

# DSI/NRF/NEWTON FUND TRILATERAL CHAIR IN TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION, THE 4IR AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



**Dr ROBERT BYRNE**  
Chair Partner  
University of Sussex

The DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development (or TRCTI for short!) was started in 2019 and is headed by Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg. The other legs of the Chair are headed by Dr. Ann Kingiri at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in Kenya and Dr. Rob Byrne at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex in the UK.

Do look us up on social media

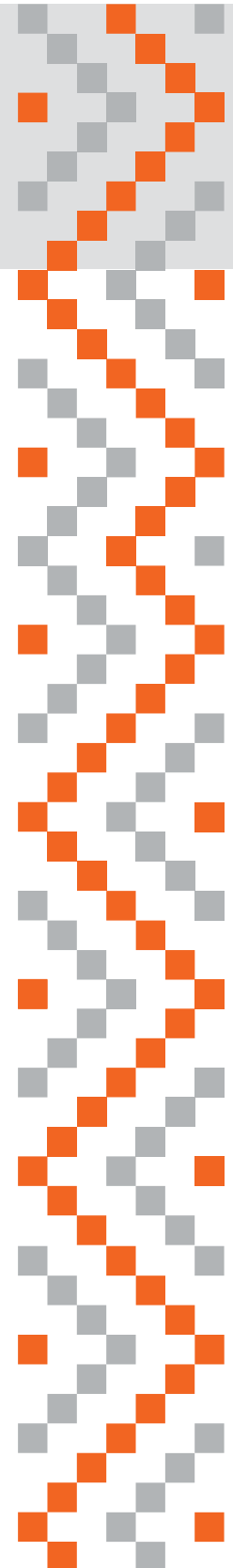


## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the second newsletter for the Trilateral Research Chair!

As we enter our fifth year of collaborations, we are beginning now in earnest to take stock of what we have so far achieved and what we would like to do up to the end of the five-year period. Our master's and PhD cohort continues to grow, as does our network of postgraduates and associated faculty. Welcome especially to the students pictured in the newsletter, who registered in February this year. Our broader networks are also deepening, especially in collaborations with the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium and the South Africa Community of Practice in Transformative Innovation Policy. Perhaps one of the most exciting developments is around our Transformative Innovation Africa Hub, launched this week at Future Africa in Pretoria. And, on the near horizon, I am delighted to see that our edited book on learning lessons in Africa from the COVID-19 pandemic is close to publication by African Minds. This will be completely open access, so keep your eyes on the African Minds website for its release very soon.

The Chair is excited to announce that we will be taking in our second intake of MPhil and DPhil with specialisation in Innovation and Development candidates for 2024. For more information about applying for the programme please contact Ms Erin Thackwray, [ujtrcti@uj.ac](mailto:ujtrcti@uj.ac).





## SGCI DATA COLLECTION IN CAPE TOWN

**Dr Ellen Chipango**  
Research interests:  
Energy, Political ecology  
and Rural development

**Dr. Larry Onyango**  
Research Interests:  
Digitalisation and the  
informal sector



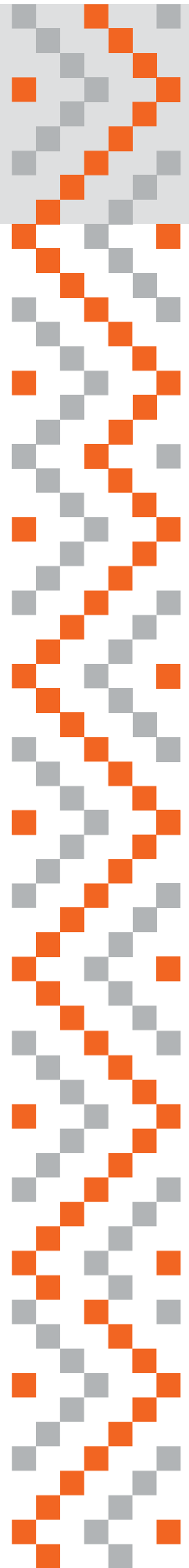
*Political economy team members who conducted interviews at the Annual Forum of the Science Granting Councils Initiative held alongside the World Science Forum in Cape Town in December 2022. Team members from the Chair in the picture are Prof. Rebecca Hanlin, Dr Larry Onyango and Dr Ellen Chipango.*

