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Function & Specialization

- De-risking projects
- Governance of projects
- Data-driven decision making
- Project benchmarking and dealing with Optimism Bias

Professional Associations

- Honorary fellowship Association for Project Management

Education & Certifications

- Dr. Scient., higher doctorate in science, Aalborg University, 2007.
- Dr. Techn., higher doctorate in engineering, Aalborg University, 1991.
- Ph.D. in economic geography, University of Aarhus, University of California at Los Angeles, 1985.

Languages

- Danish
- English

Prof. Bent Flyvbjerg

Chair, Oxford Global Projects, Professor Emeritus, Oxford University; Villum Kann Rasmussen Professor and Chair, IT University of Copenhagen.

Background

Bent Flyvbjerg is the first BT Professor and inaugural Chair of Major Programme Management at Oxford University's Saïd Business School and a Professorial Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. His main areas of expertise are megaproject management and research methodology.

Flyvbjerg is the most cited scholar in the world in megaproject management, and among the most cited in social science methodology. He is the author or editor of 10 books and more than 200 papers in professional journals and edited volumes. His publications have been translated into 20 languages.

Flyvbjerg's research has been covered by Science, The Economist, The Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, China Daily, The BBC, CNN, Charlie Rose, and many other media. He is a frequent commentator in the news. His latest book, How Big Things Get Done has been named a BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR by The Economist, The Financial Times, Forbes, CEO Magazine, Inc. Magazine, and more. Flyvbjerg has received numerous honors and awards, including Harvard Business Review's 'Idea Watch' for the most important new idea to follow and the Project Management Institute's and Project Management Journal's 'Paper of the Year Award.' Flyvbjerg was twice a Fulbright Scholar and received a knighthood in 2002.

Professional & Industry Experience

Professor Bent Flyvbjerg has 25 years of experience as consultant and adviser to government and business, including the UK and US governments, several Fortune 500 companies, major banks, the EU Commission, the United Nations, national audit offices, and regulatory bodies.

He has advised on de-risking large-scale capital investment projects through the use of benchmarking data. Bent has also supported government agencies in the UK, Denmark, Australia, US, and Hong Kong establishing policies and guidance documents on how to improve planning to eliminate Optimism Bias and Strategic Misrepresentation in projects.

Representative Clients

Development Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region – Quantitative risk assessments through Reference Class Forecasting for all capital works departments.

MTR Corporation – Advised on to improve the project surveillance system for capital works projects to escalate issues early. Enhancements to the project reporting system and introduction of new structure and processes of how the company reports on projects.

Energy Company, Europe

Enhancements to project management and planning processes for large capital projects and development of scenarios to identify high-value, high-risk projects earlier.

Notable Publications

“How Big Things Get Done: The Surprising Factors That Determine the Fate of Every Project, from Home Renovations to Space Exploration and Everything In Between. Authors” Bent Flyvbjerg. Dan Gardner. Penguin Random House, 2023

“Oxford Handbook of Megaproject Management.” Oxford University Press, 2017.

“Does Infrastructure Investment Lead to Economic Growth or Economic Fragility? Evidence from China.” Co-authors: Atif Ansar, Alexander Budzier, and Daniel Lunn. Oxford Review of Economic Policy, vol. 32, no. 3, September 2016, pp. 360-390.

“Reference Class Forecasting for Hong Kong’s Major Roadworks projects.” Co-authors: Chi-keung Hon, Wing Huen Fok. Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers-Civil Engineering, pre-print publication, June 2016.

“Why Do Projects Fail?” Co-author: Alexander Budzier, Project Magazine, Summer 2015.

“Should We Build More Large Dams? The Actual Costs of Hydropower Megaproject Development.” Co-authors: Atif Ansar, Alexander Budzier, and Daniel Lunn. Energy Policy no. 69, June 2014, pp. 43-56.

“What You Should Know about Megaprojects and Why: An Overview.” Project Management Journal, vol. 45, no. 2, pp. 6-19.

“Quality Control and Due Diligence in Project Management: Getting Decisions Right by Taking the Outside View.” International Journal of Project Management, vol. 31, no. 5, July 2013, pp. 760-774.

“Dam Downsides.” Co-authors: Atif Ansar and Alexander Budzier. New Scientist, vol. 218, no. 2921, June 2013, pp. 32-32.

“Survival of the Unfittest: Why the Worst Infrastructure Gets Built, and What We Can Do About It.” Oxford Review of Economic Policy, vol. 25, no. 3, September 2009, pp. 344-367.

“From Nobel Prize to Project Management: Getting Risks Right.” Project Management Journal, vol. 37, no. 3, August 2006, pp. 5-15.

“Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition”. Principal author: Bent Flyvbjerg; co-authors: Nils Bruzelius and Werner Rothengatter. Cambridge University Press, 2003, 7th printing 2006, 218 pp.