices to be  
128 implemented in most of the projects, most of the time, even in construction. From the life-cycle  
129 perspective, projects can adopt several labels: feasibility assessment (feasibility phase), design  
130 project (design phase), construction project (construction phase), and infrastructure or facility  
131 management (operation phase).

132         Finally, leadership (Farr et al. 1997; Bowman and Farr 2000; Riley et al. 2008) and  
133 human resources management (Edum-Fotwe and McCaffer 2000) are key factors from the

134 individual viewpoint. The project manager can mainly take the role of the designer (design  
135 phase) or the site manager (construction phase). This level can take into consideration topics  
136 such as negotiation processes, conflict management, and team building (Yepes et al. 2012).

137

## 138 **RESEARCH METHOD**

### 139 **Research Question and Goals**

140 As stated in the Introduction, the research question is: What are the courses most demanded in  
141 the construction management field according to graduate students? In order to answer this  
142 question, two consecutive goals have to be achieved. First, as explained in the previous section,  
143 the MAC2 model has been already proposed and used in previous work of the authors. However,  
144 no statistical test has been performed yet in order to check if these two dimensions of the model  
145 (life-cycle and organization) are able to classify the construction management field. Therefore,  
146 this is going to be a previous step in order to meet the second goal of the paper. For this second  
147 goal, the topics more demanded by graduate students have to be found out and analyzed. To  
148 comply with both goals, the survey is chosen as the research tool because of its suitability for  
149 gathering beliefs from a large number of people (Cohen et al. 2011). The perception of the  
150 students in relation to each of the questions will provide the information for the later analysis.

151

### 152 **Sample**

153 The population consists of graduate students enrolled in M.Sc. programs related to construction  
154 engineering and management around the world. The sample was comprised by students from 17  
155 universities which participated in the survey, as displayed in the Appendix. This is a convenience  
156 sample, not probabilistic, due to the difficulties of accessing a random worldwide sample



157 (Onwuegbuzie and Collins 2007), which may not yield a sensible response rate (Abowitz and  
158 Toole 2010); therefore, this sample comprises only those programs that the authors were able to  
159 reach through direct contact plus some snowball effect. The questionnaires were distributed to all  
160 students enrolled in mandatory courses offered by the degrees under analysis (93% of them  
161 overall: everyone who attended class that day). This way, the research team obtained 534 valid  
162 responses from graduate students. Incomplete and anomalous questionnaires were discarded.  
163 Assuming that these responses are representative of an infinite population, the sample error is  
164 4.2% for a level of confidence of 95% and a standard deviation of 0.5.

165

### 166 **Questionnaire Survey**

167 The questionnaire was administered by hand in Spanish or English language, depending on the  
168 origin of the participants. It had three different parts: (1) characterization of the respondent; (2)  
169 subjects that shape a successful M.Sc. degree in construction management; and (3) topics that are  
170 most important for a M.Sc. degree in construction management. The first part includes questions  
171 on professional degree, gender, nationality, current working status, age, and professional  
172 experience. The subjects considered for the questions in the second part are focused on the four  
173 rows (construction industry, company, team and individual) and the four columns (feasibility,  
174 design, construction and operation) of the MAC2 model; these questions are used to test the  
175 validity of the MAC2 model (first goal of this research). The 27 topics considered in the third  
176 part of the questionnaire are developed from experience and previous work from the authors  
177 (Pellicer et al. 2013); the purpose is to find out the most demanded courses (second goal of this  
178 research).

179 In the second part of the questionnaire, the students were asked to grade the importance

180 of each statement according to this question: “The success of a Master Degree in Construction  
181 Management is due to courses related to [subject]” (see the eight subjects in Table 1). In the third  
182 part of the questionnaire the students had to do the same with the following question: “A Master  
183 Degree in Construction Management should consider [topic]” (see the 27 topics in Table 3). For  
184 both parts of the questionnaire, a 5-point Likert scale was used to quantify the responses, being 1  
185 not important and 5 very important. Using an odd scale of, at least five choices, responses to  
186 these questions could be analyzed statistically by calculating their mean and standard deviation  
187 (Cohen et al. 2011).

188

### 189 **Statistical Analysis**

190 Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 16.0) as well as EQS (version 6.1). For  
191 each of the two research goals a different analysis is performed; they are outlined next. First, to  
192 check the soundness of the MAC2 model, a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) of the eight  
193 variables included in the second part of the questionnaire is developed. The objective of this  
194 CFA is to check if the observed variables fit the underlying latent MAC2 model.

