

Discussion Paper Submission Guidelines

Creative PEC's Discussion Papers Series provides a forum for the rapid dissemination of research findings on creative industries' policy and evidence

The Series showcases interdisciplinary work focusing on topics such as creative industries growth, innovation, skills, place-based development, internationalisation, and the impact of policy interventions. The Series aims to foster debate, support evidence-based policymaking, and bridge the gap between academic research and the demands of policymakers, industry, and the wider sector. The Series welcomes a diversity of perspectives, methods and data sources.

Editorial Process

If you wish to propose a topic or submit a paper for consideration, please contact the **Editor of the Series, Professor Giorgio Fazio** at giorgio.fazio@pec.ac.uk, and/or write to the Creative PEC Research Inbox at research@pec.ac.uk.

The series follows an editorial process aimed at maintaining the high academic standards of Creative PEC. All submitted papers are reviewed by the Editor or a deputy. The Editor may call on the expertise of other peer-reviewers to inform the suitability of the paper for inclusion in the Series. The final decision rests with the Editor. Authors are welcome to suggest potential reviewers.

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Disclaimer

All responsibility for research quality and integrity lie solely with the author(s). Any views and interpretations expressed in Creative PEC Discussion Papers rest with the author(s) and should not be understood as being shared by Creative PEC, Newcastle University, the RSA, or the AHRC.

Formatting Guidelines for PEC Discussion Papers

1. Declarations

- Authors are encouraged to disclose all funding and conflicts of interest and acknowledge the contribution of all those who have commented on previous versions of the paper.
- Authors should clearly disclose any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of the paper and ensure that their use complies with relevant ethical standards and data protection regulations.

2. General Text Formatting

- Use a clear, accessible sans-serif font (e.g. **Open Sans, Arial, Calibri, Derailed or Verdana**) to support readability, including for visually impaired readers.
- Standard font size: **12 pt for main text, 10 pt for footnotes**.
- Headings: use a clear hierarchy (e.g. 16 pt bold for section titles, 14 pt for subsections).
- Line spacing: **1.5 lines**; leave adequate spacing between paragraphs.
- Use adequate margins, e.g. at least **2.5 cm (1 inch)** on all sides.
- Do not rely on colour alone to convey meaning (e.g. in charts or text highlights).

3. Equations and Symbols

- Present equations clearly, centred on the page, and numbered consecutively: (e.g. (1), (2), ...)
- Use standard mathematical notation and ensure consistency throughout.
- Define all variables and symbols immediately after first use.

4. Figures and Tables

- Number figures and tables separately (e.g. *Figure 1*, *Table 1*).
- Provide **clear titles and source notes** beneath each figure/table.
- Ensure text within figures is legible (minimum 10–11 pt equivalent).

5. References and Citations

- Use a consistent citation style (e.g. **Harvard author–date system**).
- Include a full **reference list at the end** of the document.
- Ensure all in-text citations correspond to entries in the reference list.
- Where applicable, include DOIs or stable links.

6. Consistency and Clarity

- Maintain consistent formatting throughout (headings, spacing, numbering).
- Use plain English where possible while preserving academic rigour.
- Spellcheck and proofread carefully before submission.