The biannual Science Granting Councils Initiative held its biannual meeting in Cape Town on the 6th-9th of December 2022. The meeting coincided with the World Science Forum held at the same time and venue in the Mother City. The Political Economy Project team viewed this as a unique opportunity to collect data directly from participants in the SGCI council meeting. All three teams (the University College of London, the University of Rwanda, and the University of Johannesburg) congregated in Cape Town and administered questionnaires to sample participants representing their country's Science Granting councils. Part of the benefits of collecting this face-to-face data as compared to online interviews was that it allowed us to capture non-verbal cues from the respondents that were not possible to obtain from the online interviews that we had previously conducted. This allowed us flexibility to probe deeper into key issues of associated narratives of science granting councils including how specific political and economic interests and concerns shape policies and programmes for ST&I in participating countries. We were also able to gather in-depth information on how SGCI's capacity-strengthening activities align with the individual councils' needs and interests as they undertake their work and carry out their roles within the national, regional, and continental contexts in which they are embedded. This enabled us to clearly understand how policy

choices and impacts in case study countries are influenced by national political and economic factors, as well as regional and global geopolitical and economic forces and trends.

We designed three sets of questionnaires for 5 minutes, 15 minutes, and 30 minutes which allowed us to adjust to the length of time our participants were able to allow us to conduct the interviews. We were able to collect rich data from academics, government officials of participating councils, and representatives of the participating councils. The hectic schedule of some of our intended participants, especially from the government sector, resulted in some participants not being able to honour their interview appointments. We had also hoped that we would be able to meet participants from the private sector who are involved in SGCI activities from the respective regions. However, we were not able to meet anyone from this group for direct interviews. From this, we concluded that SGCI activities still need to attract private sector stakeholders to play a more key role in ST&I activities on the African continent.

For us, it was a chance to build networks with participants at the two events. It also afforded us to gain skills in data collection from diverse participants from all regions of Africa and beyond. Additionally, it was an excellent opportunity to get to know Mother City.





**Dr Dennis Boahene Osei**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

## IMPACT INVESTING IN GHANA: A MULTIPLE-CASE STUDY

Impact investment is one of the innovations in social finance landscape. It is defined as “investments made into companies, organisations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return” (GIIN 2015). The literature synonymously referred to this concept as social investment or social impact investment (see, Salamon 2014; Ormiston et al. 2015).

He recently published a paper titled “Impact Investing in Ghana: A Multiple-case Study” in the *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, co-authored by Professor Imhotep Paul Alagidede and Dr. Sena Agbodjah.

This foundational paper provides compelling evidence to explain the approach to impact investing from a supply-side perspective based

the complexity surrounding the emerging impact investment environment in Ghana and economies of similar nature. Additionally, it will aid in developing explicit policies to regulate the sector, increase its awareness, and widen its appeal and use to address social and environmental problems.

Dr. Osei is an applied economist with research interests in development economics, innovation economics, philanthropy, and impact investment. He has authored a number of peer-reviewed articles in leading scholarly journals and chapters in books. Dr Osei is currently working on the nexus between infrastructure development and technological innovation in Africa for his postdoctoral research.

on three dimensions: (i) funding approach, (ii) engagement approach, and (iii) exiting approach. Drawing from a multiple-case study design and qualitative data from two Ghanaian impact investment organisations, the study found an impact investment approach characterised by the concurrent motive of financial and social/environmental returns, longer time horizons, and engagement or provision of non-financial support. The conclusion was that this approach leverages the tools of venture capital to realise social or ecological purposes. The findings can potentially assist investors and entrepreneurs to make informed decisions to navigate



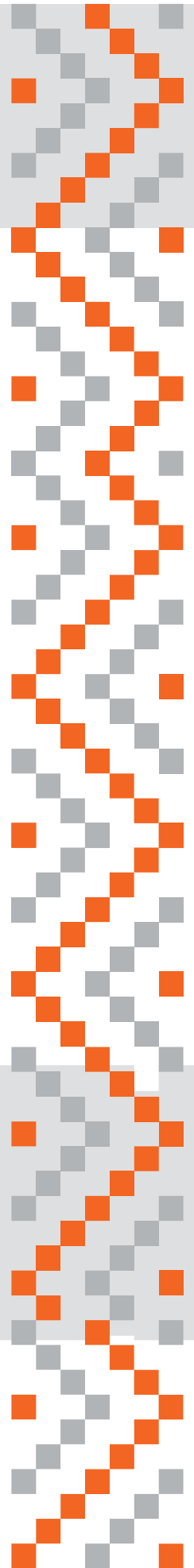
**Ms Khalalelo Mokoena**  
MPhil Student with Specialisation in Innovation and Development



