



PhD & ECR Annual Conference 2026

COLLABORATIVE CREATIVE ECONOMIES: AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN NETWORKS

Cluster of Research Excellence (CoRE) on Creative
Economies in Africa

LONDON & ONLINE

19th
-22nd
June
2026

Conference Programme

19th June 2026 – King's College London and Online

For online participants, please note the times are all London (UK) GMT

REGISTER TO ATTEND ONLINE OR IN PERSON BY THE 11TH OF JUNE

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/kings/creative-economies-in-africa-conference-2026>

10.15- 10.30 am Conference introduction and welcome

Prof Roberta Comunian, King's College London

Opening Keynote: 10:30-11.00 Prof. Jen Snowball, Rhodes University

Creative Intermediaries as Catalysts: Hybrid Financing and Ecosystem Collaboration in the Cultural Economy

In partnership with the [African Journal of Creative Economy](#)

AJCE

AFRICAN JOURNAL OF
CREATIVE ECONOMY



Session 1: 11.00-12.00 am Craft, livelihood and sustainability

Chair: Prof. Eka Ikpe, KCL

- **Kenneth Appiah Nimo, King's College London**

Navigating sustainability leadership and internationalisation of West African Fashion SMEs.

- **Hajar Agrad, Independent researcher, research laureate at Maison Mode Méditerranée**

Bazar Craft to Heritage Craft: Potentials for a Maker-Centric Sustainable Scalability of Leatherwork in Morocco

Session 2: 12.00-1.00 am Creative skills and collaborative opportunities

Chair: Prof. Stella Viljoen, Stellenbosch University

- **Nadia Maddy, Bath Spa University**

Writing Competitions as a Collaborative Infrastructure: Opportunities and Limits for Professional Pathways in Sierra Leone

- **Israel Wekpe, University of Leeds, United Kingdom / University of Benin, Nigeria**

Project TEA: The Enterprise of Acting – Break a leg or Curtain Call?

1.00-2.00 Lunch break

Session 3: 2.00-3.00 pm Creativity and place

Chair Prof. Jen Snowball, Rhodes University

- **Fiona Drummond, Rhodes University**

Painting over the cracks? Street Art as Creative Place-Making and Urban Renewal in Makhanda, South Africa

- **Aji Ayorinde, Independent researcher**

The Economic and Creative Impact of Music Festivals on Entrepreneurship, Local Economies and Local Tourism: A study of 'Detty December' in Accra (Ghana) and Lagos (Nigeria)

Session 4: 3.00- 4.00pm: Screening and discussion of the documentary 'The Evolution of Adire'

Introduction by: Dr Lauren England, King's College London.

'The Evolution of Adire' is produced by Goldlake Production. Directed by Babatunde 'Director Kay' Kolawole.

The film will be followed by a Q&A session with story writer, Bolaji Hannah Oladiji (in person) and Director Kay (online).



Session 5: 5.00- 8.00pm: Engaging with the sector & Networking

African creator-led media and intelligence company [Communiqué](#) will host their flagship Communiqué IRL, a practitioner-led networking event. From 5 pm-8 pm, this event – part of the Communiqué IRL city-to-city series – brings the company's insights on Africa's creative economy to life through live conversations, networking and community building. Conference attendees are welcome to join. You need to register for this event here: <https://luma.com/hxlxpp8t>



■ 5PM

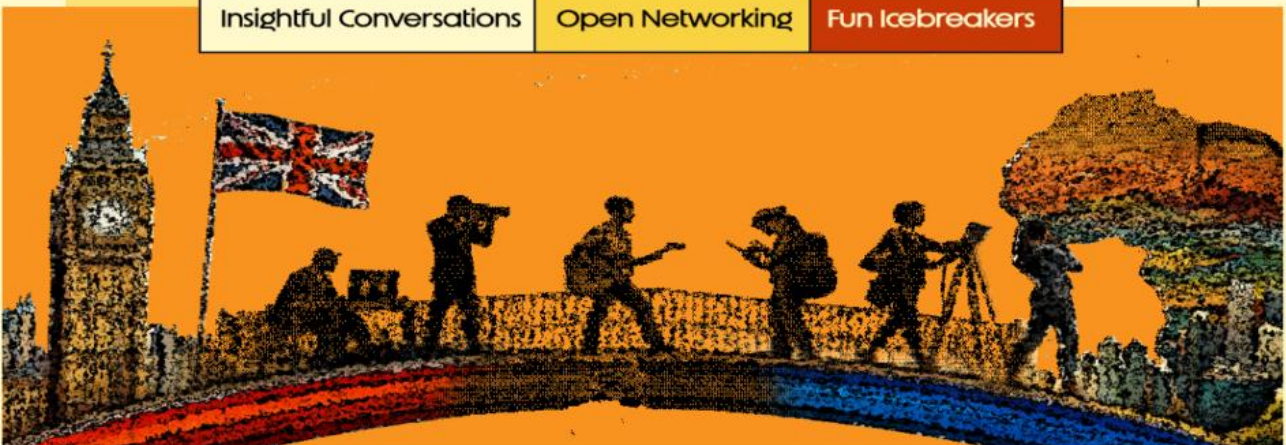
**Bridging the gap
between the U.K.
& Africa's Creative
Economy**

19th June 2026

Insightful Conversations

Open Networking

Fun Icebreakers



Register here: <https://luma.com/hxlxpp8t>

22nd June 2026 – Online only

10.45-11.00 am **Conference introduction and welcome** Prof Roberta Comunian and Dr Lauren England

11.10 – 12.00: Focus on networks and ecosystems

Chair: Dr Lauren England, King's College London

- Mawuko Gyan, Rhodes University

Integrating Industrial and Creative Ecosystems: A Bridge Framework for Regional Jewellery Manufacturing Hubs

- Mayowa Ajibogun, Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos

African Fashion in a Collaborative Creative Economy: African and European Networks

Lunch Break

1.00 – 1.50 pm: Focus on International and diasporic connections

Chair: Prof. Jen Snowball, Rhodes University

- Komal Thakran, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi

Ports, cities and Creativity in Eastern Africa diasporic urban spaces shaping cultural economies

- Linda Stone Rhodes University

Crossing borders: Cultural distance and the international visibility of South African films

1.50-2.00 pm Comfort Break

2.00-2.50 pm: Focus on Artists and Creatives

Chair Prof. Roberta Comunian, King's College London

- Marwa Sayed, Independent Researcher

Gendered Exclusion and the Creative Economy: Displaced Sudanese Women Artists in Egypt

- Christophina Ainima, Rhodes University

International Cultural Policy Logics of Freelance Precarity: Comparative Lessons for South Africa