



The 11th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems

Hosts:

University of Johannesburg (South Africa), Adama Science and Technology University (Ethiopia) and The EthiopiaLics.

22nd -24th July 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale for Africalics academies

The AfricaLics PhD Academies serve as a dedicated capacity-building initiative for African doctoral scholars specializing in the multidisciplinary social science field of Innovation and Development. This field, which integrates scholarship from innovation studies and development studies, remains critically under-institutionalized across much of the African continent. The Academies are designed to provide participants with a collaborative forum for mutual support, advanced specialized training, and enhanced engagement with policy and management dimensions relevant to their research. Their primary objective is to equip emerging scholars with the robust research, theoretical, and analytical capabilities required to investigate the African innovation landscape, thereby generating empirical insights to inform policymakers, private sector actors, civil society organizations, international development agencies, and other stakeholders.

The 11th PhD Academy was convened virtually from July 22 to 24, 2025 and was hosted in partnership with the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), Adama Science and Technology University (Ethiopia), and EthiopiaLics. Due to the prevalence of online training fatigue, the number of applications was lower than usual; consequently, the event was condensed from its initially planned five-day schedule to a focused three-day event. This structure facilitated productive engagement among the fifteen participating doctoral candidates, each of whom presented their research and received detailed feedback on their projects and draft papers. Overall, the Academy successfully achieved its core objectives and provided a valuable platform for PhD students to deepen their scholarly knowledge, build connections with leading academics in the field, and receive constructive critique on their ongoing doctoral research, thereby reaffirming the program's continued value and adaptability.

1.2 History of Africalics PhD academies

The first-ever AfricaLics PhD Academy took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2012, with participants of 17 students and 21 facilitators and discussants who primarily used the English language to deliver. Since then, AfricaLics has expanded its network and has received significant support, notably financial backing from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the capacity and interdisciplinary nature of the academies have also seen growth. There have been nine other PhD Academies held as follows; Algeria, in October 2013, Kenya in March 2015, Tunisia in March 2016, Nigeria in 2017, Morocco in 2018, Kenya in 2022. The 9th was held virtually hosted by University of Johannesburg, South Africa in 2023. The 10th edition in 2024 was also held virtually jointly organized by the University of Thomas Sankara, Burkina Faso in

collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, South Africa and with support from the AfricaLics Secretariat hosted at African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya.

The PhD Academy is one of several initiatives carried out by the AfricaLics Secretariat and the AfricaLics network to enhance research capacity in the region, particularly in the fields of innovation and development studies. These efforts are part of a broader research capacity-building program funded by Sida, which also includes providing research funding support, developing new curricula and teaching programs in these subject areas, and facilitating networking and dissemination activities for researchers through various events and workshops.

The primary goal of AfricaLics is to encourage the development of research capacity in Africa, with strong connections to end users such as policymakers and the private sector, through organized research training and project support. A long-term goal is to help Africa become more self-sufficient in terms of researching, monitoring, and evaluating its innovation activities and systems for societal benefit. AfricaLics' efforts are intended to supplement the research and capacity-building activities of other organizations in the fields of innovation studies, both in academia and in policy.

1.3 Location of the 11th AfricaLics PhD academy

The 11th AfricaLics PhD Academy was held virtually via Zoom. It was jointly organized by the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), Adama Science and Technology University (Ethiopia), and EthiopiaLics, with support from the AfricaLics Secretariat hosted at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in Kenya.

The local organizing committee at the University of Johannesburg was led by Prof. Rebecca Hanlin, while the Adama Science and Technology University and EthiopiaLics organizing team was led by Dr Abdi Yuya, an AfricaLics alumnus and currently a Commissioner at the Oromia Planning and Development Commission, as well as a member of the TIM Department at Adama Science and Technology University. He was supported by Dr Moges Tufa, a lecturer at Adama Science and Technology University. The organization of the Academy at the AfricaLics Secretariat was coordinated by Ms Mourine Chepkemioi.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 11TH ACADEMY

The 11th AfricaLics PhD Academy took place over three days. Each day was comprised of three sessions lasting 1.5 hours each. We received fewer applications than usual due to the degree of online training fatigue, so the event was shortened from its original five-day schedule to a focused three-day one. The fifteen attending doctoral candidates were able to engage in fruitful interactions, presenting their research and receiving thorough feedback on their projects and draft papers.

