ABOUT AFRICALICS

In March 2012, the African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) was launched in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Secretariat is based at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), in Nairobi, Kenya and has been implementing a research capacity building (RCB) programme entitled "Enhancing research capacity on Innovation and Development (I&D) in Africa." The network is financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). In line with the overarching vision, the network supports African countries towards developing and utilizing high quality research, conducted by African researchers, to enable more informed policy decisions to be made relating to the use of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for economic and social development as well as efficient governance. To realize this vision, the network works closely with like-minded relevant international and local researchers and research networks.

Check out more information on impact at http://www.africalics.org/impacts
**IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**17th Globelics conference, Heredia, Costa Rica**

**Date:** 3rd - 5th November 2021

The 17th Globelics Conference "Innovation Systems and Sustainable Development: new strategies for growth, social welfare and environmental sustainability" will be held in Heredia, Costa Rica, combining both face to face and online participation. The conference will be hosted by the International Center of Economic Policies for Sustainable Development, CINPE (Centro Internacional de Política Económica para el Desarrollo Sostenible), an institute of the National University.

The conference will combine plenary sessions, presentations of research papers in parallel tracks, thematic panel sessions or special sessions, poster presentations, book presentation session and debate, exhibition on industrial research, innovative start-ups presentations, sightseeing and cultural events, as well as artistic and culinary exhibitions.

The conference will also consider the need to tackle new challenges related to innovation and capacity building and papers studying on how systems and policies can be implemented at different levels and across different countries to innovate and promote inclusive growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability. Learn more about the conference here.

**Webinar series 09: Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects**

**Date:** 2nd December 2021  
**Time:** 5:30PM – 7:00PM

The webinar will be based on work done by the three AfricaLics visiting fellows programme (VFP) Post-docs in their capacity of guest-editors of a special issue of the journal called Innovation and Development. The special issue will be published in 2022 and presents a series of articles on building local technological capabilities and their implications for formulating and implementing policies in Africa’s industrialization agenda. Learn more and register here.

**TIP Conference 2022 Announcement! ‘Building a Sustainable Knowledge Infrastructure on Transformative Innovation Policy’**

The Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium (TIPC) and the European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation (Eu-SPRI) have co-organised the 2022 TIP Conference, that will be held digitally from 17th - 21st January 2022. The conference aims to bring together a diverse range of actors and stakeholders to mobilise people, ideas, and initiatives to produce an evolving action research agenda for Transformative Innovation Policy.

The TIP Conference 2022 is organised and funded by the TIPC and the Eu-SPRI with the participation of Globelics and Africalics members and with the involvement of Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN) members.
The first week focused on presentations by doctoral students and various practical skills building sessions relating to studying a PhD. The second week focused on lectures on theory and methods. In between the two weeks’ activities the student participated in group work activities.

A snapshot of facilitators and students during the 7th PhD Academy hosted by the University of Gondar, Ethiopia

Putting Africa First – Revisited: A discussion series in fond memory of Prof. Christopher Freeman

Date: 16th August - 20th September 2021

Putting Africa First book was published in 2003 by Prof. Bengt-Åke Lundvall and Prof. Mammo Muchie. The book served an important role by bringing the national systems of innovation discourse to the African continent. The AfricaLics evaluation undertaken in mid-2021 reported the book as one of the most cited books from the African Innovation and Development publications.
The series started on 16th August, 2021 and had six weekly episodes corresponding to the chapters of the book, featuring the original contributors and discussants. More details about the panel discussions and registration details can be accessed through this link.

**AFRICALICS PhD VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME (VFP) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES 2020/2021**

The VFP fellowships offer opportunities for PhD and post-doctoral students from low income and low-middle income African countries to receive additional training and capacity building support at Aalborg University, Denmark in the area of innovation and development.

Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, five AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows from the 2020 - 2021 cohort had an opportunity to visit and stay in Denmark between August 2021 and end of October 2021. The study visits to Aalborg University provided the students with opportunities to present their work and interact with peers, mentors and other scholars working in the field of Innovation and Development. It provided them with time away from home to focus on writing and studying, attend a few events and selected PhD courses and make use of library facilities and other support services.