195         Once the dimensions of the model are confirmed, the other goal of the research is to find  
196 out the courses that are most important for a M.Sc. degree in construction management. This  
197 goal is achieved performing a descriptive analysis of the variables contained in the third part of  
198 the questionnaire, computing and comparing the mean and standard deviation for each one of  
199 them. Later on, a principal component analysis (PCA) is performed to condense the original 27  
200 variables into a reduced set of factors that explain as much variance as possible.

201

202

## 203 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### 204 **Statistical Characterization**

205 According to the questionnaire responses, more than half of the respondents are American  
206 (56.2%), being 34.4% European and the remaining 9.4% from other continents. They can be  
207 profiled in the following way: younger than 26 years of age (52.1%), male (60.0%), and with no  
208 more than three years of professional experience (66.7%) having worked previously for a  
209 contractor (52.3%); regarding the academic background, 53.7% of them were civil engineers,  
210 24.6% were architects, and the rest were architectural engineers or similar. These are typical  
211 characteristics of graduate students in construction programs (Torres-Machí et al. 2013), apart  
212 from the nationality.

213

### 214 **Confirmation of the MAC2 Model**

215 This step aims to meet two targets: (a) to highlight the importance of the subjects (cells) of the  
216 model for the respondents; and (b) to check the dimensions that define the proposed MAC2  
217 model. To facilitate the data analysis, the eight variables representing the subjects in the MAC2  
218 model were coded (see Table 1). This table displays the statistical description (mean and  
219 standard deviation) of the variables included in the second part of the questionnaire.

220 <TABLE 1 HERE>

221 All of the subjects get a high mean (around four out of five). However, it is noticeable  
222 that the subject with lowest mean be “Operation and Maintenance”; it looks as if students do not  
223 appreciate the importance of this phase in the facility life-cycle. Other two variables displaying  
224 the life-cycle (“Feasibility Analysis” and “Design Project”) also scored less than 4.00. Most of  
225 the current programs are oriented towards the construction phase, leaving aspects related to  
226 feasibility, design, and operation and maintenance as secondary (Yepes et al. 2012; Pellicer et al.

227 2013). Literature, however, highlights the growing importance of the operation phase,  
228 specifically focused on maintenance and rehabilitation, aiming to uphold and lengthen the long-  
229 term facility life-cycle (Schraven et al. 2011), not only in transportation (Cooksey et al. 2011),  
230 but also in other fields such as wastewater (Ugarelli et al. 2010) and buildings (Grussing 2014).  
231 On the other hand, the variables in the organizational dimension are better balanced (see Table  
232 1).

233 The next step is to perform a CFA to check if the observed variables fit the MAC2 model.  
234 CFA is a technique oriented to test the adequacy of an ‘a priori’ proposed model to the data. This  
235 model describes a structure in the data, specifying some underlying factors and defining which  
236 original variables are related with each of them. Different indicators of goodness of fit can be  
237 used, but the most frequent are the Comparative Fit Index (CFI), the Joreskog Goodness of Fit  
238 Index (GFI), the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) and the Standardized  
239 Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR) (Hu and Bentler 1999; Jackson et al. 2009). Usually  
240 numeric results are complemented with a graphic representation of the model.

241 The two-factor model MAC2 was specified and tested. The results provide a moderately  
242 acceptable fit to the data, lending support to the original hypothesized structure of the  
243 questionnaire, with GFI = 0.889, AGFI = 0.791, RMSEA = 0.162, 90% CI RMSEA = 0.145 to  
244 0.179, MFI = 0.779, and CFI = 0.728. Cronbach's Alfa was 0.681 and Reliability Rho was 0.722.  
245 Usually it is considered that GFI and CFI should be greater than 0.9, but in this case these values  
246 are not reached; nevertheless, values are high enough to confirm the model. The standardized  
247 model equations are shown in Table 2.

248 <TABLE 2 HERE>

249 For a better understanding of how the MAC2 model fits to the data, each of the two  
250 model components was tested separately. CFA confirms the structure of the first component  
251 (life-cycle) linked with variables LC1 to LC4 (CFI=0.964, RMSEA=0.095, 90% Confidence  
252 Interval for RMSEA=0.047-0.152, and SRMR=0.032). The second component (organizational  
253 breakdown) seems to be structured in two subcomponents, with an important correlation among  
254 them (R=0.48) and good fitting indicators (CFI=0.979, RMSEA=0.155, 90% Confidence Interval  
255 for RMSEA=0.089-0.234, SRMR=0.024).

