

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

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RESEARCHERS, STUDENTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

CHALLENGE AREA: ALTERNATIVE INNOVATION PRACTICES

opportunities to start in 2024/ 2025

An opportunity for researchers, studentships and post-doctoral fellowships has arisen at the [DSI/NRF Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development](#) at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa (UJ-TRCTI). Specifically, we are looking for:

1. Research assistants (for current masters or doctoral students not in full-time employment)
2. Research fellows (already holding a master's degree or a PhD)
3. MPhil students (starting 2025)
4. PhD candidates (starting 2025)
5. Post-doctoral research fellows

Successful applicants will be required to work as part of a team (led by [Prof Erika Kraemer-Mbula](#)) in the Chair's [challenge area](#) of alternative innovation practices.

Description of the challenge area

Considerations about innovation in Africa remain largely uncoupled from the continent's predominant loci of social and economic activity. Research in this challenge area explores modalities of innovation and innovation activities that are out of the mainstream. This includes innovation in "unseen" spaces, such as the informal economy and marginalised communities. This area of work investigates how to adapt existing definitions, conceptual frameworks and theoretical approaches to accommodate the realities of African innovation practices, what measurements and indicators are needed and how we can transform policy narratives to support better innovative solutions emerging from marginalised communities.

Requirements:

- Relevant educational qualifications in innovation studies, science and technology studies, development studies, economics, or related disciplines.
- Proven experience in an academic research environment, including using qualitative and/or quantitative data collection and analysis methods.
- Previous work in the challenge area is preferred (research assistants) or expected (other positions).
- Applicants for the post-doctoral fellows' positions must have an established publications track record and experience in research proposal writing and fundraising.
- The ability to work independently and as part of a dynamic research team that is internationally engaged through interdisciplinary research collaborations will be essential.
- Experience in econometrics and/ or French language skills would be an advantage.

You will signal your intent to work with the Chair by submitting an expression of interest. This action could potentially lead to being offered a position or help identify subsequent funding opportunities. Funded opportunities typically come with a basic salary or stipend with some funding for travel, training and research costs, where appropriate. All staff and students are provided with shared office space, equipment, and administrative support. Research assistants and fellows are offered temporary or fixed-term contracts linked to projects. Studentships are for the duration of the [studies](#). Postdoctoral and research fellowships are for one year and renewable for a second year (depending on performance and available funding). All these positions will be based full-time in our Johannesburg office and require physical in-person attendance five days a week.

Application process

Submit a single PDF document containing a cover letter identifying how you meet the requirements, your CV and transcripts/ certificates. Where available, include a list of publications and a publication sample where you are the sole or lead author. All applicants should include a list of three referees. Please submit this PDF to ujtrcti@uj.ac.za.

Closing date: Friday 31 May at 17:00 hours South African time.