**Mr Xolani Sifundza**  
MPhil Student with specialisation in Innovation and Development

## UJ TRILATERAL CHAIR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EVI-POL 2 MEETING

The Trilateral Research Chair has been awarded a research project grant by Canadian International Development Research Centre. This project (known as ‘Evi-Pol 2’) aims to further strengthen the capacity of African Science Granting Councils to use data and evidence in policy and decision-making and to enhance their roles as policy champions. The project objectives are: (i) to support the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) to implement monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plans; (ii) to support the Councils in science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy review and implementation; (iii) to systematise data for policy focusing on research and development (R&D) data; (iv)

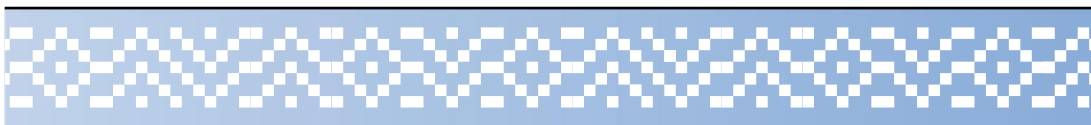
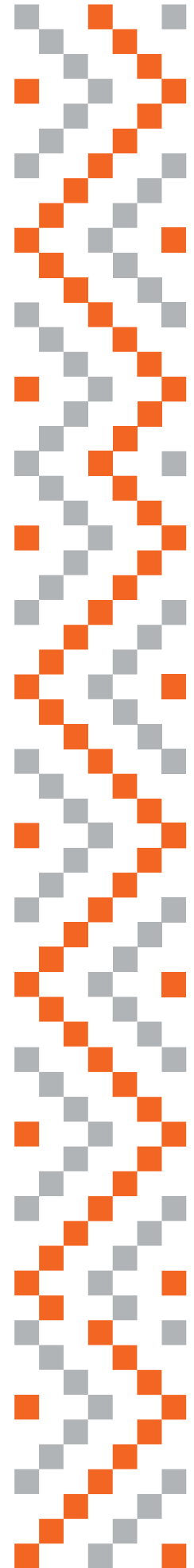
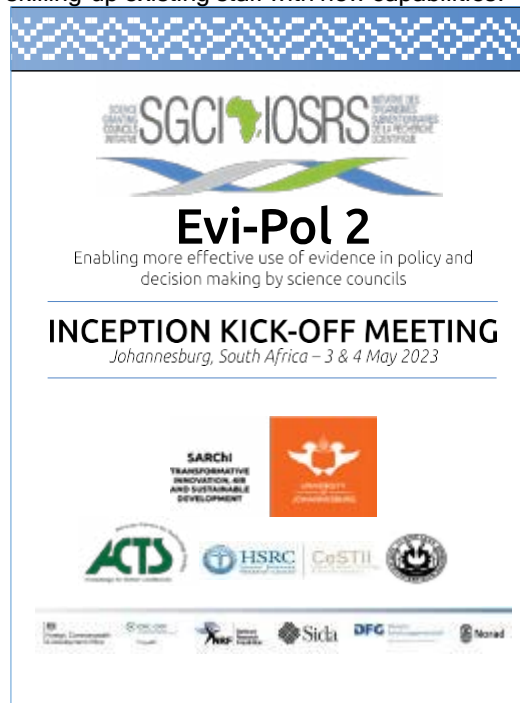




Participants at the event from our partners, the Science Granting Councils and from the Trilateral Chair: Professor R. Hanlin, Xolani Sifundza and Khalalelo Mokoena

to deepen support for peer-to-peer learning among councils; and (v) to deepen gender, equality, and inclusion (GEI) considerations across the project. The project is led by the Chair and will be implemented with partners from our Chair collaborator, the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in Kenya as well as, the Centre for Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa and the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD) in Senegal. Evi-Pol 2 held its inception workshop in Johannesburg on the 3rd and 4th of May 2023. Participants were drawn from different countries and councils and discussed the current status of STI policies, STI data collection & management, and related monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plans. The goal was to share knowledge and experiences, identify best practices, and develop strategies for implementing Evi-Pol 2 effectively. Throughout the discussions, the emphasis was placed on how to strengthen the capacity of science councils to conduct their functions (including funding research and innovation, valorisation of research results, running R&D surveys and drafting, implementing and evaluating STI policy). Specifically, how Councils can use different types of evidence (such as their funding successes, the impact of research funded on surrounding communities, human resource complements within the Council or data on the types of innovation being conducted in firms)

to improve policymaking and decision-making. Key takeaways from the discussion included: the importance of including gender equality and inclusion across the Evi-Pol 2 project activities and within Councils, the need for more joined-up reporting and data sharing as well as the need to balance closing capacity gaps through short-term consultants vs investment and skilling-up existing staff with new capabilities.



