



Interview with
Dr Mija Hubler
CU Boulder, Colorado, USA
2020 Colonnetti medallist

This interview took place after Dr Hubler's presentation at the RSCC2020, Portugal, on Wed 11 March 2020. The video of this presentation, titled "Modeling long term deformations of concrete: creep, shrinkage and cracking", is temporarily available [here](#). The edited video will soon become available on the [YouTube RILEM channel](#).

RILEM Implementation Manager (RIM): Could you please tell us more about your experience with RILEM? When did you become a member and how?

Dr Hubler: The topic of my PhD studies happened to be aligned with one of the Technical Committees (TCs) that was ongoing at the time (cfr. 242-MDC : Multi-decade creep and shrinkage of concrete: material model and structural analysis) and my PhD supervisor was part of the Committee. He invited me to join those meetings at that time. It was exciting to meet and chat with people who were working on the same topic that I was doing my PhD work on. Later, when we finished our studies, I was thinking to submit the work to some journals but my supervisor told me "no, we should submit all our papers to the RILEM journal" (cfr. Materials and Structures) and so I learnt a little bit more about the journal and I really began to appreciate the reviewers' comments that I received for all the work I had done. So, all the papers ended up being published on the RILEM journal. That is how I became involved to RILEM during my PhD thesis work. When I joined CU Boulder, I found a number of faculty colleagues here who have also acted as my mentors that are part of other RILEM TCs. Those TCs have met here in Boulder and I attended meetings even though I was not necessarily a formal partner of those TCs but I was given the opportunity to listen to their work and stay involved.

RIM: Are you currently a member of any RILEM TC?

Dr Hubler: I was informally involved in a committee working with modelling of ASR (Alkali-Silica reaction) and I am interested in joining a committee that I understand is going to be activated soon on modelling of concrete. So, I would say I am in a kind of transition phase!

RIM: What about the Colonnetti application. How did it happen?

Dr Hubler: Well, I assume it is a similar story to other medallists. My PhD supervisor, Prof Bazant, suggested "why don't you apply for this award? You could get more involved with RILEM. It could be a good opportunity for you". So I said "ok, why not...!"



RIM: Are you disappointed with the way the Colonnetti ceremony happened in Guimaraes? I refer to the fact that you, like many others, presented your work in remote mode from Colorado, USA, and that there was not a medal physically presented to you.

Dr Hubler: No, I am not disappointed. It was interesting and new, I would say. It was a strange presentation as I could not see the audience all the time. If I had travelled there, I would still have had jetlag. In the end, I had jetlag here staying in my time zone (cfr. Mija's presentation was scheduled in person in Guimaraes, at 10 am Portugal time. Since she was not able to travel to Guimaraes, she presented from home, in Colorado, at 4 am). The only thing that would have been nice is to meet people there in person, because I was really excited to see the community people that had already travelled there. It would have been nice to go for dinner with them. Everybody appreciates social events at conferences so that is the only sad part.

RIM: Could you please tell me more about how your research is relevant to the industry and how you see the relationship of RILEM and the industrial sector?

Dr Hubler: Regarding my research on concrete creep, there have been some structural engineering firms that have specifically talked to us about incorporating our model in the predictions that they make. Our model has also been incorporated in some modelling software that are available to industry to use. So... I feel that industry is really interested in doing a good job, of capturing this phenomenon (cfr. Long term concrete deformation) and as a result industry is eager for new models to be developed. That being said, I feel that any opportunities to give talks, or to share articles, that are out there allow industry to have access to this information. What I mean by that is maybe there were not many industry numbers in the audience at the time of my talk, but I will receive emails from particular companies, afterwards, soliciting copies of papers and presentations saying "we heard about this, could you give us more information, we didn't realise this could be an issue". And so, in that sense I feel like the ideas are reaching industry and that RILEM gives the opportunity to develop and disseminate the information and maybe in the future they will have more direct involvement with the agency itself.