



PhD & ECR Annual Conference 2026

## COLLABORATIVE CREATIVE ECONOMIES: AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN NETWORKS

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

LONDON & ONLINE

19<sup>th</sup>  
-22<sup>nd</sup>  
June  
2026

## Conference Programme

19<sup>th</sup> 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).



## 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

### **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