

● Prospects for Transformative Innovation Policy in Africa

There is an urgent need for countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop new systems that will effectively mobilise the power of innovation for addressing a wide range of societal challenges including poverty, climate change and inequality. To this end, there is an ongoing need to experiment, research, evaluate, disseminate and communicate new science, technology and innovation practices that support development of sustainable solutions. Transformative Innovation Policy (TIP) proposes a new approach to support innovation that addresses societal and environmental challenges. It builds on the possibility of alternative futures, the potential of citizen movements, firms, governments, and knowledge organisations, and the co-creation of solutions through participatory approaches. This panel aims to share useful lessons on the prospects for transformative innovation and possible pathways to the formulation, implementation, evaluation and governance of transformative innovation policies across four countries in Africa, namely Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa.

Presenters:

- **Dr Priscilla Mensah, Nelson Mandela University (South Africa)**
Dr Priscilla Mensah is Director: Research Development at Nelson Mandela University. The Directorate contributes to an enabling environment for research by supporting emerging researchers (which includes postdoctoral and research fellows), facilitating all aspects of postgraduate student funding and offering development programmes for staff and postgraduate students. Through the Unit for statistical consultation, it offers training and consultation for statistical needs of researchers. It also manages ethics processes at the institution. Prior to joining Mandela University, she was Director in the Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development Directorate of the National Research Foundation (NRF). She held several positions at the University of the Free State including Deputy-Director: International Academic Programmes and Deputy Director of the Postgraduate School. She served as Director for the three consecutive summer schools of the Southern African Young Scientist Summer Programme (SA-YSSP) in Applied Systems Analysis hosted at the University of the Free State from 2012-2015. A key research output from this programme was the book *Systems Analysis Approach for Complex Global Challenges*, published by Springer in 2018 and for which she was managing editor. She has extensive knowledge of South Africa's Higher Education and Training landscape and the National System of Innovation. She is a specialist in systems analysis with specific emphasis on science and policy within South Africa and beyond. She holds Masters and Doctoral degrees in Chemistry from the University of Cape Town.
- **Dr Chux Daniels, University of Sussex (United Kingdom)**
Dr Chux Daniels is a Research Fellow in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy at SPRU (Science Policy Research Unit), University of Sussex, UK. He joined the University of Sussex in 2011. In addition to research and teaching, he supervises Doctoral researchers and MSc students. He is the Director of the Transformative Innovation Policy (TIP) Africa Hub, a research programme that involves Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and other countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.
- **Dr Sepo Hachigonta, National Research Foundation (South Africa)**
Sepo Hachigonta is Director of Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. His research interests is in trans-disciplinary fields as well as Africa's science, technology and innovation policy landscape. Prior to joining the NRF, he was a programme manager at FANRPAN, a regional policy analysis network on food security and agriculture based in Pretoria. He has published widely in environmental and agriculture systems, with a specific focus on research to policy interface. He is the author, co-author/editor of more than 40 articles and books (20 in scientific international journals). Dr Hachigonta has extensive networks within the African Continent and beyond having worked with partners in more than 20 African countries and is a IIASA, 2007 YSSP Alumni. His expertise includes stakeholder engagement with the public and private sector – networking, cultivating and nurturing strategic partnerships with stakeholders across the Continent, globe and sectors. He holds a Masters and a Doctoral degree in Environmental Science from the University of Cape Town.

- Prof Rebecca Hanlin, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
Prof. Hanlin has over 20 years of experience working and researching in Africa, especially Kenya and Tanzania. Her work sits at the intersection of innovation and sustainable development. Her research interests include inclusive innovation and the development of technological capabilities in Africa, strengthening scientific research capacity, and applying innovation systems concepts in emerging economies. Prof. Hanlin has worked in the area of health innovation and, more recently, renewable energies (solar, wind and biogas). Her latest book looks at building science systems in Africa and technological capabilities in renewable electrification.
 - Dr Glenda Kruss, Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa)
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