256 The correlation between constructs was 0.144. Finally, the model can be represented as in  
257 Figure 2. The first goal of this research is achieved: the MAC2 model is composed of two factors  
258 which are rational and logical (see the structural model in Figure 2). These two dimensions agree  
259 with the initial proposal. Therefore, the goodness of the model has been successfully checked.

260 <FIGURE 2 HERE>

261

## 262 **Most Important Courses on Construction Management**

263 After confirming that the two dimensions of the MAC2 model (life-cycle and organization) are  
264 able to classify the construction management field, the other goal can be targeted. The research  
265 aims to find out the courses more demanded by graduate students in the construction  
266 management field.

267 In a previous work, the authors selected an exploratory sample of 21 M.Sc. Degrees in  
268 Construction Management at leading universities available online (Yepes et al. 2012). Later on,  
269 the authors analyzed the curricula of each one of these programs, grouping its courses (more than  
270 300) into 27 “standard” topics (Pellicer et al. 2013). Based on that previous work, the authors  
271 have developed the survey presented in this paper; these “standard” topics (just “topics” from

272 now on) are the ones considered in the third part of the questionnaire (displayed in Table 3). The  
273 respondents of the survey were asked to assess (through a 5-point Likert scale) the importance of  
274 each topic in a M.Sc. degree in construction management, in line with the main goal stated  
275 previously.

276         These topics are displayed in Table 3 and codified to facilitate the data analysis. Table 3  
277 also displays a statistical description (mean and standard deviation) of the responses obtained in  
278 the third part of the questionnaire. Three topics have a higher mean: construction management,  
279 management of construction companies, and innovation management. These three topics are also  
280 the ones that get less standard deviation. The first two are linked to the construction phase of the  
281 facility life-cycle; they concur with the general tendency discovered in most of the graduate  
282 programs to focus on the construction phase of the infrastructure (Yepes et al. 2012; Pellicer et  
283 al. 2013). Furthermore, it appears that graduate students consider innovation an important part of  
284 the management of the organization (Yepes et al. 2016), even if it is focused on the construction  
285 phase (Pellicer et al. 2014). On the other hand, the three topics less popular are: professional  
286 engineering and architectural bodies, contractors' associations, and infrastructure users; their  
287 standard deviation are higher as it seems logical. All three of them are related to the global  
288 framework of the construction industry; perhaps these topics are not appreciated because they are  
289 not properly introduced, or its importance for the industry as a whole is not explained, during the  
290 undergraduate education.

291         <TABLE 3 HERE>

292         Once the responses are analyzed from a statistical descriptive point of view, the research  
293 aims to find out the latent approaches for a graduate program in the construction management  
294 field. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) aims to transform a set of highly correlated variables

295 in another abridged and not correlated set of variables, named principal components; this way,  
296 the dimensionality of the data space is condensed using latent or underlying variables (Field  
297 2013). The PCA computes a smaller number of variables (called factors or principal  
298 components) that are a linear combination of the original variables as well as independent among  
299 them; their average is 0 and their standard deviation is 1. The goal of the PCA is that the new  
300 factors retain as much information as possible from the original scenario based on the  
301 relationships among variables, but simplifying the structure of the information (Hair et al. 2009).  
302 The adequacy of the data set for a PCA is checked by Bartlett's spherical test ( $p < 0.001$ ) and by  
303 the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy ( $KMO = 0.828$ ); for this test an  
304 output higher than 0.800 can be considered good (Field 2013). Furthermore, the determinant is  
305 bigger than  $10^{-5}$ ; thus, there is no multicollinearity problem either (Field 2013).

306 For each variable, there is a proportion of variance, or communality, which is shared with  
307 other variables. Communality measures the proportion of variance explained by the factors or  
308 principal components (Field 2013). For this case, Table 4 shows the communalities obtained  
309 after performing the analysis.

310 <TABLE 4 HERE>

311 The two courses with communality less than 0.500 (see Table 4) are eliminated from the  
312 subsequent analysis: legal concepts, and foreign languages. They are not going to explain the  
313 model after the extraction. The next step is to compute the principal components; due to the fact  
314 that normalized data are used (correlations instead of covariances), the number of eigenvalues is  
315 the same as the number of variables (25). Only six components are considered because, as it can  
316 be seen in Table 5, the point of inflection of slopes is the sixth eigenvalue (cut-off point);  
317 furthermore, the seventh and eighth eigenvalues are very close to 1 (Field 2013). These six

318 eigenvalues explain 57.3% of the information; even though, the first one explains 26.1% (see  
319 Table 5). After applying a Varimax rotation, Table 6 shows the rotated component matrix and  
320 the grouping of courses within the six principal components.