Global leaders in innovation and development were invited by the Academy's organisers to give talks and serve as mentors for the students. The Academy also gave PhD students the chance to learn new skills and share their work. The sessions were carefully planned to include student presentations, a keynote address from innovation and development experts, and talks by senior researchers. Through an open call for applications and an application review, the AfricaLics Scientific Board and Secretariat members chose the students. Below is a summary of these events' other highlights.

2.1 Call for applications and review process

A call for applications to the AfricaLics PhD Academy was advertised in April 2025. A total of 27 applications were received and reviewed by a team at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, the team at Adama Science and Technology University (Ethiopia), EthiopiaLics and the AfricaLics Secretariat, and approved by the AfricaLics Scientific Board. Each extended abstract was reviewed by two members of the committee and selected based on the scores received using the following criteria: relevance in terms of topic and content as well as quality, regional distribution, and gender consideration.

Following a thorough review process, the rigorous evaluation and shortlisting process resulted in the selection of 15 students, of whom 12 were males and 3 were females, based on the extended abstracts submitted. Of these, 13 students were able to present their work at the academy, with two unable to do so due to unforeseen circumstances. The selected participants came from a variety of African countries, including Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda.

The call for applications is provided in Annex 1.

2.2 The Academy programme

The three-day training programme was split into different types of sessions. The full program is provided in Annex 2.

2.2.1 Opening session

By setting expectations and giving context, the opening session served as a crucial foundation for the event. All attendees were cordially welcomed by the secretariat, all participants present had the opportunity to introduce themselves and the areas of interest and/or expertise. The introductory session served as a tool for outlining the main objectives of the workshop and establishing a setting in which attendees could freely network and engage with one another. Additionally, the interactive and participatory nature of the workshops was reinforced by encouraging attendees to actively participate by posing questions and holding discussions. In summary, the opening session was crucial in creating a lively and upbeat environment for the 11th PhD Academy.

2.2.2 Lectures and presentations from invited guests

In Conversation with Author Dr Josep M. Coll: “Buddhist and Taoist Systems Thinking: The Natural Path to Sustainable Transformation.”

Dr Coll delivered the keynote lecture, giving highlights of his book: Buddhist and Taoist Systems Thinking provides a radical re-conception of business and management, the reconnection of humans with nature as the foundation for competitive advantage in today’s Anthropocene era. He noted that organizations are increasingly challenged to balance profit maximization with creating value for society and the environment, especially amid exponential technological change and disruptive innovations. Within this context, adaptability emerges as the new business imperative where entrepreneurs and organizations should continuously adjust to shifting realities while intentionally designing sustainable futures.

He further introduced the idea of the Gaia organization - an enterprise envisioned as a living organism that supports the perpetuation of life on the planet through principles of balance, impermanence, oneness, and self-regulation. For PhD students, the key takeaway was that these approaches offer not only a theoretical framework but also practical tools for creating agile, mindful, and purpose-driven organizations that can drive systemic change and regenerative growth.

Advancing inclusive agricultural innovation for climate resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa'
Research Coordination Area (RCA) by Prof. Michael R. Carter and Dr. Mercy Salami

Prof. Carter led a webinar by sharing details of research work that explores how financial tools, agronomic practices, seed varieties, and innovative combinations of these approaches can drive inclusive agricultural transformation. He highlighted how inclusive agricultural innovation not only enhances climate resilience but also reduces rural poverty and promotes sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The discussion emphasized promising approaches such as digital tools, index-based insurance, and social protection linkages that strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers and marginalized communities to withstand climate shocks.

A key takeaway was the importance of integrating technological innovation with institutional arrangements, financing models, and capacity-building initiatives that intentionally address structural inequalities. By aligning these elements, agricultural systems can become more adaptive and resilient, while ensuring that vulnerable groups share equitably in the benefits of innovation. The seminar concluded with actionable strategies to ensure that technological advancements in agriculture are accessible, equitable, and scalable in the face of growing climate challenges—ultimately laying the foundation for resilient and inclusive development.

