

# Preface

Three successful editions of a summer school in rail and logistics co-funded by the Erasmus Intensive Programmes of the European Commission, managed by the British Council in the UK, have established RailNewcastle as a brand. Delivered by NewRail at Newcastle University, North East of England, our first edition was in the summer of 2012, engaging with over 60 students and 20 lecturers from 10 European countries. We kept the pace for three years. More than 300 people interested in rail transport and logistics benefited from this joint venture. As a result of the 1st edition of RailNewcastle, we produced a handbook compiling the teaching material used for the summer school; Marinov M. Introduction: Handbook: An intensive Programme in Railway and Logistics. *Research in Transportation Economics* 2013, 41(1), 1–2.

One of the unique features of the summer school was the group work, which led to the development of excellent student research projects. A collection of outcomes from this learning activity was published by the International Scientific Journal Transport Problems; Marinov M. Editorial: introduction to group research projects developed within an intensive programme in railway and logistics. *Transport Problems* 2014, 9, 5–7.

In 2015, after three editions of a summer school, we moved on to a conference. Over 100 participants from all over the world were welcomed by RailNewcastle Conference 2015. The Rail Technology Magazine (RTM) joined in with us as the RailNewcastle Conference media partner. Three keynote speakers delivered excellent and thought-provoking presentations: Prof. John Roberts, UK; Dr. Janene Piip, Australia and David Prescott, UK. The conference was supported by UIC, the International Union of Railways. The last day of the conference was dedicated to the official launch of the UIC global network of railway talents. We hosted the 1st Railway Talents event in Newcastle upon Tyne, which was great success. On the whole, rail-related research developments of good quality were presented during the conference, and as a result a number of special issues in peer-reviewed journals were produced, for example;

- Marinov M. Editorial: Special Issue, RailNewcastle Conference 2015, Urban Rail Transit and Light Rail. *Urban Rail Transit* 2015, 1(2), 69–70.
- Marinov M. Introduction to the Special Issue on Rail Operations, Management and Economics. *Research in Transportation Economics* 2015, 54, 1.

Papers for publication in the Open Access Journal “Social Sciences” were also selected and published. Examples include:

- Yesid Asaff, Viviane V. F. Grubisic, Regis K. Scalice, and Acires Dias, (2015) The Resurgence of Education in Railway and Metro Engineering in Brazil, *Social Sciences* 2015, 4, 806–819; doi: [10.3390/socsci4030806](https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci4030806)
- Anna Fraszczyk, Joseph Dungworth, Marin Marinov (2015) Analysis of Benefits to Young Rail Enthusiasts of Participating in Extracurricular Academic Activities. *Social Sciences* 2015, 4(4), 967–986. doi: [10.3390/socsci4040967](https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci4040967)
- Janene Piip (2015) Leadership Talent: A Study of the Potential of People in the Australian Rail Industry, *Social Sciences* 2015, 4(3), 718–741; doi: [10.3390/socsci4030718](https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci4030718)
- Luca Rizzetto, Gabriele Malavasi, Stefano Ricci, Noemi Montaruli, Nicoletta Abbascià, Riccardo Risica, Giovanni Bocchetti, Federico Gherardi and Alessandra Raffone (2015) A Successful Cooperation between Academia and Industry in Higher Rail Education: The Postgraduate Course in “Railway Infrastructure and Systems Engineering” at Sapienza, *Social Sciences* 2015, 4(3), 646–654; doi: [10.3390/socsci4030646](https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci4030646)

In 2016, we run RailNewcastle Talks’ sessions for academics. Researchers, professionals, students, lecturers and enthusiasts with interest in rail were all welcome to join in. The material collected from these sessions was offered for publication to Springer. We felt comfortable with organising conference proceedings and lecture notes as most of the attendees were active researchers and academics specialising in rail transport. RailNewcastle Talks 2016 was mainly dedicated to rail operations, engineering, logistics, metro systems, vehicles’ interior design, freight and innovation. The crucial topic of rail marketing, jobs and public engagement was also included in the discussion.

When we asked what participants enjoyed most about RailNewcastle Talks 2016, many of them responded that it was highly beneficial and informative when they discussed rail-related topics with their peers and shared their research findings and knowledge across so that they were able to set up avenues for collaborative projects and other joint ventures expected to materialise the near future.

RailNewcastle is an initiative that proves that railways connect people, not only in a physical, but also in a research context. We are proud to say that a few hundred people from across the globe benefited professionally from RailNewcastle activities so far. And we do not intend to stop here. Instead we intend to continue making rail popular at all levels of research, education and outreach in our local university environments and well beyond.

In conclusion, we are most grateful to all participants and contributors to RailNewcastle activities. We are also grateful to Springer for disseminating this

valuable material, which, in addition to research work, could be used as teaching material for a variety of courses on: Rail Operations and Management, Railway System Engineering, Rail Infrastructure, Rail Vehicle Design, Railway Freight Transport, Transport and Logistics, Rail Technology and Mobility, European Railway Systems, Organisation of Railway Transport, Railway Signalling and Control, Railway Planning, Rail Transport for Land Transport Management Graduates, Rail Marketing and Public Engagement, Rail Innovation, Transport Technical Operation and Security, Multimodal, Intermodal, Transport Policies, Interchanges and Terminals Design.

Marin Marinov  
NewRail, Centre for Railway Research  
Newcastle University  
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Anna Fraszczyk  
Mahidol University  
Salaya, Thailand

Sustainable Rail Transport

Proceedings of RailNewcastle Talks 2016

Marinov, M. (Ed.)

2018, X, 247 p. 145 illus., 139 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-58642-7