321 <TABLE 5 HERE>

322 <TABLE 6 HERE>

323 As it can be seen in Table 6, three topics do not contribute to any of the six principal  
324 components: maintenance and operations management (C12), feasibility assessment (C09), and  
325 advanced technical concepts (C19). Therefore, a new PCA is going to be developed without  
326 considering these three variables. The PCA is performed using only 22 variables. It complies  
327 with the Bartlett's spherical test ( $p < 0.001$ ), the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling  
328 adequacy ( $KMO = 0.822$ ); for this test an output higher than 0.800 can be considered good (Field  
329 2013). The determinant is higher than  $10^{-5}$ . Tables 7, 8 and 9 show the communalities, the  
330 principal component analysis and the rotated component matrix, respectively. The new six  
331 principal components obtained explain 60.5% of the total variance, while the first one explains  
332 27.0% by itself. This total value is higher than the one obtained with 25 variables.

333 <TABLE 7 HERE>

334 <TABLE 8 HERE>

335 <TABLE 9 HERE>

336 Anyway, each topic is assigned to only one component; the one that has more loading. The  
337 new components group these topics as follows:

- 338 • Leadership (PC1): contains the four topics related to leadership skills as a designer (C15),  
339 site manager (C14), feasibility manager (C13), and operation manager (C16). They are  
340 the four cells of the leadership variable in Figure 1. This principal component



341 corresponds to the individual facet of the organizational breakdown (OB4). The first two  
342 (C15 and C14) have a higher load factor, contributing more to this component; as  
343 highlighted along the text, they belong to the two main phases of the life-cycle: design  
344 and construction.

345 • Built Environment Stakeholders (PC2): encompasses the four topics related to the  
346 different stakeholders' associations in the construction industry from different viewpoints  
347 (designers, C02, contractors, C03, final users, C04, and civil service, C01). This  
348 component corresponds exactly with the four cells of the stakeholders' relationship and  
349 built environment framework of the MAC2 model. It shows the corporate facet of the  
350 profession and its relationship with the society (OB1).

351 • Innovation and Quality (PC3): comprises topics related to quality in a broader sense  
352 (including not only the quality per se, C22, but also the environment –C22– and health  
353 and safety –C25–) as well as innovation (including not only innovation per se, C24, but  
354 also research –C27– and information and communication technologies –C26–). Health  
355 and safety (C25) contributes more to the load factor, recognizing the importance of  
356 preserving human life; innovation (C24) and information and communication  
357 technologies (C26) are also important, maybe because of their attractiveness.

358 • Economics (PC4): contains the three topics related to economy and financial concepts  
359 (C20), accounting (C21), and marketing (C23). In this case, the first two (C20 y C21)  
360 support most of the load factor.

361 • Business Management (PC5): includes three topics on management of companies related  
362 to concessionaires (C06), consulting firms (C07) and developers and public agencies  
363 (C08); it has some participation of management of contractors (C05) too. The

364 management of consulting firms (C07) is the variable that contributes more to the load  
365 factor. These four topics comprises the business management variable in the MAC2  
366 model (OB2).

367 • Project Management (PC6): contains two topics related to construction (C11) and design  
368 management of the infrastructure (C10), as well as management of construction  
369 companies (C05). Only construction management (C11) contributes fully to this  
370 component. Even though this one is not as clear as the other three, it somehow represents  
371 the project management variable (OB3) of the MAC2 model.

372 As displayed in Table 9, the four variables of the organizational breakdown of the MAC2  
373 model are recognized by the students in a latent way; the university programs are conveying  
374 quite successfully the organizational facets in construction to their students. Nevertheless, the  
375 PCA scatters completely the importance of the infrastructure life-cycle. Even though the facets  
376 related to design and construction are included in the PCA, facets related to feasibility and  
377 operation of the infrastructure are not so well highlighted according to the students' opinion.  
378 This result disagrees with the current issues related to the inefficient decision-making during the  
379 feasibility phase (Kabir et al. 2014; Sierra et al. 2016), as well as the growing importance of  
380 maintenance and operation in developed economies (Ugarelli et al. 2010; Schraven et al. 2011;  
381 Grussing 2014). Since graduate programs in construction management are not conveying  
382 properly the importance of the feasibility and operation phases of the infrastructure life-cycle,  
383 additional efforts should be made by universities, offering courses and improving current syllabi.

