



INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE RESEARCH METHODS CONFERENCE

MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 8TH 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**.

There are five conference rooms on this floor: **RISE**, **SHINE**, **GROW**, **BUZZ** and **WORK**.

For economy of space, only the lead presenters' names are included in this programme.

Sessions in SHINE AND WORK will be live-streamed to our online audience.

Help, it's all too much! Head to **WIN** room for a quiet space, dimly-lit by natural light where you can breathe and recoup to your heart's content. (Please do not use this room to hold meetings!)

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MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026

10.00 am Arrival and Registration. Refreshments served

10.30 am Introductions

10.45–11.45 am

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

RISE: CREATIVE METHODS BEYOND THE PROJECT

Meghan Bruce Kumar

Measuring the miracle: Creativity in co-creation of research aims, an application of Appreciative Inquiry to research proposal development

15 mins

Maggie Grant

Beyond Research Projects: Using Creative Methods for Building Research Ecosystems

45 mins

GROW: ONE SLIDE, FIVE MINUTES – AND SOME NETWORKING

One Slide, Five Mins

60 mins

BUZZ: VISUAL AND AUDIO METHODS

Mary Shek

Read me, see me, hear me: photo voice and audio accounts of bullying in the NHS

15 mins

Pauline Ferrick-Squibb

How can photography be used to ethically share lived experiences in order to develop and extend participatory research?

45 mins

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WORK: PUSHING METHODOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES

Rebekah Gear	Nicole Brown and Stephen Brown
Lessons from an early career researcher- why our choice of methods really do matter!	"Burn me down": The piths and perils of activist practice research
30 mins	30 mins

1.15–2.00 pm Lunch

2.00–3.30 pm

SHINE: POETIC INQUIRY

Antu Sorainen	Ruth Unstead-Joss, Gemma Moore and Briony Fleming
Queering poetry and the knowledge of the post-idealist body	Cut-up poetry as a bridge: Strengthening collaboration and inclusivity in research
30 mins	60 mins

RISE: SPACE AND PLACE

Harriet MacLachlann	Sara McHaffie, Lucy Pickering
Co-creating School Space: Participatory Methods With Young People	How can research be as inclusive as possible? 'homeplace' as a methodological way of being
30 mins	60 mins

GROW: COLLAGE AND VISUAL METHODS

Kate Hawkins et al.
Working on health in fragile settings: What can creative methods offer?
90 mins

BUZZ: INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION WORKSHOP

Chipo Mukoki, Maria Takaendisa
When the music plays - Thinking ABOUT not Thinking ABOUT Race
90 mins

WORK: CREATIVE METHODS BEYOND THE PROJECT

Charlotte Marshall	Nicole McNeilly
Shapes that fit: Creative Responses to Research Ethics Committees and their suggestions	Structurally embracing cultural and participative research methods: lessons from a Dutch cultural fund.
45 mins	45 mins

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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

RISE: STORYTELLING

Vanessa Santos	Rita Júlia Sebestyén
Weaving narratives of Creative Cities in Portugal's Centro Region through autoethnotheatre	Collective Storytelling and Ritual as Art-Research
45 mins	75 mins

GROW: CREATIVE TEXTILES

Susie Bass	Emma Davidson, Helen Berry and Jean McEwan
The PhD Quilt as Method: Crafting a Thirdspace for 'Unflattened' Research	Stitching Stories of Poverty and Power: Co-Creating a Digital Quilt with the Poverty Truth Community
60 mins	60 mins

BUZZ: CREATIVE PLAY

Stefanie Steinbeck	Nayra Vacaflor
Playing Seriously, Seriously Playing: Creative Methods for Researching Playful and Interactive Cultural Experiences	Escape game as creative research method: Immersive inquiry into family digital practices
60 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

For the in-person audience: 6.00–7.00 pm Drinks, nibbles, and chat

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For the online audience ONLY:

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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9.00–9.30 am Registration and Refreshments

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

Léa Brinon	Liz Jestico	Kim Collett
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)	Illuminating meaning and enriching reflexivity: Using the arts as metaphors to make sense of parents’ stories when their child has cancer.	Negotiating consent - Ethical challenges of photo-elicitation in research with young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
30 mins	45 mins	45 mins

RISE: TABLETOP GAMES IN CREATIVE ANALYSIS

Hanna Andersen	Ella Harris, Mel Nowicki and Tim White
‘Game On: Tabletop Games as Method in Critical Policy Analysis’	Exploring Pathways to Tiny Housing through Board Game Design: Game creation as a way of Analysing and Communicating data
45 mins	75 mins

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GROW: CREATIVE RESEARCH AND POLICY

Chesney McOmer Katharine McNamara Creative Research Methods as an intervention: steps for translating art from research into policy 60 mins	Ruth O'Sullivan Creative Participation in Policymaking 60 mins
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BUZZ: CREATIVITY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Andrea Hadley-Johnson Three Matchsticks and a Strand of Mop: sharing how person centred creativity infused joy, agency and wellbeing into a research project with men living in prison. 60 mins	Nic Dickson and Lynsay Crawford 'Stories with Substance: Co-creating a lived experience comic on alcohol and drug dependence, and recovery.' 60 mins
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WORK: CREATIVE METHODS IN PRACTICE

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

1.45–3.45 pm

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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RISE: CREATIVE METHODS AND POWER

Adira Andlay	Emily Ahmed
Co-creating with Communities and Commissioners: How we stay true to the power of creative and participatory methods	Playing with Power
45 mins	75 mins

GROW: CREATIVE RESEARCH AND AI

Charlotte Hardacre, Sue Caton and Stephen Blake	Petra Buresova
Helping People Imagine New Possibilities: Using a Knowledge Kit to Explore Generative AI	Finding the voice: Exploring AI in charity communications
45 mins	75 mins

BUZZ: REFLECTIVE BOUNDARIES AND ETHICAL CARE

James Wilkinson	Sarah Campbell, Robyn Dowlen, Rebecka Fleetwood-Smith and Helen Manchester
Knowing when to draw the line with reflection: Visual Inquiry to explore positive experiences following ambulance practice placements	Doing care-full creative research: An ethical practice
45 mins	75 mins

WORK: CREATIVE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

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

3.45–4.00 pm Refreshments and close

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