# NEW STUDENTS' INTRODUCTION

MPhil and DPhil with specialisation in Innovation and Development



Fulufhelo Lloyd Nedohe



Wandile Kelly Mlilo



Vusumuzi Moyo



Simba Sibanda



Anneline Morgan



Tafadzwa Chirowamangu



Tshepo Mbonani



Xolani Sifundza



Khalalelo Mokoena



Rethabile Sekgala



Lubabalo Mgodlwa



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### BROWN BAG SESSION:

~ Mr Gerard Ralphs presented an interesting and interactive presentation on Autoethnography as a methodology for innovation systems mapping at household level: A South African arts-based case study on 31 May 2023.

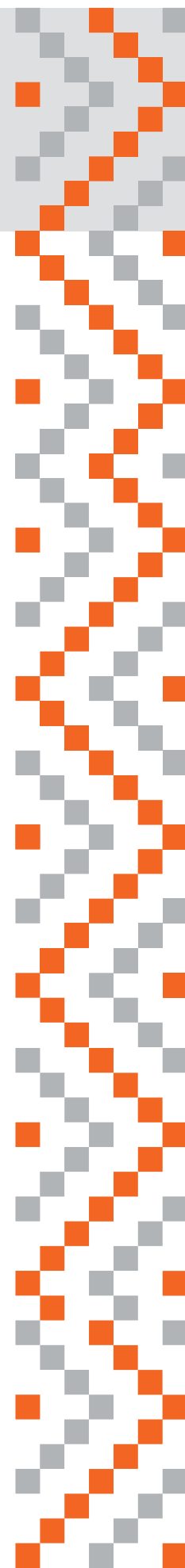
### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS FOR AFRICA PROGRAMME:

~ The Awareness Training and Networking for Researchers and Innovators were hosted on 12 June 2023 to address issues to consider when developing EDT/X-Data-based applications for socio-economic development. Following that, Awareness Training and Networking for Policy-Makers and Funders Registration was hosted on 13 June 2023, addressing the benefits of and some of the challenges faced when using EDT/X-Data-based applications.

~ The Chair would like to congratulate **Dr Lebogang Mosupye-Semenya** on her promotion to Senior Lectureship at the Johannesburg Business School.

~ The Chair is excited to announce that we will host the AfricaLics Visiting PhD students in September.

For more information, contact Ms Erin Thackwray ([ujtrcti@uj.ac.za](mailto:ujtrcti@uj.ac.za))



# OPEN AFRICAN INNOVATION RESEARCH (OpenAIR)



UJ-TRCTI would like to congratulate Open African Innovation Research (OpenAIR) on their new project that aims to engage with the SDGs by improving global regulatory systems to ensure that the benefits of innovations in health care, but also in data governance, food security, and green technologies, are more equitably distributed around the world. Open AIR has been granted nearly \$2 million from the International Development Research Centre to address a core deficit in the way innovation is regulated. Open AIR's new project will implement a new research agenda on the regulation of innovation. Improved regulatory systems will remove barriers that inhibit innovation in lower-income countries and will ultimately underpin solutions to a diverse array of global challenges.

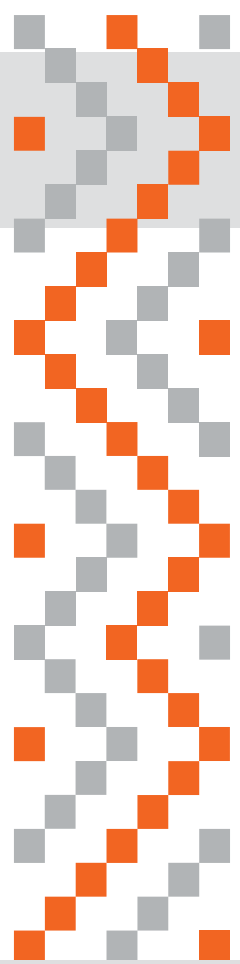
<http://ow.ly/yLI750FwR4>

## MARIANA MAZZUCATO WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE

The University of Johannesburg, College of Business and Economics, and UJ-TRCTI honoured Italian economist and author Mariana Mazzucato with an honorary doctorate on 12 June 2023. The ceremony was held at the UJ Arts Theatre at the Auckland Park Kingsway campus. Mazzucato is a Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at the University College London (UCL) and the founding director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose (IIPP). Prof Mazzucato also delivered a public lecture titled; "*A moonshot guide to changing capitalism: The implications for state capacity.*"