384

## 385 **CONCLUSIONS**

386 This paper analyzes how graduate students' views are relevant in order to check the two  
387 dimensions of the MAC2 model and its relationships. The MAC2 model maps the construction

388 management field aiming to assess and improve M.Sc. programs related to construction  
389 management. The results of a survey of more than 500 graduate students from American and  
390 European universities highlight that, according to the respondents and using a confirmatory  
391 factor analysis, the construction management field shows two latent dimensions: the  
392 infrastructure life-cycle and the organizational breakdown. This outcome implies that a graduate  
393 program in construction management must be able to plan a curriculum where all the  
394 stakeholders are considered in this double dimension: the facility life-cycle and the  
395 organizational structure.

396         Moreover, by means of an exploratory factor analysis, the survey has determined six  
397 components or courses for a graduate program in the construction management field: leadership,  
398 built environment stakeholders, innovation and quality, economics, business management, and  
399 project management. Four of these components comprise the organizational breakdown  
400 dimension of the MAC2 model. However, it is worth mentioning that, regarding the  
401 infrastructure life-cycle, important facets such as feasibility analysis and operation and  
402 maintenance of infrastructures, are considered by the graduate students less important than  
403 design and construction. This shows that, the construction programs where the questionnaire was  
404 applied are focused on the design and construction phases of the facility life-cycle; it also  
405 highlights that these programs are able to communicate properly the importance of the different  
406 approaches of the organizational breakdown to their students.

407         As any research, this one also has limitations. Even though the number of responses is  
408 high (more than 500) and that it can be considered statistically significant, the sample is not  
409 completely random; it only represents those programs that the authors were able to reach through  
410 direct contact plus some snowball effect. The MAC2 model, as well as the results from this

411 survey, could be taken as the point of departure by other groups already working on this topic,  
412 such as the Associated Schools of Construction (<http://www.ascweb.org/>) or the Global  
413 Leadership Forum for Construction Engineering and Management Programs  
414 (<http://rebar.ecn.purdue.edu/glf/>) in order to get a randomly representative sample. Anyway, the  
415 authors are already working on the use of the MAC2 model for the design of new programs and  
416 the adjustment of existing ones to the current market demands.

417

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427

#### 428 **APPENDIX: UNIVERSITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE RESEARCH**

429 České Vysoké Učení Technické v Praze (Czech Republic)

430 Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland)

431 Instituto Superior Tecnico de Lisboa (Portugal)

432 Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (México)

433 Politechnika Warszawska (Poland)

434 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

435 Sakarya University (Turkey)  
436 The University of Salford (United Kingdom)  
437 Universidad Católica del Maule (Chile)  
438 Universidad de Granada (Spain)  
439 Universidad de Medellín (Colombia)  
440 Universidad de San Carlos (Guatemala)  
441 Universidade do Minho (Portugal)  
442 Universidade Federal de São Carlos (Brazil)  
443 Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)  
444 Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain)  
445 University of the Incarnate Word (Texas)

446

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597

<b>CODE</b>	<b>SUBJECT (variable)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
LC1	Feasibility Analysis	3.95	1.014
LC2	Design Project	3.77	1.048
LC3	Construction Works	4.03	0.961
LC4	Operation and Maintenance	3.58	0.983
OB1	Stakeholders' Relationships and Built Environment Framework	4.17	0.928
OB2	Business Management	4.02	0.984
OB3	Team Building	4.01	1.020
OB4	Leadership and Human Resources	3.96	1.021

598 Table 1. Codes and Statistical Description of the Subjects (Cells) of the MAC2 Model

600

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LC1 =	0.382 * F1	+ 0.924 * E1
LC2 =	0.667 * F1	+ 0.745 * E2
LC3 =	0.654 * F1	+ 0.757 * E3
LC4 =	0.524 * F1	+ 0.852 * E4
OB1 =	0.398 * F2	+ 0.917 * E5
OB2 =	0.540 * F2	+ 0.842 * E6
OB3 =	0.812 * F2	+ 0.583 * E7
OB4 =	0.749 * F2	+ 0.662 * E8

