

# CIVIL, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING HURST-MCCARTHY LECTURE

## Jesus M. de la Garza

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### CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Professor and Director

School of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
and Earth Sciences

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF  
CONSTRUCTION MEMBER

## Latent Side Effects of Safety Interventions

Tuesday, April 2

4 p.m. | ??? Butler-Carlton Hall | Pizza provided

Zoom: ???

### Abstract:

While researchers have dispensed considerable effort in the past decades to reduce the risk of occupational injuries in the construction industry, the large amount of safety incidents occurring each year indicates that many of the safety interventions and technological advances have not fully achieved their safety goals. This fact suggests the possibility of a latent side-effect of safety interventions, known as risk compensation. This research examined whether the concept of risk compensation could offset some safety benefits of protection equipment. The results indicated that providing more safety interventions (i.e., higher levels of fall protection) produced a sense of invulnerability among participants. These findings could significantly influence how the construction industry approaches the development and implementation of safety interventions to offset the influence of risk compensation.



Department of Civil, Architectural  
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### About Dr. de la Garza:

Dr. Jesus M. de la Garza is professor and director of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at Clemson University. He is the chair of the National Academies Board on Infrastructure and the Constructed Environment. He is also a subject matter expert for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's Safety Certification for Transportation Project Professionals (SCTPP) Program. In addition, he is the Vecellio Professor Emeritus of construction engineering and management at Virginia Tech.

Dr. de la Garza is a distinguished member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a member of the National Academy of Construction, a Fellow of the Construction Management Association of America, and a recipient of ASCE's Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Award. He received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois and his bachelor's degree from Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico. He has held visiting professorships at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, Arizona State University and Georgia Tech.



### HURST/MCCARTHY PROFESSORSHIP OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT

This professorship was established through a combined \$1 million gift from alumnus Michael Hurst, CE'74, and his wife, Barbara, along with McCarthy Building Companies, where Hurst worked for more than three decades before his retirement as president and chief operating officer in 2007. Founded as a family business in 1864, McCarthy is one of the oldest privately held construction firms in the nation.



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