Creative Informatics Small Research Grants

Uncovering stories of data in the creative industries

Is there a research project related to the creative sector you’d love to explore if you only had a bit of cash and support? Does it involve some kind of data...

Creative Informatics is launching an open competition for small research grants aimed at early career researchers, based at University of Edinburgh or Edinburgh Napier University, proposing projects or activities that explore innovative uses or applications of data in the creative and cultural sector.

Creative Informatics (https://creativeinformatics.org/) is an AHRC funded research and development programme based in Edinburgh, which aims to bring the city’s world-class creative industries and tech sector together to explore the opportunities and challenges of data-driven innovation in the creative sector.

In this call, we invite proposals for funding of up to £5000 for small research projects that address any of the following broad themes or questions:

- What can data tell us about art, or art tell us about data?
- How can data be used to promote sustainable practices within the creative industries?
- Can data-driven innovation empower new business models, and new ways to pay for, value and sustain creative work?
- How can data-driven innovation promote the cultural, civic and social value of creative work?
- New tools and approaches to data-driven ‘crafts-machine-ship’
- Data justice and ethical uses of data-driven technologies in the creative industries
- Supporting equality, inclusion and diversity in the creative and cultural sectors through applications of data
- Innovative uses of archives and data sets in the creative industries.
- New and inclusive audience experiences of creative work
- Futures of data-driven creative work and labour
- Platform and gig economies within the creative industries
- Supporting critical data literacy within the creative and cultural sectors

This fund is supported by an AHRC Skills Development fund granted to Creative Informatics, and therefore we will prioritise applications from early-career researchers (including PhD students and PDRAs), which demonstrate opportunities for researcher development through the project.
To support dissemination of the research and developing a wider Creative Informatics research community, we will ask successful projects to provide a short report detailing their activities and outcomes, and invite all of the projects to take part in a Creative Informatics research symposium in Autumn 2020.

**Eligible Costs and Support**

This funding is intended to cover the direct project costs of the proposal, and the costs should be clearly attributable to the project activities. Eligible costs may include:

- Staff costs (see below)
- Research assistance
- Developing pilot projects
- Art or research interventions
- Workshops, meetings, events or exhibitions
- Resources and materials including software licences to support your research
- Participant compensation
- External partners to support your research (e.g. transcription, design work, software development).
- Training or development necessary for the proposed project
- Travel / dissemination activities

Staff costs from University of Edinburgh, or Edinburgh Napier University should not include institutional overheads or indirect costs, or any element that should properly be ascribed to institutional overheads. You should liaise with your relevant research office to ensure staff time is appropriately costed.

In-kind contributions are not required for these proposals, however where additional support from other organisations is committed, please describe this in your application.

**Application and Selection Process**

The deadline for applications will be **5pm, Thursday April 9th**.

Applications should be sent to creativeinformatics@ed.ac.uk as a pdf, using the application form available on this page: [https://creativeinformatics.org/showcase/apply-for-a-ci-small-research-grant](https://creativeinformatics.org/showcase/apply-for-a-ci-small-research-grant)

Applications will be reviewed and scored by an interdisciplinary panel of Creative Informatics researchers, supported by the wider Creative Informatics team. We aim to fund at least 5 projects. Applicants will be notified before the end of April.

Projects should be undertaken in April-July 2020.

This call is led by Creative Informatics’ five post-doctoral researchers: Chris Elsden, Ingi Helgason, Susan Lechelt, Inge Panneels and Pip Thornton who can additionally provide
support to successful projects to forge connections with academic and creative partners.

Applications will be judged by these researchers, along with support from professional and academic colleagues also working on the Creative Informatics project. We are looking for interdisciplinary research questions that are bold, critical and challenging, and have the potential to contribute to the creative industries in Edinburgh. Applications should bear in mind ethical approaches to research, abiding by host university regulations and procedures, and Creative Informatics own ethical guidelines for funded projects: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3610104

Projects will be judged on:

- Clearly identified aims and objectives
- Novelty of the research questions and relevance of the project and relation to the Creative Informatics core research themes.
- Clear opportunities for early career researcher development and experience
- Clear definitions of how the research will engage and could benefit others in the creative sector.
- Appropriate budgeting for the activities described in the proposal
- In keeping with ethical guidelines for funded CI projects [add reference]

Eligibility and Award Conditions:

This call will open February 28th 2020 to early-career researchers at University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Napier University.

Specifically, principal applicants should:

- Be currently employed at Edinburgh or Napier University
- Be either: an Early Career Researcher as defined by the AHRC (https://ahrc.ukri.org/skills/earlycareerresearchers/definitionofeligibility/)
- Or a PhD student with the support of their supervisor.

We strongly welcome applications from PDRAs and PhD students with institutional support. We will prioritise projects which offer a strong development opportunity for the researchers involved.

Applicants should also notify and provide details of their local research office, and applications should be signed off by your local Head of School or Director of Research.
Successful projects will be asked to provide a brief report and documentation of their research project by September 1\textsuperscript{st} and to participate in a subsequent research symposium taking place in Edinburgh to disseminate the research.

Funds must be spent by July 31\textsuperscript{st}, however the project may continue beyond this point if appropriate.

For any queries or further information about this call, please contact Dr. Chris Elsden: celsden@ed.ac.uk