Call for Papers: Mapping the Creative and Cultural Sectors: Insights, Challenges, and Democratic Possibilities in Data and Policy

We are inviting papers for a **Special Issue of Cultural Trends** (https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ccut20)

This Special Issue reflects on *mapping* as a key method used across the cultural sectors for collating data, visualising connections, and enabling co-creation. Mapping has been used for over two decades to understand these sectors (DCMS, 1998, 2001; O'Hara et. al., 2021; Nesta, 2008, 2013), and to provide insights into cultural places, spaces, communities, industries, and activities. 'Mapping' covers a range of divergent activities, purposes, and resultant artefacts. This issue explores these different types of mapping, their value, the limitations and advantages of data collection and co-creation, and the fluid definitions of mapping in these sectors. It also examines how spatial data can be used as an effective policy tool, particularly through participatory mapping, to leverage democratic decision-making in local communities (Silva et al., 2024). In this call for papers, we are particularly looking for articles that focus on cultural mapping from Global South, postcolonial, and First Nations perspectives. We welcome papers that offer innovative methodological approaches, including creative approaches to mapping, radical and alternative forms of mapping, and mapping approaches that don't focus on physical spaces. This might include, for example, mapping of place-based shifting cultural practices or policy issues.

Deadline:

Please email a 300 word abstract to Inge.Panneels@ed.ac.uk and caitlin.mcdonald@ed.ac.uk by Monday 18th August 2025, by 17.00 GM.

References

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Duxbury, N., Garrett-Petts, W.F., & MacLennan, D. (Eds.). (2015). Cultural Mapping as Cultural Inquiry (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315743066

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