

# The 1st Workshop on Research on Humans' Response to Flowers

University of Surrey, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Wednesday 24th June 2026

- 12:00-13:00 **Registration and welcome refreshments**
- 13:00-13:15 **Welcome and opening of the Workshop**  
Heber Rodrigues, University of Surrey
- 13:15-13:45 **Introduction activity – Group flowers**
- 13:45-14:15 **Why do we like the smell of roses so much?**  
Sylvie Baudino, Université de St Etienne, France
- 14:15-14:45 **Are they special? Evolutionary aspects of human aesthetic responses to flowers**  
Martin Hůla, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic and University of California, Santa Barbara, United States of America
- 14:45-15:00 **Q&A**
- 15:00-15:30 **Refreshments**
- 15:30-16:00 **Flowers as the first language of life**  
Erika Oberholzer, PicoGro, South Africa
- 16:00-16:15 **Picking flowers as oralitura: pathways for the knowledge co-production on sempre-vivas within spiral time-frame**  
Rebeca Verônica Ribeiro Viana, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- 16:15-16:30 **Beauty is not a luxury: a provocation from teacher education**  
Daniel Dennis, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
- 16:30-16:45 **Q&A**
- 16:45-20:30 **Guided visit to a local flower farm ([Plantpassion](#)), followed by welcome drinks and canapes and a honey bar on-site**

## Thursday 25th June 2026

- 09:30-09:45 **Floral photography as design practice in clinical environments**  
Aaron Fry & Emma Bass, University of Auckland, New Zealand

- 09:45-10:00 **Floral visual art engagement and wellbeing in dementia care: A feasibility study**  
Joselyn Leon Calderon & Victoria Tischler, University of Surrey, United Kingdom
- 10:00-10:30 **From planting design to human experience: The role of flowers in landscape architecture**  
Miroslav Poje, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- 10:30-10:45 **Flowers of Power: Floral presence in the royal social interiors of Victoria and the Crown**  
Heber Rodrigues, University of Surrey, United Kingdom
- 10:45-11:00 **Q&A**
- 11:00-11:30 **Refreshments**
- 11:30-11:45 **Design with intention.**  
Michael Dariane, Blooming Haus, United Kingdom
- 11:45-12:00 **Blind-folded flower arrangement design**  
Michal Kowalski, Blooming Haus, United Kingdom
- 12:00-12:15 **Every commission tells a story**  
Jay Thorneycroft, Blooming Haus, United Kingdom
- 12:15-12:30 **Q&A**
- 12:30-13:00 **Next steps group discussions**
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00-14:15 **Next steps present back to group**
- 14:15-14:45 **Building flowers: How plants decide when to bloom**  
Matt Jones, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
- 14:45-15:00 **The science behind natural blue: stability and digestive behaviour of butterfly pea flower anthocyanins**  
Margarida Maria da Silva Teixeira, University of Porto, Portugal
- 15:00-15:15 **Q&A**
- 15:15-15:45 **Refreshments**
- 15:45-16:15 **Edible flowers as a source of nutrients and bioactive compounds: from composition to bioactive potential**  
Hélder Oliveira, University of Porto, Portugal

16:15-16:30 **Kick-starting UK elder cultivation: elderflower yield in named nigra selections**

Alice Jones, The Food Innovation Centre @ University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

16:30-16:45 **Q&A**

16:45-17:30 **Next steps group discussions**

## **Friday 26th June 2026**

9:30-09:45 **Next steps present back to group**

9:45-10:15 **Connecting Nature and Well-Being: Health Benefits of Flowers and Consumer Valuation of Plant-Based Experiences**

Melinda J Knuth, NC State University, United States of America

10:15-10:45 **The Sustainable Flowers Research Project: Negotiating the thorny terrain of floriculture for a greener future**

Jill Timms, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

10:45-11:00 **Q&A**

11:00-11:30 **Refreshments**

11:30-12:00 **Next steps group discussions**

12:00-12:15 **Next steps present back to group**

12:15-12:30 **Closing**

Jill Timms & Monique Raats, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

Organisers at the University of Surrey

- Dr Heber Rodrigues
- Dr Jill Timms
- Professor Lada Timotijevic
- Professor Monique Raats