

Invitation: SA-TIED & Econ3x3 Policy Dialogue on Employment Policy, Technology, and South Africa's Future of Work.

Date: 28 March 2025

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 (UTC +2)

Venue: Ubuntu Chambers, Madibeng Building, Auckland Park Kingsway (APK) Campus, Auckland Park and Online

RSVP here: [Link](#)

We are pleased to invite you to the [SA-TIED and Econ3x3 policy dialogue](#), co-hosted with the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-ID), hosted at the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), on Employment Policy, Technology, and South Africa's Future of Work.

Unemployment remains one of South Africa's most pressing economic challenges. While job creation is a policy priority, structural barriers—including weak infrastructure and a mismatch between skills and industry demand—continue to shape the labour market. Alongside these challenges, economic and technological shifts are influencing employment patterns, raising critical questions about how policy can support workforce resilience and job creation.

This dialogue will bring together policymakers, researchers, and industry experts to explore:

- The role of industrial policy in expanding employment opportunities
- How skills development and labour market reform can better align workers with job-creating industries
- The impact of automation and AI on employment and workforce adaptation
- Policy pathways to support long-term employment growth and economic inclusion

The panel for this event features a diverse group of experts including:

Gilad Isaacs – Executive Director, Institute for Economic Justice



Dr Gilad Isaacs is the Executive Director at the IEJ. He is also an economist at Wits University, where he coordinates the National Minimum Wage Research Initiative, and lectures. Gilad has a Ph.D. and Masters in Economics from SOAS University of London, and a Masters in Political Economy from New York University. He has worked as a consultant for the United Nations' International Labour Organization (ILO) and Global Labour University. He has a background in civil society activism working for the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and founding the Social Justice Coalition (SJC). His research expertise are in financialisation, macroeconomics, and labour markets.

Neva Makgetla – Senior Economist, Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies



Neva Makgetla is a Senior Economist at TIPS. She has undertaken extensive research into South African economic issues, published widely, and contributed to a number of national economic policy processes and debates from 1994. Until 2015, she was Deputy Director General for economic policy in the Economic Development Department. Before that, she was Lead Economist for the Development Planning and Implementation Division at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. She has worked at a senior level in the Presidency and other government departments, and for seven years was head of the COSATU Policy Unit. She has a PhD in economics and before 1994 worked for over 10 years as an economics lecturer.

Renosi Mokate – Executive Chairperson, Concentric Alliance



Dr Renosi Mokate is the Executive Chairperson of Concentric Alliance and the Deputy Chairperson of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council. She formerly served as the Executive Dean of the Graduate School of Business Leadership at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and has been the Executive Director at the World Bank, representing South Africa, Angola, and Nigeria. Additionally, she is a former Deputy Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, where she was a member of the Monetary Policy Committee and represented the central bank at the G20 forum. Dr Mokate has held various roles in economic policy, including working as an independent consultant to the Ministry of Finance and National Treasury, as well as serving as CEO and Chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission and Senior Policy Analyst at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Dr Mokate has

previously held positions in academia and the research sector. She has substantial experience in corporate governance across both the public and private sectors.

Fiona Tregenna – SARChI Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg



Fiona Tregenna holds the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, heading this centre of research, capacity-building, and public and policy engagement. She is also a Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg. Fiona holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cambridge. She has published widely in leading journals, received awards and grants for her research, led large research projects, co-edited several books, and serves on the editorial boards of various international journals and book series.

Wandile Sihlobo – Chief Economist, Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa



Wandile Sihlobo is the Chief Economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz) and a member of President Cyril Ramaphosa's Economic Advisory Council. He is also a Senior Lecturer Extraordinary at Stellenbosch University and a Research Associate at Rhodes University. Sihlobo specializes in agricultural economics, land reform, and trade policy. He previously served on the Presidential Expert Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture and is a Commissioner at the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC).

Mark Nasila – Chief Data and Analytics Officer, First National Bank



Dr Mark Nasila is a luminary in artificial intelligence (AI) and data science and the Chief Data and Analytics Officer at First National Bank Risk. He also shares his expertise at the Singularity Group, specialising in AI and data strategies. He is a leading member of the National Institute for Theoretical Physics and Computational Sciences (NITheCS), and a Professor of Practice in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Johannesburg. Dr Nasila's innovative approach at FNB has revolutionised risk management and forensic due diligence through advanced AI systems, setting new benchmarks in banking technology.

MODERATOR

Ferial Haffajee – Associate Editor, Daily Maverick



Ferial Haffajee is a South African editor and journalist. She is currently associate editor at the Daily Maverick. Previously, Ferial was editor-in-chief at the Mail & Guardian and City Press, where teams working with her won numerous investigative journalism awards. She is a regular analyst and commentator on radio, television and elsewhere. Ferial is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network and a member of the Africa Leadership Institute fellowship.

This **hybrid event** offers both in-person and online attendance options.

Please [RSVP](#) by **26 March 2025** to confirm your participation.

For any enquiries, contact **Abena Larbi-Odam** at abena.larbiadam@wider.unu.ed

We look forward to your participation.