

THE ECCLES INSTITUTE CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP
POPULAR PRINT AND POLITICAL IDEAS FROM THE AMERICAS
OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Pamphlets supporting Lélia Gonzalez and other Worker's Party candidates, Brazilian elections, 1982.

Deadline for applications: 2nd of June 2025 at 10:00

Interview date: 30th of June 2025

Fellowship period: September 2025 to June 2026 (full details below)

The Eccles Institute for the Americas & Oceania is excited to announce a new fellowship opportunity for a UK-based artist, designer or maker to explore the British Library's collections of popular print and political ideas from the Americas.

The British Library has extensive, rich and diverse holdings of popular print across many genres and formats - including pamphlets, broadsides, comics, zines and ephemera. Many of these printed objects bear witness to, and have participated in, the major political debates, upheavals and movements from the Americas over more than three centuries. From the American Revolution and the abolition of slavery to contemporary queer and environmental activism from Latin America, cheap print and big ideas have been a powerful combination in American society.

This fellowship offers a chance for a UK-based creative with an interest in research-based practice (such as a print- or zine-maker, graphic designer, illustrator or writer) to immerse themselves in the British Library's collections, and to work with one of London's leading print studios to create new work. If you're someone interested in an aspect of the Americas' ideological histories, currents and futures, and fascinated by how materials and design, images and text can work together to carry political meaning, this might be the Fellowship for you.

About the Eccles Institute for the Americas and Oceania and our collections

The Eccles Institute builds, curates and preserves the Americas and Oceania collection at the British Library. It champions knowledge and understanding of these regions through a rich programme of fellowships and awards, cultural events, research training, guides to the collections and programmes for schools.

The Eccles Institute is interested in fostering new methods for collections research, learning and public engagement. In line with these aims, we are delighted to be launching a new strand of creative fellowships with the aim of bringing together creative practitioners with curators, academics and diverse audiences to explore how we can activate the British Library's Americas collections in new ways.

As the national library of the UK, the British Library holds over 170 million items – including a rich collection of political ephemera including political pamphlets, comics and zines, which provide fascinating insights on subjects that would often be excluded from mainstream publishing. Examples of some of the movements and debates extensively documented in our Americas collections include:

- Loyalist and patriot debates during the American Revolution
- Antislavery pamphlets¹
- Radical communist, socialist and labour movements in the United States in the first half of the 20th century²
- *Cartoneras* from Latin America³
- American underground comix⁴

Role and expectations of the creative fellow

The fellowship will be structured around an initial three-month induction and research period (between September to December 2025) primarily based at the British Library, followed by six months (January to June 2026) for the creative fellow to create a new body of work, learn new skills and develop a public engagement programme to share the outputs of the fellowship in collaboration with the Eccles Institute team. There will be flexibility to accommodate other commitments that the creative fellow may have, working more intensively during some periods and less during others, but we are looking for a practitioner who will make this a primary commitment.

The appointed fellow will be expected to:

¹ [Slavery in America: anti-slavery pamphlets, newspapers and magazines - Americas and Oceania Collections blog](#)

² [Americas and Oceania Collections blog: Research collaboration.](#)

³ [América Latina: Artists' Books at the British Library - Americas and Oceania Collections blog.](#)

⁴ [Celebrating the work of Aline Kominsky-Crumb - Americas and Oceania Collections blog](#)

- Spend a time equivalent to 30 days carrying out collections research, joining meetings with British Library staff and colleagues, delivering talks or other forms of public engagement, and developing a new body of work.
- Present their research and work in progress to British Library staff and the general public.
- Keep a log of their research, visually document the various stages of their project and produce a minimum of 3 blog posts (or other forms of sharing their process online).

What will the creative fellow get?

- A stipend of £7,500. This fee will be all inclusive of any talk, workshop and public engagement carried out by the fellow and will need to cover the fellow's living and travel costs. Funding will be disbursed in instalments corresponding to the completion of agreed project-specific benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow is essential.
- Introductions to British Library staff and collections, and support from the Eccles Institute curators.
- Three mentoring sessions at the Rabbits Road Press, a community Risograph print studio and publishing press founded and run by the collaborative publishing practice OOMK at Old Manor Park Library in Newham. This will include a risograph induction workshop, an introduction to new publishing formats, and a final day of technical support to print a final edition of a zine.
- A production/public engagement budget of up to £2,000, to be agreed with the Eccles Institute team. This budget can be used for consumables and costs attached to public programmes and/or the creation of a new body of work. The British Library cannot offer working space or technical support to produce new work.

Application process and eligibility

We welcome applications from creative practitioners of any age and nationality based in the UK who meet the criteria of the fellowship outlined below. We welcome applications from those based in or outside London (in the UK), but please note that there is no separate budget for accommodation or travel.

Applicants are required to complete [this application form](#). **The deadline for applications is the 2nd of June 2025 at 10:00.**

Shortlisting will take place within a few weeks after the application closing date. Once a shortlist has been selected, unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email, and **shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on the 30th of June 2025**. Please note that we are unable to provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications (we will only be able to provide feedback to shortlisted applicants that are interviewed).

Interviews will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. Please note that we cannot cover travel costs for the interviews.