

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CKC 2019: Rethinking, Resisting, and Reimagining the Creative City
12-13 September, 2019
Digital Cultures Research Centre, UWE Bristol

Proposal Deadline: 29 March, 2019

In July 2018, the Digital Cultures Research Centre at the University of the West of England convened the first ***Creativity, Knowledge, Cities (CKC) Conference*** to critically explore the tensions between the cultural sector, cities and universities. We invite scholars to build on these productive debates by submitting proposals for ***CKC 2019: Rethinking, Resisting, and Reimagining the Creative City***.

The 'Creative Economy' continues to be predominantly imagined and evaluated in terms of a narrow set of economic metrics and neoliberal assumptions regarding the value of 'culture', 'creativity', 'digital' and 'innovation'. Despite the sector's economic 'success', such policies often elide the persistent consequences associated with the creative economy including labour precarity, economic exclusion, gentrification, uneven regional development and negative health and well-being impacts.

Further, the University is becoming increasingly implicated in these dynamics. Regional and national economic policies position universities as urban placemakers, real estate developers, talent pipelines, and drivers of innovation. Through research practices, value metrics, and indicators of impact, scholars may also play a role in reproducing dominant constructions of the creative economy and subsequently, urban exclusions. The UK's Creative Clusters Programme, which links universities, the creative sector and national industrial strategies, is illustrative of these policies, and we especially welcome critical attention to these projects this year.

Against this backdrop of neoliberalism coupled with continued austerity measures, Brexit, Trumpism, and increasing nationalism, creative practitioners, cultural organisations and their collaborators participate in various strategies of resilience and resistance. Hybrid academic-creative spaces of open innovation, radical organisational forms, plural economic practices and values, creative citizenship, and cultural activism, point to how global cultural networks are engaged with economies of care, urban repair, playful politics and experiments in performing just urban futures. However, these activities are often at risk for appropriation and displacement by urban growth regimes, and all the challenges associated with them.

Exploring these contradictory and complex dynamics in tandem, how might we reimagine the relationships between places, the creative sector and the university in order to collectively work towards more resilient and just urban futures? How do concepts such as 'inclusive growth', 'sustainable development', 'smart cities', 'urban commons' and 'just city' relate to these concerns? How can we mitigate the many and varied social, economic and cultural costs of creative urban policy?

Using these three themes of **Rethinking, Resisting, and Reimagining**, and foregrounding the notion of **inclusivity** of all forms and at all scales, we invite researchers to submit proposals for organised panels, individual papers, roundtables and interactive workshops.

Topics may include:

- Creative economy and university as policy objects
- Creative Industry Cluster programmes
- Co-creation, knowledge production, innovation
- Labour, ownership and justice
- Creative networks, ecologies, platforms
- Post/anti-disciplinary research and activism
- Cultural value, metrics, critical evaluation practices
- Cultural production, manufacturing and digital fabrication
- Placemaking, regeneration, gentrification
- Inequality, mobility, representation, belonging
- Creative citizenship, commoning, governance
- Circular economies and sustainable development
- Urban and university futures

We invite proposals from international scholars representing diverse backgrounds, research and practice disciplines, including urban studies, cultural studies, cultural policy, arts, geography, sociology, economics, and technology. We are especially interested in research representing a diverse mix of global, national and local contexts.

DEADLINE: 29 March, 2019

View proposal guidelines and submit abstracts here:

<https://uwe.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/ckc2019>.

Or email CreativeEconomies2019@gmail.com to discuss alternative methods for submission.

KEY DATES

Decisions announced: 26 April, 2019

Participant confirmation required: 17 May, 2019

Early bird deadline: 30 June, 2019

Conference: 12-13 September, 2019

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Early bird registration: £175

Regular registration: £250

Concession rate (students, activists, cultural workers): £100

There are limited funds to support Early Career researchers and PhD students. Please email for further details.