

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING CREATIVE ECONOMIES IN AFRICA: EDUCATION, NETWORKS & POLICY



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The research network has four main objectives:

1. **Compile a literature review** of existing research which aims to understand the specific context of emerging creative economies in Africa, with a focus on the role of creative education, cultural production networks and policy;

2. **Develop an open access knowledge platform** which acts as a point of reference for the work of academics and practitioners in this area, with case studies, links, interviews, working papers and policy briefings;

3. Through systematic analysis, develop a **clearer articulation of the relationship between localised knowledge and practice in the creative economies** of three African countries (Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa) and opportunities for the development of sustainable ecologies of cultural production and consumption;

4. Explore **the potential role that universities might play in the African context** for bringing together researchers, creative practitioners, policy makers and civil society to work towards sustainable and local cultural development.

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the role that cultural and creative industries play in developing economies - both in terms of their economic contribution but also in connection with social change and cultural engagement.

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ACTIVITIES

The network will provide a platform for a range of international and interdisciplinary academics working in this area of research, practitioners across a range of creative fields, as well as policy and networks bodies to reflect on their work and practice in relation to creative economies in Africa.

The research network will establish three creative knowledge hubs (Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa). In year one some local workshops will be organised and in year two each hub will host an academic seminar focusing on 3 interrelated topics:

- 'Creative Education and Careers' (hosted by the Nigeria Creative Hub in Lagos)
- 'Mapping Creative Economies: frameworks, data sources and policies' (hosted by the South African Creative Hub in Port Elizabeth)
- 'Sustainable Cultural Production Networks'(hosted by the Kenya Creative Hub in Nairobi).

It is hoped, these events will generate benefits for African and international academics, African universities, creative practitioners in a range of local African contexts and African and non-African policy makers.



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OUTPUTS

Data, knowledge and findings from the seminars and other activities from the research network will be disseminated through a dedicated website. **This will provide an open knowledge platform, publishing reports on the various seminars taking place, collecting case studies / interviews / discussions.** Alongside this open platform, further means of dissemination are also planned, such as an edited book which collects case studies, reflections and experiences, a journal article which reflects theoretically with the outcomes of the network, and the organization of sessions and delivery of presentations at international conferences in the fields of geography and creative studies. The activities of the research network will give participating academics, creative practitioners, and policy makers a shared platform to engage and reflect on the emerging role that creative economies can play in shaping the future of Africa and establish new international connections.

The network will offer the opportunity to critically consider challenges but also sustainable pathways to support future cultural provision across the continent.