With support from Dr Salami, the "Innovating Resilience: Advancing Inclusive Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa" AfricaLics Research Coordination Area (RCA) was also formally launched during the webinar. Using an agricultural innovation systems approach, this AfricaLics RCA aims to promote discussions about inclusive agricultural innovations for climate resilience in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on gender, inequality, and encouraging the production of indigenous and underutilised crops through agrobiodiversity. By supporting the creation and sharing of knowledge in the area of innovation and development (I&D), enhancing research capacity and scholarly collaboration, and supplying data and evidence to support policy decisions on the continent, this RCA supports the AfricaLics agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the African Union Agenda 2063.

2.2.3 Method sessions

Hands-on Research Methodology for Scientific Writing by Dr. Moges Tufa

This was a very interactive session where Dr. Moges led the discussion on Hands-on Research Methodology for Scientific Writing highlighting the importance of connecting research design with effective scholarly communication. Participants were guided through the process of identifying and framing research problems, selecting appropriate methodologies, and ensuring that data collection and analysis were conducted with rigor. Emphasis was placed on the fact that

a clear and well-documented methodology enhances the credibility and reproducibility of research. By grounding their writing in strong methodological foundations, students were encouraged to see their work as part of a broader academic conversation where transparency and consistency build trust within the scientific community.

The session also focused on the practical elements of scientific writing, particularly the organization of manuscripts into coherent sections that effectively communicate findings. Key strategies shared included how to craft concise introductions, present results logically, and draw evidence-based conclusions aligned with the stated research objectives. Challenges such as maintaining clarity, avoiding redundancy, and ensuring alignment between research questions, methods, and results were discussed. The discussion ultimately emphasized that successful scientific writing is not just about style but about presenting rigorous research in a way that is accessible, impactful, and contributes meaningfully to knowledge production and policy or practice. On the other hand, the risks of overreliance, potential biases in AI-generated outputs, and concerns around academic integrity were highlighted. The discussion encouraged students to approach AI as a supportive aid rather than a replacement for critical thinking and originality in research, reinforcing the need for ethical and responsible use of the digital tools in scholarly work.

2.2.4 Paper presentation sessions

This session constituted the central segment of the academy, offering students with a platform to showcase their research work and receive feedback from colleagues and facilitators. A discussant was thoughtfully selected based on their experience and expertise from the thematic areas covered in the sessions. Many students took advantage of the opportunity to collaborate with facilitators outside of the formal sessions to gain comprehensive feedback on their papers. These sessions consisted of up to 4 student presentations. Each presentation was expected to be no more than 15 minutes. After the students have presented, a discussant provided feedback on the papers for up to 15 minutes. The remaining 15 minutes were used for a general question-and-answer session with all participants.

The list of student presentations, including their titles, is provided in Annex 3.

2.2.5 The closing session

The 11th PhD Academy was officially closed by Dr. Kingiri, presenting the mega trends shaping innovation dynamics and structural change in Africa. These include the pressing challenge of climate change, the opportunities emerging from the green transition and just transition, the

transformative potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with its digital and disruptive technologies, and the demographic advantage of Africa's youth dividend. These shifts create both opportunities and challenges for Africa's research and development agenda, underscoring the need for innovation and development studies to inform more inclusive and transformative policies from a systems perspective. Rethinking innovation and supporting research in this field are critical for ensuring that African economies can adapt and thrive in this era of rapid change.

In her remarks, Dr. Kingiri further emphasised that for innovation studies to effectively influence policy and practice, several key considerations must guide the process. First, context is paramount - interventions must be grounded in local realities rather than applying generic "best practices." Second, pursuing the "best fit" for African contexts is more effective than replicating external models. Third, enabling co-learning among stakeholders is essential to drive meaningful societal change. Finally, a systems-level focus is needed to strengthen innovation capacities across the board. The session concluded by affirming that innovation can bridge Africa's climate, digital, and demographic challenges, but this requires tailoring approaches to local contexts and fostering collective action across governments, the private sector, academia, and communities to achieve transformative impact.

ANNEX 1: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The 11th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems

June 2, 2025 - June 6, 2025

Hosted by University of Johannesburg and EthiopiaLics

The AfricaLics network is an academic research and capacity building network that focuses on how innovation occurs, the process through which new or improved products, processes, organizational forms, ways of working and acting are introduced into new environments, and the relationship this has with economic and social development in African countries. As it sits at the intersection of innovation studies and development studies, such research is becoming known in the network as 'innovation and development studies.'