---

601 Table 2. Structural Equations

602

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
C01	Civil Service	3.39	1.068
C02	Professional Engineering and Architectural Bodies	2.86	1.070
C03	Contractors' Associations	3.11	1.050
C04	Infrastructure Users	3.12	1.073
C05	Management of Construction Companies (Contractors)	4.24	0.799
C06	Management of Companies working in the Operation Phase	3.51	0.962
C07	Management of Consulting Engineering and Architectural Firms	3.67	0.968
C08	Management of Real Estate Companies, Developers and Public Agencies	3.66	1.012
C09	Feasibility Assessment	3.94	0.960
C10	Design Management	3.95	1.036
C11	Construction Management	4.26	0.872
C12	Maintenance and Operations Management	3.60	0.971
C13	Leadership Skills as a Feasibility Manager	3.67	1.033
C14	Leadership Skills as a Site Manager	3.97	0.984
C15	Leadership Skills as a Designer	4.02	0.969
C16	Leadership Skills as a Maintenance and Operations Manager	3.56	1.010
C17	Legal Concepts	3.65	1.042
C18	Foreign Languages	3.37	1.255
C19	Advanced Technical Concepts	3.77	1.076
C20	Economy and Finance	3.87	0.966
C21	Accounting	3.47	1.073
C22	Quality and Environmental Management	3.95	0.978
C23	Marketing	3.49	1.142
C24	Innovation Management	4.13	0.932
C25	Safety and Health Management	3.83	0.988
C26	E-Business and Information Systems	3.57	1.005
C27	Research Methods	3.23	1.151

604 Table 3. Codes and Statistical Description of the Most Important Topics

<b>Code</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Extraction</b>
C01	Civil Service	1.000	0.506
C02	Professional Engineering and Architectural Bodies	1.000	0.680
C03	Contractors' Associations	1.000	0.513
C04	Infrastructure Users	1.000	0.510
C05	Management of Construction Companies (Contractors)	1.000	0.529
C06	Management of Companies working in the Operation Phase	1.000	0.528
C07	Management of Consulting Engineering and Architectural Firms	1.000	0.630
C08	Management of Real Estate Companies, Developers and Public Agencies	1.000	0.569
C09	Feasibility Assessment	1.000	0.468
C10	Design Management	1.000	0.659
C11	Construction Management	1.000	0.746
C12	Maintenance and Operations Management	1.000	0.530
C13	Leadership Skills as a Feasibility Manager	1.000	0.621
C14	Leadership Skills as a Site Manager	1.000	0.743
C15	Leadership Skills as a Designer	1.000	0.732
C16	Leadership Skills as a Maintenance and Operations Manager	1.000	0.612
C19	Advanced Technical Concepts	1.000	0.470
C20	Economy and Finance	1.000	0.635
C21	Accounting	1.000	0.640
C22	Quality and Environmental Management	1.000	0.478
C23	Marketing	1.000	0.488
C24	Innovation Management	1.000	0.543
C25	Safety and Health Management	1.000	0.551
C26	E-Business and Information Systems	1.000	0.519
C27	Research Methods	1.000	0.422

607 Table 4. Communalities of the Most Important Topics (1<sup>st</sup> iteration)



PC	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance
1	6.517	26.066	26.066	6.517	26.066	26.066	2.688	10.754	10.754
2	1.813	7.250	33.317	1.813	7.250	33.317	2.680	10.718	21.472
3	1.679	6.716	40.032	1.679	6.716	40.032	2.623	10.490	31.962
4	1.541	6.163	46.196	1.541	6.163	46.196	2.227	8.907	40.869
5	1.458	5.833	52.028	1.458	5.833	52.028	2.134	8.537	49.407
6	1.315	5.261	57.290	1.315	5.261	57.290	1.971	7.883	57.290
7	1.065	4.261	61.551						
8	1.042	4.167	65.718						
9	0.836	3.344	69.062						
10	0.803	3.210	72.272						
11	0.730	2.921	75.193						
12	0.675	2.701	77.893						
13	0.629	2.518	80.411						
14	0.603	2.410	82.821						
15	0.529	2.118	84.939						
16	0.513	2.052	86.990						
17	0.487	1.949	88.939						
18	0.459	1.835	90.774						
19	0.403	1.613	92.387						
20	0.376	1.505	93.892						
21	0.368	1.473	95.365						
22	0.341	1.364	96.729						
23	0.314	1.254	97.983						
24	0.269	1.076	99.059						
25	0.235	0.941	100.000						

