Extending Knowledge and Publishing Infrastructures in and from Africa

This 2-day workshop, organised by the Research Data Share Collective, Copim's Experimental Publishing Group, the Platform for Experimental Collaborative Ethnography (PECE), and African Minds gathers publishers, knowledge and infrastructure producers, and academics, to collaboratively discuss global knowledge equities from the perspective of academic publishing. It will explore how we can resist dominant knowledge norms and structures by exploring alternative ways of relating around scholarly books by exploring strategies of peer-to-peer data sharing that benefit both knowledge producers and local communities.

During this 2-day workshop we will present outcomes and developments from the Database as Book pilot project, as well as other experimental book pilot projects developed and supported by the Open Book Futures project and Copim community that focus on the collaborative and creative reuse of content and data. These pilot projects will be a starting point to allow us to question our established ways of communicating research and ways to reimagine these for a specific African context.

Database as Book and Lively Community Archive is an experimental book project which includes as partners the Research Data Share Collective, African Minds, and Platform for Experimental Collaborative Ethnography (PECE) and which understands publishing as an iterative, generative space – one in which the relationships between ideas, authors, and communities are continuously negotiated, expanded, and reshaped. This approach allows new connections, questions, and forms of collective sense-making to emerge, standing in contrast to conventional publishing workflows, which often prioritise linearity, fixed formats, and individual authorship (Adema & Kiesewetter, 2022; Kiesewetter, 2022; McDermott et al., 2025).

Day 1 (Monday, December 8, 2025)

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Arrival & Registration

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Introductions & Setting the Scene

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Hybrid Panel: Experimental publishing: new ways of relating around books and data

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Tea Break

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Live Peer Review and Discussion on Analytic Questions

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Lunch

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Hybrid Panel: Publishing Database Books

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Closing Remarks

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Optional Dinner

Day 2 (Tuesday, December 9, 2025)

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Arrival & Icebreaker

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Synthesis of Day 1 and Reflections

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM Hybrid Panel: Design Considerations of Experimental Books & Q&A

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Tea Break

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Annotating & Chapter Making Workshops

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM: Closing Remarks

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Lunch with Exhibition Tables