The 11th AfricaLics PhD Academy offers a unique chance for PhD students (and a small number of master's students) currently pursuing their studies at African universities and focusing on innovation and development studies. This opportunity allows them to enhance their understanding of this growing field, engage with prominent academics in the discipline, and obtain valuable feedback on their continuing research journey.

In collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and EthiopiaLics, the 11th AfricaLics PhD Academy is set to take place as a virtual event. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with experts and peers in the field of innovation and development studies, through an online format.

This is a Call for students enrolled in a PhD at an African university who work in the field of innovation and development studies to apply to participate in this one-week event. The Call is also relevant for master students and/or those who already hold a master's degree and are considering enrolling as a PhD student in the field of innovation and development studies. Preference will be given to PhD students applicants.

Innovation and Development studies

The AfricaLics network was established in 2012 in response to a growing recognition of the need for more support for academic 'research on innovation' that was relevant to African countries' contextual environments. This expanding body of work by African scholars is critical to ensuring that 'research in innovation' (i.e., the research and development of specific inventions that can help solve practical problems), on which most innovation policy and funding attention is focused, can be effectively supported. The concept of 'research on innovation' focuses on innovation processes, what fosters innovation, and what may aid in the acceptance and adoption of new solutions. It is particularly interested in determining the impact of innovation on African countries' social and economic development. It addresses these issues at the firm, network, and

collaboration levels, as well as the national, continental, and global levels. As a result, the work of scholars in the AfricaLics network is multidisciplinary, straddling the established academic fields of innovation studies and development studies.

This multidisciplinary field includes researchers from various disciplines who frequently study innovation studies, the economics of innovation, innovation management, technology management, science and technology studies, and so on. However, members of the network come from a variety of disciplines, including economics, political science and engineering.

Who is eligible to apply?

This online academy is primarily aimed at PhD students, in their second and third years, working in innovation and development studies and who are principally interested in how innovation relates to economic and social development in Africa.

The Academy will host around 20-25 students from Africa and a handful of students from the rest of the world who study innovation and development issues facing the African countries.

PhD students

PhD students who wish to participate will need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Must be a registered student in an African university and be at least in the beginning of his/her second year at the time of the academy
- work explicitly on issues related to policy-oriented analysis of science, technology and innovation
- be able to present an original paper reflecting his/her research and/or thesis work that fits within the thematic areas of the AfricaLics network. The thematic areas of AfricaLics are available here – <https://africalics.org/thematic-areas/>.

Master's students

Master's degree students who wish to participate will need to fulfil the following requirements:

- be a registered student in an African university on a Master's degree programme in the area of innovation and development studies, economics, business or management studies, sociology or development studies or similar
- have a Masters project that focuses on an aspect of innovation studies (i.e. innovation management, innovation systems, science, technology and innovation policy).

Those with master's degrees considering a PhD

For students with a Master's degree in a relevant field and in the process of developing a PhD related to innovation and development studies, you will need:

- A letter of support from the university you have been discussing with, on the possibility of a PhD related to innovation and development studies or a confirmed letter of acceptance or pre-registration on a relevant PhD programme
- An outline of your PhD ideas

To improve diversity in the emerging academic community on innovation and development studies research in Africa, we encourage female scholars and those from low-income countries to apply.

If you are in doubt as to whether you can apply, please contact us through the email address at the bottom of the call.

Design of the Academy

The Academy will take place online using Zoom every day from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th June inclusive. The Academy format takes the form of three sessions split across each day with breaks in between. Participants are expected to be active throughout and to keep their cameras on if bandwidth allows.

During the Academy frontier researchers in the field of innovation and development from around the world provide lectures and mentor students. The Academy also provides opportunities for PhD students to share their work and learn new skills. As such, the Academy is made up of the following activities:

- Lectures by senior researchers on areas ranging from research methodologies to the latest theories and empirical research in the fields of innovation, innovation management and science policy.
- Presentations by doctoral students of their work with feedback from the senior scholars facilitating at the event and peer feedback from one participating PhD student.
- Sessions focused on enabling interaction between students, practitioners and policy makers on innovation and development issues and consideration of how to make research more policy relevant.
- Sessions that focus on key skills that students need to complete their PhD and become successful academic researchers such as publishing or project management skills.

