



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries** (King's College London) and the **Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre** (PEC) led by Nesta, in partnership with the journal of **European Urban and Regional Studies** invite you to take part in an online Workshop and Call for Papers on the theme

# CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ECOLOGIES IN EUROPEAN URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**The Workshop and Call for Papers will lead to a Special Issue of *European Urban and Regional Studies* (EURS) to be submitted in 2021.**

The authors of selected abstracts will be invited to present and discuss their proposed paper in an online workshop and will be supported towards the development of the full paper, which will need to be submitted to EURS in Spring 2021.

**Deadline for Extended Abstracts:**

21st September 2020

**For Information and to submit your abstract visit:**

**[www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu](http://www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu)**

### **Special Issue editors :**

Hasan Bakhshi, Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC)

Dr Roberta Comunian, Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries (KCL)

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# Background

The creative economy and its connections with cities and regions has been the subject of substantial scrutiny from academics and policy makers in the last decade (UNCTAD, 2018; Brydges and Hracs, 2019; Comunian, 2019). In this Special Issue we would like to push the debate further by considering alternative perspectives on the study of the creative economy, proposing the need to talk about 'creative and cultural ecologies' to articulate the multiple understandings and connections which characterise the way culture and creativity are intertwined within situated communities and place (Gross and Wilson, 2019) and their development. We are also interested in how a more pluralistic approach to the term 'creative economy' could enable new understandings of 'inclusivity' and 'sustainability' (Wilson et al., 2020), with particular attention paid to those people and organisations (stakeholders) involved in the creative economy but usually overlooked in research (Hargreaves and Hartley, 2016). This intersects also with important insights from evolutionary economic geography research, specifically on the importance of history (Henning, 2019), skills changes and adaptation (Comunian and England, 2019). This Call for Papers is connected with the research interests of the Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC) and research being developed by some of the coordinators during a three-year H2020 funded project, Developing Inclusive and Sustainable Creative Economies ([www.disce.eu](http://www.disce.eu)), but is open to all researchers interested in discussing future directions of research in this area, covering a range of themes including:

- New methodological approaches to the definition of creative economies, based on complexity and ecological perspectives, and their implications for urban and regional development;
- Connections of local creative economies with broader social networks and social economies in cities and regions;
- Ecologies of care, activism and alternative work within and involving creative and cultural workers in local, regional and national settings;
- Critical approaches to creative economies policy formation, delivery and evaluation based on ecological approaches, addressing local, regional, national or international policymaking.

## Scientific Committee

Dr Elsa Arcaute, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College London

Dr Dan Ashton, Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton

Dr Martha Bloom, Research Assistant for the PEC at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex

Dr Scott Brook, School of Media and Communication, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Dr Zoe Bulaitis, Research Associate for PEC at the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester

Dr Heather Carey, Deputy Director, Work Foundation at Lancaster University and PEC

Dr Caroline Chapain, Birmingham Business School, University of Birmingham

Dr Nick Clifton, Cardiff School of Management, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Dr Bridget Conor, Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries, King's College of London

Dr Nancy Duxbury, Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, University of Coimbra

Dr Lauren England, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee

Prof. Candace Jones, University of Edinburgh Business School and PEC

Dr Mariangela Lavanga, Department of Arts and Culture Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Dr Neil Lee, London School of Economics and Political Science and PEC

Dr Maria Lusiani, Department of Management, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Dr Simon Moreton, Digital Cultures Research Centre, UWE Bristol

Dr Annette Naudin, Birmingham School of Media, Birmingham City University

Dr Dave O'Brien, School of History of Art, University of Edinburgh and PEC

Dr Can Seng Ooi, School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania

Dr Fabrizio Panozzo, Department of Management, Ca'Foscari University

Dr Elenora Redaelli, Planning, Public Policy and Management Department, University of Oregon

Dr Nathalie Schieb-Bienfait, Business Administration Institute, Université de Nantes

Dr Josh Siepel, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex and PEC

Dr Jon Swords, Department of Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media, University of York

Dr Federica Viganò, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, Libera Università di Bolzano

# Why a Special Issue on creative and cultural ecologies in cities and regions?

The creative economy in cities and regions has been studied extensively. However, most of the traditional approaches use pre-defined frameworks and categories, especially in relation to creative and cultural clusters (see Chapain and Sagot-Duvaurox (2018) for a review) to define the scope of the work. In doing so, these approaches tend to overlook everyday creative activities performed by citizens and communities within particular localities and how these are part of the creative economy (Chapain and Hargreaves, 2016). Furthermore, the traditional methodologies adopted (such as qualitative interviews or statistical analysis) have not effectively integrated with methods used across other fields – from geographical information system (GIS) to social network analysis (SNA), from complexity thinking to big data analytics. This lack of integration means most studies fall short of capturing the interconnected nature of creative economies with their communities, regions and surroundings. Gross and Wilson (2019) argue that ecological research – examining the interconnections and interdependencies between tangible and intangible ‘cultural resources’ of many kinds – has the potential to enable more effective analysis of cultural and creative systems, and is capable of providing more inclusive perspectives. However, ecological approaches are still at an early stage of development, and their applications remain largely untested.

