

Circular Cultures: Periphery at the Centre

The 5th edition of Circular Cultures conference explores the interconnectedness and isolation between rural, urban and social systems within a local and global context. Contemporary migration of people and materials is common and has become central to social, economic and environmental sustainability. Over the course of two days, we will explore intersections between rural – urban – local – global systems towards more connected and decolonial circular solutions. We want to examine different typologies for sustainable place-making, from working with remote communities in rural and urban settings to the role of arts and culture organisations in supporting dialogue and programming towards better climate futures.

Circular Cultures will also be looking at:

- the power of interdisciplinary design and dialogue towards climate action and climate justice
- the role and migration of local materials and craft in social, economic and environmental sustainability
- strengthening rural – urban connections to tackle local and global challenges
- showcasing the role of small sized cities to tackle place-based responses to local challenges through design and architecture and address the intangible nature of materiality in connection to the social fabric.

Conference Agenda

This two-day hybrid conference will take place in Athens at the Onassis Stegi and will be live streamed. On day one, speakers from the UK, EU and South Asia will share case studies and discuss opportunities and dislocations in rural-urban systems and how the role of local and global knowledge systems can feed into future thinking; day two will host a number of masterclasses/workshops that aim to strengthen arts and culture networks for individuals, practices and organisations as well host as an EU delegation of design professionals.

Conference Agenda

Monday 20 March 2023

14.00–19.00 (GR) | 12.00–17.00 (GMT)

14.00–15.55 Island Dreams

14.00–14.15 **Welcome Remarks** by [Maria Papaioannou](#), Co-curator and Head of Arts, British Council

[Prodromos Tsiavos](#), Co-curator and Head of Digital and Innovation at the Onassis Foundation

Scene Setting by [Parvinder Marwaha](#), Co-curator and Design Programme Manager, EU Europe & South Asia, British Council

14.15–14.25 **Global:** Talk by [Natasha Ginwala](#), Artistic Director, [Colomboscope](#) (Sri Lanka)

14.25–14.35 **Urban:** Talk by [George Kafka](#), [Future Observatory](#) Curator, the Design Museum (UK)

14.35–14.55 **Rural:** Talk by [Cooking Sections](#), with Founders Alon Schwabe and Daniel Fernandez Pascual (UK)

14.55–15.15 Urban – Global: Speculative Geographies

Discussion between [Natasha Ginwala](#), Artistic Director, [Colomboscope](#) (Sri Lanka) and [George Kafka](#), [Future Observatory](#) Curator, the Design Museum (UK)

15.15–15.25 **Local:** Talk by [Andu Masebo](#), Product Designer (UK)

15.25–15.35 **Local:** Talk by [Paola Palavidi](#), Artist, [Hypercomf](#) (Greece)

15.35–15.55 Local – Rural: Emerging Localities

[Andu Masebo](#), Product Designer (UK) and [Paola Palavidi](#), Artist, [Hypercomf](#) (Greece)

Discussion between [Andu Masebo](#) and [Paola Palavidi](#)

15.55–16.25 Break

16.25–16.30 Distant Possibilities

Scene Setting by [Parvinder Marwaha](#), Co-curator and Design Programme Manager, EU Europe & South Asia, British Council

16.30–16.50 Urban: Factory International, Indigenous Approaches

[Kee Hong Low](#), Creative Director, [Factory International](#) (UK) in conversation with Parvinder Marwaha

16.50–17.05 **Local:** Talk by [Panagiotis Kostoulas](#), Co-Founder, [Boulouki](#) (Greece)

17.05–17.20 **Global:** Talk by [Anupama Kundoo](#), Architect, Professor at FH Potsdam (Germany / India)

17.20–17.40 Local – Global – Rural – Urban

The Politics of Materials

Discussion between [Panos Kostoulas](#), Architect, Co-Founder [Boulouki](#) (Greece), [Anupama Kundoo](#), Architect, Professor at FH Potsdam (Germany / India)

17.40–18.30 Local – Global – Rural – Urban

How Arts & Culture Organisations play a role in supporting the circular economy and connectivity

Discussion between [Alexia Holt](#), Acting Director/Senior Director of Programmes, [Cove Park](#) (UK), [Linda Di Pietro](#), Chief Cultural Officer, [BASE](#) Milano (Italy), [Alice Sharp](#), Artistic Director, [Invisible Dust](#) (UK)

Moderated by [Prodromos Tsiavos](#), Head of Digital and Innovation at the Onassis Foundation

18.30–18.35 Closing of event and thank you notes

18.35–19.00 Networking

The programme is organised with the support of the British Embassy in Athens.



Note: *The working language of all sessions is English with simultaneous interpretation into Greek. Greek Sign Language will also be provided for our audience.*