



Excellence in Research and Publishing on Innovation and Development

Thematic session at the 6th AfricaLics Research Conference, Nigeria, 13th – 15th November 2024

Prepared by the AfricaLics Secretariat in collaboration with VFP alumni and journal editors.

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Introduction

Ensuring excellence in research on Innovation and Development studies research and publishing in international journals is a demanding exercise. It requires thorough knowledge of theory and methods in the field of Innovation and Development as well as specific knowledge on how to target journals, engage in academic conversations, and create high-quality, unique academic papers bringing new and relevant knowledge, concepts, or theories to the table.

Considerable efforts have been made to enhance research quality in African Innovation and Development Studies research in the past 10 years. Even so, only a fragment of the journal articles published in journals outside the African continent are written by African scholars. The reasons are numerous and stretch from a perceived lack of relevance of papers focussing on African issues and contexts among journal editors over repetition of knowledge already published, to uncritical use of scientific methods and inadequate quality of submitted articles e.g. due to language issues or flaws in the structure and flow of the articles.

African universities are actively looking for ways to support their scholars and students to produce high-quality research, that can be published in reputable journals. Meanwhile, the AfricaLics network has increasingly focussed on measures that help PhD students enhance their writing and publishing skills (e.g. through targeted academic writing courses and writing sessions). Targeted mentoring of students with accepted papers from AfricaLics and Globelics conferences is another example of how the network supports students' efforts to publish internationally.

Against this background, this thematic session will focus on key issues related to achieving excellence in research and international publishing in the field of Innovation and Development.



Structure of the session:

The Chair will start by briefly setting the scene. Members of the panel will then speak on the different topics listed below. Finally, the session will include an open discussion on excellence in research and international publishing.

Chair:

Pamela Mreji, Director, Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer, Technical University of Kenya, AfricaLics VFP alumni and member of the AfricaLics Scientific Board.

Speakers and presentations (10 minutes each):

- **Justina Onumah**, Senior Research Scientist and Agricultural Development Economist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI-CSIR), Ghana and Vice-chair of the AfricaLics Scientific Board: *Capacity gaps and strategies for enhancing excellence in research and international publishing: perspectives of an AfricaLics alumnus.*
- **Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Technology and Innovation, University of Ilorin: *Challenges and achievements in supporting scholars and students from University of Ilorin to ensure excellence in research and international publishing.*
- **Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun**, Senior Lecturer in Business Management at De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom and editor at Innovation and Development: *Excellence in research on Innovation and Development. Which capabilities are required and how to get there?*
- **Prof. Rasmus Lema**, UNU-Merit and editor at Innovation and Development: *Publishing in international journals like Innovation and Development – what does it take?*
- **Prof. Mammo Muchie**, DST/NRF Research Professor on STI4D at Tshwane University of Technology and Editor in Chief, African International Journal on Science, Technology, Innovation, and Development: *Challenges and achievements in supporting international publishing by African scholars.*

The session will conclude with an **open discussion** chaired by Dr. Pamela Mreji.