The Special Issue aims to explore the value and opportunities offered by new methodologies connected with ecological thinking, such as, for example, social network analysis (Comunian, 2017), GIS and mental mapping (Brennan-Horley et al., 2010). We also invite specific attention to creative and participatory methods (Hargreaves & Hartley, 2016) alongside more traditional geographical and sociological ones. Reflections on methodologically challenging temporal dimensions of cultural and creative ecologies, and the difficulties of combining different scales of data, are also welcome. One further contribution of the Special Issue will be to explore the capacity of ecological approaches to help challenge and move beyond still prevalent binaries and conflicts – between cultural and economic value, intrinsic and instrumental value, commercial and social aims – enabling new understandings of the dynamics of creative economies, and their roles within urban and regional development. Finally, the special issue seeks to foster reflections on the role of policy – and how policy can engage with an ecological perspective that focuses on grassroots and social networks, rather than prescriptive and top-down approaches. The Editors welcome contributions that focus on specific local, regional, national, or European level processes, as well as proposals that take a more theoretical approach.

## Planned activities

Due to the unpredictable impact of Covid-19 on academic activities in the next 12 months, we are employing a collaborative methodology to develop academic knowledge exchange and discussion online, working together (through peer-to-peer discussion and feedback), towards the submission of the proposed Special Issue by 31st March 2021.

We will establish a research network – including sharing of literature and key resources during September 2020 – January 2021, coordinated via the website [www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu](http://www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu). This Call for Papers invites anyone with relevant research and data to submit an extended abstract for consideration by the 21st of September 2020. The extended abstract can be submitted via our project website, see details below.

We will select the authors of the strongest and most relevant papers to present their work in a **Zoom discussion forum** in the first week of November 2020.

For the last week of October selected authors will be asked to prepare a presentation and a working paper (max 3,000 words including bibliography) to share with a discussion panel. Following the event, a selection of authors will be invited to develop a full paper (following discussion and advice from the Editorial team and Scientific Committee) to be ready by the 1st of January 2021 and complying with EURS standards and guidelines.

All submitted papers will be peer-reviewed by the Scientific Committee and feedback will be provided by 31st of January 2021 to allow authors to strengthen the submission and submit their paper via the [EURS journal website](#)

All papers submitted will be subject to the standard double-blind review processes of EURS, and with no guarantee of publication.

## About EURS

European Urban and Regional Studies is a highly ranked, peer reviewed journal. It provides an original contribution to academic and policy debate and a forum for dialogue across the different intellectual fields related to processes of urban and regional development in Europe. In addition to exploring the ways in which place, space and scale make a difference to the cultural, economic, social and political map of Europe, European Urban and Regional Studies highlights the connections between theoretical analysis and policy development. The journal conceives Europe in broad terms as a highly variegated regional system shaped by interconnections and dynamics stretching from the local to the global. European Urban and Regional Studies is available on [SAGE Journals Online](#).

# Call for Papers TIMELINE

21st  
Sept  
2020

## EXTENDED ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Submit extended abstract via the project website: [www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu](http://www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu)

5th  
Oct  
2020

## SELECTION OF STRONGEST PAPERS

Selected authors will be invited to submit a working paper (at least 3,000 words) to present during an online workshop (first week of November)

19th  
Oct  
2020

## WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED

Send to organisers your working paper (3,000 words at least) including bibliography. This will be directed towards two discussants, that will present at your presentation and provide early feedback.

2nd-6th  
Nov  
2020

## ZOOM PRESENTATION

You will be invited to present your paper via Zoom for 15 minutes (plus Q&A). Two discussants will provide feedback on your working paper and presentation for its development

21st  
Dec  
2020

## FULL PAPER FOR INTERNAL REVIEW

The full paper (developed according to EURS guidelines) is sent to the organisers. The paper will be distributed for internal peer-review in January and comments/reviews will be returned to authors by the 31st of January 2021

31st  
March  
2021

## REVISED PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED VIA EURS ONLINE SUBMISSION SYSTEM

## Extended Abstract Submission via [www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu/abstract-submission.html](http://www.creative-cultural-ecologies.eu/abstract-submission.html)

Each extended abstract should include:

- Paper Title
- Details of Corresponding author, name and affiliation
- Details of other authors
- An introduction (max. 200 words)
- A brief literature review to contextualise the work (max. 300 words)
- A detailed description of the data and methodology used in the paper (max 500 words)
- A summary of key findings (max 300 words)
- A short conclusion highlighting how the paper adds to our existing knowledge (max 200 words)

## References

- Brennan-Horley C, Luckman S, Gibson C, et al. (2010) GIS, ethnography, and cultural research: putting maps back into ethnographic mapping. *The Information Society* 26(2): 92-103.
- Brydges T and Hracs BJ (2019) The locational choices and interregional mobilities of creative entrepreneurs within Canada's fashion system. *Regional studies* 53(4): 517-527.
- Chapain C and Hargreaves I (2016) Citizenship in the creative economy. In: Hargreaves I and Hartley J (2016) *The creative citizen unbound: How social media and DIY culture contribute to democracy, communities and the creative economy*. Policy Press. 49,74
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- Hargreaves I and Hartley J (2016) *The creative citizen unbound: How social media and DIY culture contribute to democracy, communities and the creative economy*. Policy Press.
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- UNCTAD (2018) *Creative Economy Outlook Trends In International Trade In Creative Industries Country Profiles*. Available at: [https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcted2018d3\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcted2018d3_en.pdf).
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