



International Association  
for Bridge and Structural  
Engineering



Camillo Nuti, Italy



Jonathan McGormley, US



Maria Pina Limongelli, Italy



Salvatore Di Bernardo, US

# IABSE WEBINAR

## BRIDGE COLLAPSES: LESSONS LEARNT

Duo-IABSE webinar: A Bridge between Academia and Profession

**15-16.00 HRS, 12 NOVEMBER 2021**

THIS WEBINAR IS AN IABSE COMMISSION 1 INITIATIVE

**SPEAKERS: Prof. Camillo Nuti, Italy; Jonathan McGormley, US.**  
**MODERATORS: Prof. M.P.Limongelli, Italy;**  
**Salvatore Di Bernardo, US.**

The collapse of the Polcevera Bridge, Riccardo Morandi's masterpiece, inaugurated in 1967, was a shock for Italian Engineering and an immeasurable tragedy that involved human losses as well as the substantial direct and indirect cost associated.

### What can we learn from these tragedies?

The failure of a bridge often focuses the nation's attention on the state of our existing bridges and triggers discussions on infrastructure: design, inspection and management, environmental impact. Investigations of bridge failures occurred in US in the last 40 years have shown that, interestingly, fatigue and brittle fracture have not led to the collapse of bridges that are often due to other causes. In Italy a strong impulse, at governmental as well as professional level, came from consciousness of the importance of knowledge of detection of deterioration of infrastructures and introduction of tools to deal with such items. In this webinar the recent history of some catastrophic failures of bridges will be reviewed, to see what lessons can be learned and to assess the role that maintenance and inspection procedures may have played in these events.

**Duo-IABSE webinars: A bridge between academia and profession: The Duo-IABSE webinars is an initiative of TG1.9 of IABSE Commission 1, aimed to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of hot topics related to bridge and structural engineering. An academic and a practitioner, experts on the theme, will be invited to present and discuss it from the perspective of the academia and of the profession. Questions from the public will provide the chance to further widen the forum.**

[www.iabse.org](http://www.iabse.org)

[secretariat@iabse.org](mailto:secretariat@iabse.org)