610 Table 5. Principal Component Analysis of the Most Important Topics (1<sup>st</sup> iteration)

<b>Code</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>PC1</b>	<b>PC2</b>	<b>PC3</b>	<b>PC4</b>	<b>PC5</b>	<b>PC6</b>
C02	Professional Engineering and Architectural Bodies	0.751					
C03	Contractors' Associations	0.665					
C04	Infrastructure Users	0.626					
C01	Civil Service	0.504					
C15	Leadership Skills as a Designer		0.823				
C14	Leadership Skills as a Site Manager		0.816				
C13	Leadership Skills as a Feasibility Manager		0.701				
C16	Leadership Skills as a Maintenance and Operations Manager		0.631				
C25	Safety and Health Management			0.703			
C24	Innovation Management			0.675			
C26	E-Business and Information Systems			0.659			
C27	Research Methods			0.542			
C22	Quality and Environmental Management			0.505			
C23	Marketing			0.446		(0.411)	
C07	Management of Consulting Engineering and Architectural Firms				0.768		
C08	Management of Real Estate Companies0. Developers and Public Agencies				0.713		
C06	Management of Companies working in the Operation Phase				0.549		
C05	Management of Construction Companies (Contractors)				0.450		(0.430)
C12	Maintenance and Operations Management						
C20	Economy and Finance					0.759	
C21	Accounting					0.728	
C11	Construction Management						0.825
C10	Design Management						0.703
C09	Feasibility Assessment						
C19	Advanced Technical Concepts						

613 Table 6. Rotated Component Matrix of the Most Important Topics (1<sup>st</sup> iteration)

<b>Code</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Extraction</b>
C01	Civil Service	1.000	0.509
C02	Professional Engineering and Architectural Bodies	1.000	0.715
C03	Contractors' Associations	1.000	0.569
C04	Infrastructure Users	1.000	0.527
C05	Management of Construction Companies (Contractors)	1.000	0.633
C06	Management of Companies working in the Operation Phase	1.000	0.395
C07	Management of Consulting Engineering and Architectural Firms	1.000	0.700
C08	Management of Real Estate Companies. Developers and Public Agencies	1.000	0.620
C10	Design Management	1.000	0.587
C11	Construction Management	1.000	0.754
C13	Leadership skills as a Feasibility Manager	1.000	0.627
C14	Leadership skills as a Site Manager	1.000	0.751
C15	Leadership skills as a Designer	1.000	0.736
C16	Leadership skills as a Maintenance and Operations Manager	1.000	0.627
C20	Economy and Finance	1.000	0.714
C21	Accounting	1.000	0.711
C22	Quality and Environmental Management	1.000	0.506
C23	Marketing	1.000	0.502
C24	Innovation Management	1.000	0.545
C25	Safety and Health Management	1.000	0.550
C26	E-Business and Information Systems	1.000	0.537
C27	Research Methods	1.000	0.487

616 Table 7. Communalities of the Most Important Topics (2<sup>nd</sup> iteration)

PC	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance	Total	% Variance	% Cumulative Variance
1	5.939	26.997	26.997	5.939	26.997	26.997	2.612	11.871	11.871
2	1.730	7.866	34.862	1.730	7.866	34.862	2.537	11.531	23.402
3	1.542	7.007	41.870	1.542	7.007	41.870	2.460	11.181	34.583
4	1.477	6.712	48.582	1.477	6.712	48.582	2.037	9.260	43.843
5	1.348	6.128	54.710	1.348	6.128	54.710	1.973	8.967	52.810
6	1.266	5.755	60.466	1.266	5.755	60.466	1.684	7.656	60.466
7	0.968	4.400	64.866						
8	0.808	3.673	68.539						
9	0.788	3.582	72.121						
10	0.748	3.400	75.521						
11	0.709	3.223	78.744						
12	0.622	2.829	81.573						
13	0.569	2.588	84.161						
14	0.520	2.365	86.526						
15	0.485	2.205	88.731						
16	0.465	2.115	90.846						
17	0.405	1.842	92.687						
18	0.378	1.720	94.407						
19	0.356	1.617	96.024						
20	0.347	1.577	97.601						
21	0.274	1.247	98.848						
22	0.253	1.152	100.000						

