



# INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE RESEARCH METHODS CONFERENCE

MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> & TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026 – Conference Programme

Welcome to the fourth International Creative Research Methods Conference! The conference is the brainchild of Dr Helen Kara: independent researcher, author, teacher, speaker, and creative research methods (CRM) expert. Helen's vision was to bring together the global CRM community to share knowledge, promote understanding, enable networking, and have fun! We hope you enjoy the incredibly diverse presentations, workshops, performances, and discussions on offer over these two days.

**Helen Kara** has been an independent researcher since 1999 and an independent scholar since 2011. She writes about research methods and research ethics, and teaches doctoral students and staff at higher education institutions worldwide. Her books include *Creative Research Methods: A Practical Guide* and *Research Ethics in the Real World: Euro-Western and Indigenous Perspectives* for Policy Press, and she has written and edited several other books for various academic publishers. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Helen was informally diagnosed as autistic in 2019 and formally in 2021.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Ranjita Dhital**

**Alistair Roy**

## CONFERENCE CHAIR:

**Tina Haux:** Chief Executive Officer, Social Research Association

## Programme key

Timings are highlighted in yellow.

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10.45–11.45am

**SHINE** Keynote:

Ranjita Dhital

60 mins

11.45 am–12.15 pm Break

12.15–1.15 pm

**SHINE: CREATIVE RESEARCH AND VULNERABILITY**

Jenny Harlock and Emma Mitchell

'Lives on the edge: Using creative collage to centralise the voices of women experiencing homelessness in the UK'

15 mins

Catherine Cartwright

The Trauma-informed Creative Researcher

45 mins

**WORK: PUSHING METHODOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES**

Rebekah Gear

Lessons from an early career researcher- why our choice of methods really do matter!

30 mins

Nicole Brown and Stephen Brown

"Burn me down": The piths and perils of activist practice research

30 mins

1.15–2.00 pm Lunch

2.00–3.30 pm

**SHINE: POETIC INQUIRY**

Antu Sorainen

Queering poetry and the knowledge of the post-idealist body

30 mins

Ruth Unstead-Joss, Gemma Moore and Briony Fleming

Cut-up poetry as a bridge: Strengthening collaboration and inclusivity in research

60 mins

**WORK: CREATIVE METHODS BEYOND THE PROJECT**

Charlotte Marshall

Shapes that fit: Creative Responses to Research Ethics Committees and their suggestions

45 mins

Nicole McNeilly

Structurally embracing cultural and participative research methods: lessons from a Dutch cultural fund.

45 mins

**3.30–4.00 pm Break**

**4.00–6.00 pm**

**SHINE: INNOVATIVE METHODS**

Yurong Tong	Jess Mannion	Sharon Martin
Unpacking memory through dumpling-making as a creative practice method	When Comics Talk Back: Analysing Co-Produced Comics to Transform Inclusive Research	What insight can collaborative songwriting bring into women's lived experience of gambling?
15 mins	45 mins	60 mins

**WORK: VISUAL METHODS IN PRACTICE**

Helen Berry	Julie Kane
Researching with artist illustrations	Exploration through zine making: contributing to a sense of belonging for young people
45 mins	75 mins

**6-6.30 pm Break**

**6.30-7.45 pm**

**SHINE:**

Janet Salmons
The Game of Teaching Creative Methods
75 mins

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**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**

**9.30–10.30 am**

**SHINE Keynote:**

Alistair Roy
60 mins

**10.30–10.35 am**

**SHINE**

Kate Fox – Plenary Poem
5 mins

**10.35–11.00 am Break**

**11.00 am–1.00 pm**

**SHINE: ARTS-BASED HEALTH AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

<p>Léa Brinon</p> <p>Harnessing an ethic of care to amplify participatory and creative endeavours in disability research: Reflections on a Photovoice project with a group of six Parents with Learning Disabilities (LD)</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Liz Jestico</p> <p>Illuminating meaning and enriching reflexivity: Using the arts as metaphors to make sense of parents’ stories when their child has cancer.</p> <p>45 mins</p>	<p>Kim Collett</p> <p>Negotiating consent - Ethical challenges of photo-elicitation in research with young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</p> <p>45 mins</p>
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**WORK: CREATIVE METHODS IN PRACTICE**

<p>Rebecca Ellis</p> <p>An invitation to be creative: Offering and incorporating creative methods into a longitudinal qualitative study about Autistic reproductive health.</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Sarah McLaughlin</p> <p>Journey mapping as an inclusive research tool: Capturing the learning journeys of health professions educators with dyslexia</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Rachel Heartwood</p> <p>Charting the Aura Incognita: An AuDHD Bricoleuse's Arts-Based Rhizomatic Literature Review</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Jo Strang</p> <p>The creation of an accessible Post-doctorate thesis: moving beyond black and white text</p> <p>30 mins</p>
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**1.00–1.45 pm Lunch**

**1.45–3.45 pm**

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**SHINE: CREATIVE METHODS AND CHANGE**

Katharine McNamara  When are creative methods transformative? Following co-produced knowledge across practice and decision making  30 mins	Ella Harris and Hannah Mumby  “Dark Knowledge”: Or, sharing what we learned from making a space-exploration themed comic out of research transcripts  90 mins
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**WORK: CREATIVE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**

Lisa Rea Currie  Creativity as a Pathway to Belonging: Co-Creating Inclusive Heritage Engagement in Historic Houses.  30 mins	Chanté Johannes and Nicolette Roman  Creative Pathways to Understanding Resource – Constrained South African Families: Multimodal Methods in Participatory Research  30 mins	Rituu B Nanda  Building ownership in community-led participatory action research  60 mins
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