

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

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

<b>Project</b>	Policy Experimentation for Sustainable Investment in South Africa's Water Energy Food (WEF) Nexus
<b>Duration</b>	01 February 2025 to 28 February 2026 (with a possible 6-month extension)
<b>Contract</b>	Fixed term 1 year, 1 month (full-time)
<b>Location</b>	Office-based (with up to 20% expected travel)
<b>Remuneration</b>	R 60-70,000 gross/ month

**Background to the project**

Like many countries, South Africa faces complex interdependencies and escalating challenges within the Water Energy Food (WEF) nexus. Ensuring long-term supply and sustainability in these sectors is vital for economic development and environmental sustainability. More importantly, it requires investments, particularly in infrastructure. Activating the necessary investments in the WEF nexus calls for policy experimentation through participatory policy processes due to these sectors' intricate and interconnected nature. Participatory policy processes also foster stakeholder engagement and collaboration across the system by involving diverse stakeholders and encouraging their participation, input, and buy-in.

The project will deliver a series of outputs, including background reports on the energy, water and food sectors and a series of facilitated stakeholder engagements.

**Expected Project Outcomes**

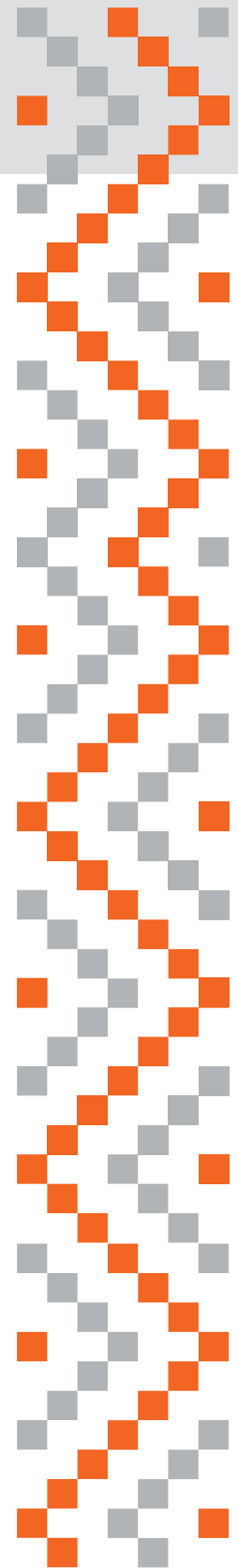
Through this project, we anticipate several significant outcomes:

- Identification of institutional and regulatory conditions necessary to incentivise/channel large-scale investments in the WEF nexus.
- Increased awareness and commitment among stakeholders to address WEF challenges through innovative policy approaches.
- Alternative policy approaches that can serve as prototypes to drive sustainable investment in South Africa's WEF nexus.
- A foundation for long-term collaboration and capacity for policy experimentation that can help ensure a more resilient and sustainable future for South Africa

This project represents a critical step towards achieving sustainability and resilience in South Africa's WEF sectors. By fostering policy experimentation and collaboration, we aim to unlock the potential for increased investments needed to achieve the NDP and SDG targets.

**About the Chair**

Trilateral Chair is a prestigious 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 [University of Johannesburg](#) the [University of Sussex](#) in the UK and the [African Centre for Technology Studies \(ACTS\)](#) in Kenya.



### **Responsibilities of the Senior Research Fellow**

1. Day-to-day management of the project to ensure all activities are conducted on time and to budget. This includes developing regular project reports and arranging meetings and events.
2. To provide intellectual input to the project, especially on transformative innovation policy thinking and policy experimentation.
3. Leading the development and submission of two journal publications based on the project findings.
4. The dissemination of research results through social media, opinion pieces and policy briefs.

The SRF will report to [Prof Erika Kraemer-Mbula](#), the overall principal investigator for the project.

### **Qualities required in the Senior Research Fellow**

The successful applicant is required to have:

- A PhD degree in a field relevant to the assignment, such as sustainability studies, development studies, public policy, business, and/or management.
- A knowledge and understanding of innovation studies and/or science and technology studies and/or the WEF nexus in South Africa is preferred.
- Proven experience in running research projects that have a strong stakeholder engagement element
- Proven experience arranging and leading workshop facilitation with senior government and private sector stakeholders.
- Experience in policy experimentation would be an advantage.
- A strong publications record in a relevant field including single authored papers in Q1 journals.

### **Application process**

Please submit your electronic application (cover letter identifying how you meet the requirements, CV, transcripts/ certificates, list of publications, a publication sample where you are the sole or lead author and a list of three referees) in a single PDF to [UJTRCTISubmissions@uj.ac.za](mailto:UJTRCTISubmissions@uj.ac.za).

**Closing date: Monday 06 January 2025 at 17:00 hours South African time.**