619 Table 8. Principal Component Analysis of the Most Important Topics (2<sup>nd</sup> iteration)

<b>Code</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>PC1</b>	<b>PC2</b>	<b>PC3</b>	<b>PC4</b>	<b>PC5</b>	<b>PC6</b>
C15	Leadership skills as a Designer	0.819					
C14	Leadership skills as a Site Manager	0.816					
C13	Leadership skills as a Feasibility Manager	0.715					
C16	Leadership skills as a Maintenance and Operations Manager	0.673					
C02	Professional Engineering and Architectural Bodies		0.780				
C03	Contractors' Associations		0.713				
C04	Infrastructure Users		0.652				
C01	Civil Service		0.540				
C25	Safety and Health Management			0.698			
C26	E-Business and Information Systems			0.678			
C24	Innovation Management			0.667			
C27	Research Methods			0.591			
C22	Quality and Environmental Management			0.460	(0.421)		
C20	Economy and Finance				0.818		
C21	Accounting				0.793		
C23	Marketing			(0.402)	0.493		
C07	Management of Consulting Engineering and Architectural Firms					0.813	
C08	Management of Real Estate Companies, Developers and Public Agencies					0.755	
C06	Management of Companies working in the Operation Phase					0.487	
C11	Construction Management						0.835
C10	Design Management		(0.456)				0.603
C05	Management of Construction Companies (Contractors)					(0.509)	0.552

622 Table 9. Rotated Component Matrix of the Most Important Topics (2<sup>nd</sup> iteration)

624 **Figure Captions List**

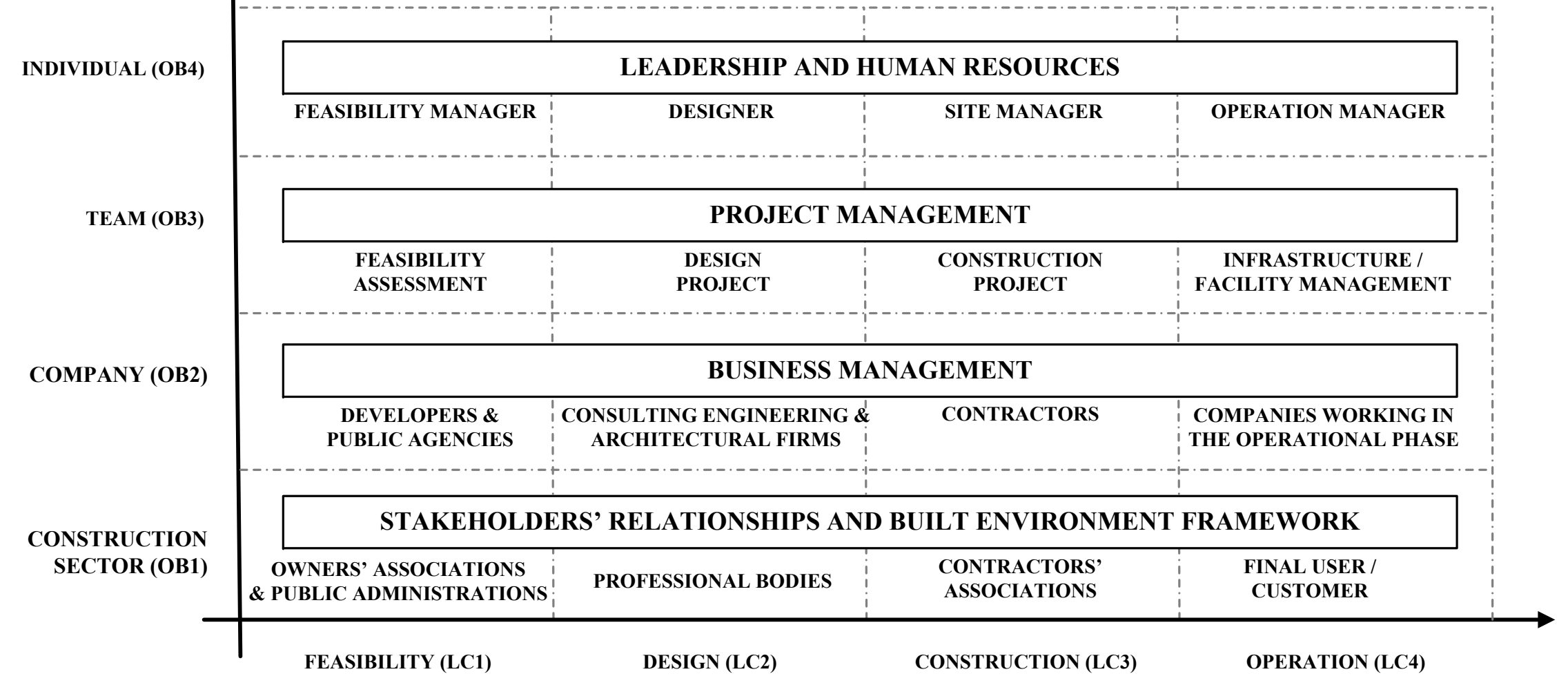
625

626 Figure 1. MAC2 Model (Yepes et al. 2012)

627

628 Figure 2. Structural Equation Model

**ORGANIZATIONAL  
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