Carolin Birk – University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Talk title	The scaled boundary finite element method - towards fully automatic numerical simulation in the digital age
Biography	Carolin Birk received her degree in civil engineering from Dresden University of Technology (TU Dresden) in 1999. She continued her education at TU Dresden and obtained her doctoral degree in 2004 (summa cum laude). During her postdoctoral career she was awarded the K.J. Bathe Award 2008 for the Best Paper by a Young Researcher in the Field of Computational Engineering published in the International Journal Computers & Structures during 2006-2007. In 2009, Carolin secured a Marie-Curie International Outgoing Fellowship for Career Development of the European Commission, which allowed her to spend one year as a visiting academic at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. From 2011 to 2015 she was a Lecturer in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNSW Australia. She obtained her Habilitation from TU Dresden in 2013. In April 2015, she was appointed University Professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Her research focusses on the development of computer models for the design of structures and materials to withstand extreme loading. She has made significant contributions to the development of the scaled boundary finite element method – a semi-analytical approach, which is currently evolving into a general purpose, fully automatic simulation technique.