



**MOI UNIVERSITY
AFRICAN MULTIPLE
RESEARCH CENTRE**



Call for the Factory of Ideas Doctoral School 2026

Theme: Worldmaking at the Digital Threshold: Media, Memory, and Cultural Futures in Times of (De)globalization

Factory of Ideas September 14-23, 2026, Eldoret, Kenya
Moi University African Multiple Research Centre (Kenya)
In collaboration with
Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Brazil
University of Bayreuth, Germany

The *Factory of Ideas 2026* is an international doctoral school that will bring together up to forty PhD candidates from Africa, Latin America, and Europe to critically engage with contemporary transformations in media, technologies, and cultural production. Hosted by the Moi University African Multiple Research Centre, the school is grounded in South–South and South–North intellectual exchange, with particular attention to the historical and contemporary entanglements between Africa, Brazil, and Germany.

Theme

Across the globe, digital media and technologies are reshaping how societies imagine themselves, remember their pasts, and project cultural futures. These transformations unfold unevenly, generating both continuities and ruptures, and producing new tensions between globalization and deglobalization, inclusion and exclusion, creativity and control. The *Factory of Ideas Doctoral School 2026* invites participants to critically interrogate these dynamics through interdisciplinary, comparative, and practice-based perspectives.

Areas of Interest

Proposed doctoral projects may engage with, but are not limited to, the following thematic strands:

- Media, Technologies, and the Politics of (De)globalization
This strand explores how media technologies mediate global connections while simultaneously enabling local, national, and regional reconfigurations.

- Experiments in Worldmaking: Arts, Media, and Philosophical Futures
Focusing on creative and intellectual experimentation, this theme highlights how artists, filmmakers, thinkers, and communities imagine alternative worlds through media and technology.
- The Digital Turn and Social Tensions
This area examines issues such as gender, sexuality, and digital publics; age, youth cultures, and intergenerational media practices; as well as ethnicity, nationalism, populism, and digital mobilization.
- Memory, Archives, and the Mediation of the Past
Digital media are transforming how societies remember, archive, and curate their pasts. This strand investigates the shifting interface between institutions, publics, and emerging technologies of memory.

The school also welcomes critical reflections on research methodologies and creative practices suited to studying media, culture, and memory in rapidly changing technological environments.

Format and Pedagogy

The *Factory of Ideas 2026* will combine keynote lectures by leading scholars and practitioners with doctoral workshops and paper clinics, as well as methodology laboratories and creative sessions designed to foster intellectual exchange and collaborative learning.

Who Should Apply

Applications are invited from PhD candidates at different stages of their doctoral studies whose research engages with media, culture, technology, memory, or the arts. Candidates from Africa, South America, and other Global South contexts are particularly encouraged to apply. Interdisciplinary and practice-based doctoral projects are especially welcome.

Submission Guidelines

- Abstract: Applicants should submit an abstract of 500 words outlining their doctoral project, its relevance to the theme of the *Factory of Ideas Doctoral School 2026*, and their methodological approach.
- Biographical Note: A short biographical statement of 150 words highlighting the applicant's academic background and institutional affiliation.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submission: April 26, 2026
- Notification of acceptance: May 1, 2026

Practical Information

- Language: The working language of the school is English.

Sponsorship: Doctoral students affiliated with any of the five AMRCs—Lagos, Rhodes, Bayreuth, Joseph Ki-Zerbo, and Moi—or strategic partner CEAO/UFBA are encouraged to contact their respective Centres to inquire about possible sponsorship opportunities to cover travel and accommodation. However, accommodation for selected participants from outside Eldoret will be paid for by the organisation, as will breakfast and lunch. While the school is tuition-free, travel and other incidental expenses, including visas, will not be covered. Further details regarding travel logistics, accommodation, and meals will be communicated to selected participants.

How to Apply

Please email your abstract and biographical note as a single Word document by April 26, 2026, to:

The Coordinator
Factory of Ideas 2026
Moi University
Email: moiamrc@mu.ac.ke