The five PhD fellows are:

- **Betty-Ann Ananeh-Frempong** from Ghana studying at University of Cape Town, who works on innovation capabilities in West African Firms and on improving indicators on innovation capabilities in Africa.
- **Fabiyi Oluwasegun Tope** from Nigeria studying at University of Ilorin, who works on value chain development and agricultural innovation with focus on cashew nut production.
- **Mrosso Rofina Martin** from Tanzania studying in University of Mzumbe, who works on Women employment creation through food processing industries in Tanzania.
- **Moges Tufa Adinew** from Ethiopia studying in Addis Ababa University, who works on the impact of Import Competing Industrial Policy Incentives (Second Schedule Program) on the Performance of Domestic Manufacturing Firms in Ethiopia.
- **Wisdom Kaleng’a** from Zambia studying at University of Zambia, who works on Firm-level Technological Capabilities development and Industrial Linkages in Zambia’s mining sector: A focus on local manufacturing and engineering suppliers.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical/face-to-face seminars were initially not possible. Instead, several online events/webinars were organized aimed at strengthening the cooperation between AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows, their mentors and their home supervisors while focusing on comments to the work done by the VFPs. Online activities included paper presentations, bilateral/trilateral meetings with the Aalborg University (AAU) mentors and the home supervisors and a Writing Course with follow up in the form of facilitated writing sessions.

The online Writing Course involved the AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows (2020-21 cohort) plus a few other PhD students related to AfricaLics. It has proven very useful to the students both because of the tools introduced and the follow up sessions which provided much-needed structure dedicated in writing time and interactions with other PhD students at a time where physical interactions have been extremely limited. Please read a blog on this issue here. The tools and writing sessions are useful not only for PhD students, but also for others.
In the fall of 2021, two other courses with the visiting fellows were piloted: one on how to write journal articles and another on preparation of systematic literature reviews. It is hoped this will enhance development of a number of online courses that will be part of the future PhD VFP and may be offered to a larger group of young scholars in the field.

Meanwhile, the first face-to-face seminar with the PhD visiting fellows 2020-21 took place on 17th June 2021 in Copenhagen. The seminar was a hybrid event, as not all participants including fellow’s supervisors, were able to participate physically. In future, more face-to-face meetings and events are expected to take place.

AFRICALICS POST DOC VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME

The three AfricaLics post-doc fellows (Abdi Yuya Ahmad, Charity Osei-Amponsah and Kassahun Y. Kebede) have completed the guest-editing of a special issue of the journal Innovation and Development. The Special Issue is entitled ‘Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects’ and will come out in 2022 only, but articles are online already. Please check out two of the articles for the special issue here:


AFRICALICS ENGAGEMENT IN RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS IN INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT - VIRTUAL EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the need to go virtual. The following are a few selected webinars that AfricaLics has organized/co-organized in the reporting period.
Webinar series 01: The origin of AfricaLics and the field of innovation and development studies research in Africa

Date: 4th February 2021
Speakers: Dr. Ann Kingiri, Prof. Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Dr. Bitrina Diyamett and Prof. Mammo Muchie

Background
In this webinar, some of the founding members of AfricaLics outlined the background for the establishment of the AfricaLics network and kicked off discussions on future research priorities of the network. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog, and video recording).

Webinar series 02: The future of Innovation and Development studies research in Africa

Date: 4th March 2021
Speakers: Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Dr. Rebecca Hanlin, Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat, Dr. Samah Souleh, Dr. Diran Soumonni and Prof. Opeyemi Ayinde

Background
The webinar aimed at providing an opportunity for members of the AfricaLics community and interested partners to come together and discuss the future of Innovation and Development studies research in Africa. Following the presentations, participants had an opportunity to discuss what they think I&D as a field looks like today - and where it should be going. Members of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) moderated the breakout sessions. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 03: Knowledge and Innovation: Evolutionary and Revolutionary Techno-economic Change over Time

Date: 8th April 2021
Speakers: Prof. Rasigan Maharajh, Dr. Ann Aseey and Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun

Prof. Rasigan Maharajh keynote presentation

Background
This webinar considered the origins of innovation and development field internationally and in the African context. By delving into issues of history, theory, and pedagogy, it addressed the following overarching questions:

- Where are African countries in the history of innovation and development studies as a field of study?
- What are the prospects for advancing the I & D field in Africa?

Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog, and video recording).

Webinar series 04/Book launch: Innovation under the radar: African experience and the way forward

Date: 22nd April 2021
Speakers: Prof. Xiaolan Fu, Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, Prof. Mammo Muchie, Dr. George Essegbey, Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun and Prof. Rasmus Lema

Background
This webinar considered the origins of innovation and development field internationally and in the African context. By delving into issues of history, theory, and pedagogy, it addressed the following overarching questions:

- Where are African countries in the history of innovation and development studies as a field of study?
- What are the prospects for advancing the I & D field in Africa?

Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog, and video recording).
Background

AfricaLics partnered with the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Department of International Development University of Oxford, to inspire a conversation on the “innovation under the radar: experiences from Africa” towards identification of gaps in theory and policy for Africa. Prof. Xiaolan Fu shared her thoughts about this topic, in line with the global dynamics that are shaping the African innovation diffusion pathways. She drew on case studies from the book. Discussants who were drawn based on their expertise in this field added their voice to the discussion, thereby setting the pace for a wider discussion during the webinar. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 05: Africa’s Innovation and Industrialization Strategy Post-Covid-19 recovery

Date: 6th May 2021
Speakers: Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Prof. K.J. Joseph and Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating from human, social and economic perspectives. The economic impacts on Africa are such that several African countries are either currently in recession or will soon be. Why are the economic effects so pronounced in Africa? One reason is that most African countries rely heavily on international commodity trade. The large dependence of African economies on the international value chain means any slow down on the international commodity market negatively affects the economies. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 06: Skills for Innovation

Date: 3rd June 2021
Speakers: Dr. Gussai H. Sheikheldin and Dr. Agnes Lutomiah

Background

This webinar presented a comprehensive review of the challenges and opportunities resting on the role of highly skilled African migrants in African Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) systems. The two speakers, Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin and Dr. Agnes Lutomiah deliberated on the topic with a view to identifying lessons that innovation scholars can draw on to inform the future of I & D studies research in the continent. Follow this link for more information and
Webinar series 07: How innovation is fostering a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa

Date: 5th August 2021
Speakers: Dr. Julius Ecuru, Dr. Ann Kingiri and Dr. Julius Gatune

Background
In this webinar, Dr. Ecuru shared his thoughts on how innovation is fostering a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa. Bioeconomy in its broadest sense, is the use of scientific knowledge to add economic and social value to biological resources in a sustainable way. The whole process of value addition is underpinned by innovation. Several countries in Africa, which are rich in biological resources, have prioritized value addition and agro-processing in their national development plans.

Dr. Kingiri was the discussant. She acknowledged that bioeconomy generates relevant knowledge to add economic and social value to biological resources in a sustainable way. Scientific knowledge has been generated from a wide knowledge of biotechnology applications for more than two decades in a bid to address key challenges affecting agricultural production in Africa. Arguably, many applications involving biotechnology and in particular genetic engineering have not been exploited for industrial and development purposes.

Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar Series 08: Leap 4.0: African Perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

Date: 7th October 2021
Speakers: Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Zamanzima Mazibuko-Makena and Dr. Michael Gastrow

Background
This was a joint webinar between AfricaLics, University of Johannesburg - Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Sustainable Development (UJ-TRCTI) and Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). It was based on the book: Leap 4.0: African Perspectives on the 4IR, edited by Zamanzima Mazibuko-Makena and Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula. Dr. Michael Gastrow who authored one of the chapters in the book also joined in as a panelist. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).
Chris Freeman Lecture Series – Innovation System – 101

The first season of Chris Freeman Centenary Lecture Series was live streamed online from 1st January to 7th April 2021 where members of the AfricaLics network participated as facilitators or speakers. The lecture series were coordinated by Dr. Rajesh GK who is a member of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB). The series featured the following lectures.

More information about the Chris Freeman lecture series plus resources can be accessed through this link: https://www.cris-is.org/
UNESCO Science report 2021 launched

The UNESCO Science Report monitors trends in science governance worldwide to identify which development path countries are following. The seventh edition in the series explores how countries are using science to realize a digitally and ecologically smart future. There was notable contribution by many AfricaLics members as authors or co-authors of regional chapters and editors. These include Dr. George Essegbey, Prof. Erika Kraemer Mbula, Dr. Ann Kingiri, Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin, Dr. Natewende Sawadogo, Dr. Gabriela Dutrénit and Dr. Bitrina Diyamett.

The 7th edition of the report is available on the following link:

Selected new publications alert

- **Knowledge Economy and the agricultural rural sector: The Algerian Experience** – This is a book co-author by Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat member ASB and Rachid Benaissa. More details about the book are found here: https://casbah-editions.com/fr/Catalogue/économie-de-la-connaissance-et-le-développement-agricole-et-rural-l’expérience-algérienne

- **Emerging trends in theorizing and use of the concept of innovation: what implication for development?** – This is a Journal article authored by Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, member ASB and Executive Director, STIPRO, Tanzania. More details about the article can be found here: https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XQNMTYIRXBGQCQSPBTMF/full?target=10.1080/2157930X.2021.1975360

LATEST EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

*If you have any academic opportunities you would like to advertise to the network, please email them to secretariat@africalics.org*
Please check out the AfricaLics blog page. Here are some of the most recent blogs that have been posted:

- **Writing and implementing a PhD Proposal: some practical thoughts about how to enhance a smooth process** – Justine Nalunkuuma, 23 September 2021.
- **Writing skills: tips learnt during the pandemic which will last a lifetime** - Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen and Ariadni Zormpa, 26 May 2021.
- **Inclusive innovation, gender, and energy access: some reflections** - Maria Martina Marchesotti, 6 April 2021.
- **The social dimension of inclusive innovation: rethinking energy access from a gender perspective** - Maria Martina Marchesotti, 6 April 2021.