

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

### POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2025 - 2027

The DSI/NRF Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa (UJ-TRCTI) is looking for postdoctoral research fellows for 2025 to 2027.

The [Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation](#) works at the intersection of innovation and development processes. It is concerned with understanding how innovation activities in private firms, the informal sector, the public sector, and the community or household level can be more transformative. Transformative innovation in this context refers to innovation that reduces poverty and exclusion with more sustainable livelihoods. Using interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, the Chair studies those who 'do innovation' and works with those in the policy and practice space to promote and implement innovation to address local, national, continental or global challenges.

Fellowships carry a monthly stipend, with some funding for travel, training, research costs, etc. Fellows are provided with shared office space, equipment, and administrative support. The fellowship cannot be held concurrently with supplementary funding or salary.

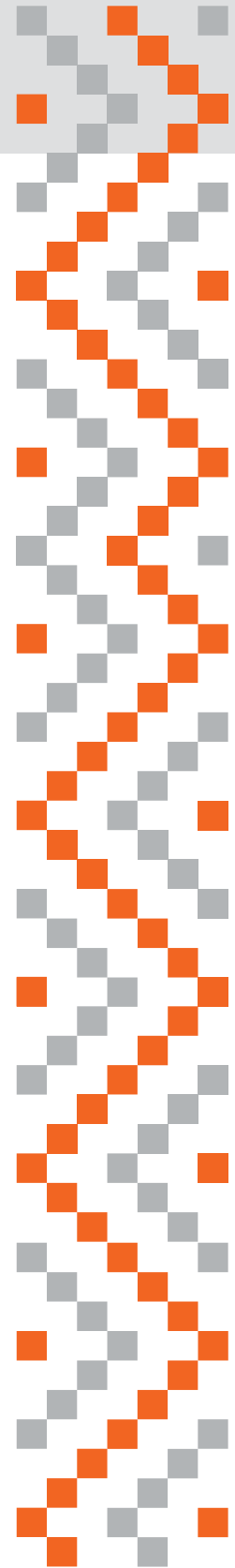
Applicants must hold a PhD in a relevant subject (see below for specific details) and have received their PhD within the last five years (in or after 2019).

PDRFs will be expected to:

1. **Contribute to research projects.** This will involve conducting desk research, primary and secondary data collection and analysis, writing papers and reports, and organising meetings, workshops and other events.
2. **Develop their own research and publications portfolio.** We actively encourage our PDRFs to grow their career profiles and expect all PDRFs to submit funding applications regularly, either on their own or as part of a team. In addition, all PDRFs are expected to produce at least two research output units (equivalent to 2 single-authored publications) annually.
3. **Contribute in broader ways to the work of the Chair and its networks.** This could be through mentoring and supervision support to students, taking responsibility for certain Chair activities or outreach work with our broader academic or policy networks.

#### About the Chair

The Trilateral Chair is a research programme co-funded by the South African Department of Science and Innovation and administered by the National Research Foundation. The Research Chair is a partnership between the [University of Johannesburg](#), the [University of Sussex](#) (UK), and the [African Centre for Technology Studies \(ACTS\)](#) in Kenya.



The Chair is looking for the following postdoctoral research fellows (PDRF):

**1. 2 PDRFs (Innovation Policy)**

Assisting a project starting in 2025, the PDRF will work with African innovation agencies to strengthen their access to relevant evidence to assist them in enhancing national and regional innovation ecosystems, promoting cross-border collaborations and increasing their capability to champion transformative innovation policies. The individual must have a strong knowledge of African innovation ecosystems and have evidence of working with senior government personnel on policy issues. A strong track record in researching and publishing on African science, technology and innovation policy issues will be required.

**2. PDRF (Innovation in a Digital World)**

The PDRF will work on projects investigating new dynamics of digital transformation in the context of Africa and inclusive development. This will include researching the adoption of digital technologies in various segments of the economy and society, as well as the policy conditions to enable transformative digital inclusion and equitable development. A strong track record in researching and publishing on innovation and digital policy, regulation and/or systems issues is needed. The ability to use the latest data analytics and research tools would be preferred.

**3. PDRF (Innovation in a Greener World)**

The PDRF will work with the Greens Transitions lead at the Chair to investigate the intersection between green and just transitions and innovation. A strong focus will be on capabilities building, policy dimensions, linkages with global value chains and the opportunities to open 'green windows of opportunity'. The PDRF must have a track record in researching one or more of these issues in the context of renewable energy innovation in Africa. Econometrics skills would be preferred.

*All PDRF positions are for 12 months, with the possibility of renewal for up to three years. Renewal is dependent on performance and funding availability.*

**Required Qualifications & Experience:** In addition to the specific skills and experience outlined above for each position, all applicants must highlight in their application evidence of:

- A PhD in a relevant field (e.g., innovation economics, innovation studies, science and technology studies, sustainability studies, development studies, public policy).
- Experience in conducting stakeholder engagement and workshop facilitation
- Publication record and experience in writing research proposals
- Experience in conducting mentorship or supervision of junior scholars would be an advantage
- The ability to work in multinational research teams in fast-paced environments
- Proficiency in English (speaking, reading and writing). Working knowledge of another official African language would be an advantage.

**Application Process:** Please submit the following in a single PDF document:

- Cover letter detailing your motivation to join the Chair and how you meet the position's requirements
- Curriculum Vitae (CV), including contact details for three referees
- A list of publications and a publication sample where you are the sole or lead author
- Academic transcripts/certificates

Submit your application to [UJTRCTISubmissions@uj.ac.za](mailto:UJTRCTISubmissions@uj.ac.za) by **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, at 23:59 South African time.