



# INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE RESEARCH METHODS CONFERENCE

MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> & TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026 – Online 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.

Programme kindly sponsored by the Social Research Association



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**

Catherine Cartwright

The Trauma-informed Creative Researcher

60 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**

Ruth Unstead-Joss, Gemma Moore and Briony Fleming

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

60 mins

Antu Sorainen

Queering poetry and the knowledge of the post-idealist body

30 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

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**4.00–6.00 pm**

**SHINE: INNOVATIVE METHODS**

|                                                                                     |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jess Mannion                                                                        | Sharon Martin                                                                               |
| 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? |
| 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                                                                                |

**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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9.30–10.30 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**

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
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| <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>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>45 mins</p> | <p>Jo Strang</p> <p>The creation of an accessible Prof-Doc thesis: moving beyond black and white text</p> <p>45 mins</p> |
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1.00–1.45 pm Lunch

1.45–3.45 pm

**SHINE: CREATIVE METHODS AND CHANGE**

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

**WORK: CREATIVE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**

|                                                                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Lisa Rea Currie                                                                                        | TBC |
| Creativity as a Pathway to Belonging: Co-Creating<br>Inclusive Heritage Engagement in Historic Houses. |     |
| 30 mins                                                                                                |     |

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