Professor Mariana Mazzucato with UJ Vice Chancellor and Principal Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi





## NEW PROGRAMMES OPEN FOR ADMISSIONS

### DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development

#### **MPhil and DPhil** with specialisation in **Innovation and Development**

These new interdisciplinary programmes are open for admissions. They are the first of their kind to be offered at any South African higher education institution and are set to deliver cutting-edge research that will inform innovation policy and the scholarly field at the intersection of innovation studies and development studies. The programme will train the next generation of scholars, practitioners and policymakers who will go on to further study and promote innovation relevant for their communities.

 **ASK US ABOUT  
THIS PROGRAMME**

**Duration: MPhil:** 24 months (Full-time) /  
36 Months (Part-time)

**DPhil:** 36 months (Full-time) / 48 Months (Part-time)

**Course start date:** 16 February 2024

**Application period:** 1 April - 27 October 2023

**Course fee:** TBC 2023

**Online applications:** <https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/college-of-business-and-economics/>

#### **Admission requirements:**

**MPhil (M34IDQ):** Honours Degree or an equivalent Degree in related field. A minimum mark of 65% is required.

The programme is a postgraduate research Masters leading to a dissertation of around 44 000 words plus a research article prepared for publication. The dissertation is prepared for examination under the guidance of a supervisor with expertise in your choice of topic.

**DPhil (P34IDQ):** Master's Degree in relevant field, with a minimum mark of 65%.

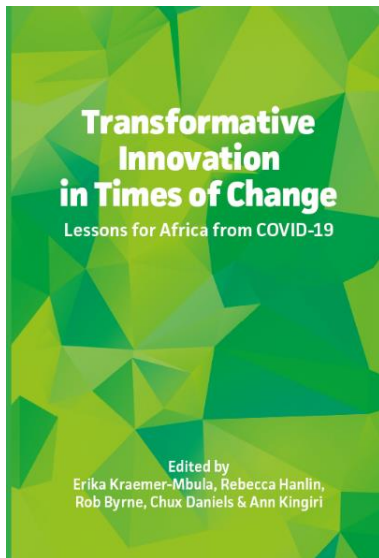
The programme offers a DPhil via research leading to a thesis that makes original contributions to knowledge in Innovation and Development. Paper-based dissertation format is strongly encouraged. A topic is selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Students are admitted after being assessed through a selection process.

**Research areas:** Transformative Innovation; Innovation and Technology; Innovation Policy; Fourth Industrial Revolution in Connection to Sustainable Development; Innovation for Inclusive Development; Innovation in the Informal Economy; Innovation and Sustainable Transitions. Other relevant topics can also be considered

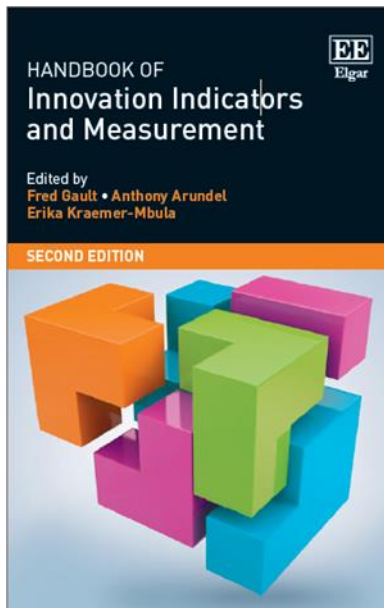


# COMING SOON



## Transformative innovation in times of change: lessons for Africa from COVID-19

This book, edited by all Chair's partners, counts contributions from 30 scholars and practitioners from Africa and beyond. It uses the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide innovative thinking on how innovation policy can be harnessed to provide short-term and long-term transformative solutions for Africa. The Chair looks forward to its publication soon!



## Handbook of Innovation Indicators and Measurement 2nd Edition

Edited by Fred Gault, UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands, Tshwane University of Technology and University of Johannesburg, South Africa, Anthony Arundel, Maastricht University and UNUMERIT, the Netherlands and Erika Kraemer-Mbula, University of Johannesburg, South Africa and UCL, London, UK. Providing nuanced insight into key areas of innovation studies, this erudite second edition acknowledges the significance of innovation within the informal economy. It contributes to the broader scholarly discourse on innovation indicators and measurement, exploring the nature and rate of recent developments within the field.