- A focus on research methods core to the field of innovation and development studies. For example, the last academy had a mini-workshop focused on systematic literature review while earlier academies focused on the latest data extraction and analysis techniques.

How to apply

Please send the following documents to the AfricaLics Secretariat (phd-academy@africalics.org) on or before 23:00 hours East Africa time on Thursday 8th May 2025. For those who are studying in French, the application documents can be submitted in French.

Registered PhD students	Registered Master's students	Those with Master's degrees considering a PhD
1. An extended abstract of their PhD thesis of not more than 5 pages	1. An extended abstract of their Masters project of not more than 2 pages	1. No more than 2-page description of your proposed PhD project
2. A recommendation letter from your PhD supervisor	2. A recommendation letter from your Master's supervisor	2. A recommendation letter from the university you are currently discussing your PhD
3. A cover letter including motivation for inclusion in the Academy		
4. A copy of the applicant's CV		

Format of abstracts and project descriptions

Abstracts and project descriptions should be typed double-spaced in French or in English with font size 12. The abstract must include the following sections:

1. Background and literature review
2. The research objectives or research questions
3. Methodology including data collection and analysis techniques to be used
4. Expected contribution to academia and policy discussions
5. References.

Please also make it clear in your application if you are preparing a thesis by publication or manuscript/ monograph thesis.

Please note that if you submit an abstract longer than the indicated page length, the reviewers are under no obligation to review more than the first 5 pages (of a PhD abstract) and 2 pages (of a Masters abstract).

Selection

All extended abstracts will be reviewed by at least two senior scholars from a review panel made up of members of the AfricaLics Scientific Board, AfricaLics Secretariat and University of Johannesburg. Selection will be made based on the academic quality of extended abstracts as well as on the basis of criteria aimed at promoting diversity (by location, gender etc).

Final paper upload and confirmation of attendance

All successful applicants will be expected to have confirmed their participation by 23:00 hours East Africa time (EAT) on Friday 23rd May 2025 or their place will be given to someone else. We recommend that all applicants pencil in the dates of the event in their diaries as soon as they apply as there is very little time between notification of acceptance and the first week of the event.

All selected participants who confirm attendance will also be expected to upload a final full paper (details of this will be given in your acceptance letter) by 23:00 hours East Africa time on Friday 30th May 2025. The full paper should be a full project proposal (for Masters students) or a chapter of your thesis that you would like to present and get feedback on during the Academy (for PhD students).

Organisation and support

The 11th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy is jointly organized by the University of Johannesburg and Adama University of Science and Technology (ASTU, host of EthiopiaLics), with support from the AfricaLics Secretariat hosted at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya. The Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) is supporting the AfricaLics secretariat to manage the PhD Academy planning and execution process.

The PhD organising planning committee for the 2025 AfricaLics PhD Academy is led by Prof. Rebecca Hanlin, Professor of Innovation and Sustainable Development, University of Johannesburg. The organisation of the 2025 Academy at the AfricaLics Secretariat level is being managed by Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen and Ms Mourine Chepkemoi.

More information

If you require more information or have questions, please email the AfricaLics Secretariat on phd-academy@africalics.org

ANNEX 2: THE PHD ACADEMY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22nd July 2025 (Moderator: Ms. Mourine Cheruiyot)

Time (CAT)	TIME EAT	Activity	Speakers/ Discussants
10:30 – 12:00	11:30 -13:00	Introduction to the Academy, AfricaLics and each other	Prof Rebecca Hanlin
13:00 – 14:30	14:00- 15:30	Student Presentations 1 (ag innovation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melesa Abawa • Maanzou BOUKARI • Esdras OBOSSOU 	Discussant: Prof Opiyemi Ayinde
15:30 – 17:00	16:30- 18:00	Student presentations 2 (digital innovation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yohanan Yokamo Yotona • Rahinatu Haruna • Mohammed Hassen Toyib 	Discussants: Dr. Shibiru Ayalew

Wednesday 23rd July 2025 (Moderator: Prof. Rebecca Hanlin)

Time (CAT)	Time (EAT)	Activity	Speakers/ Discussants
10:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 13:00	Student presentations 3 (ag innovation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kefale Eniyew Mamo • SIA Idrissou • Dismas Kimaro 	Discussants: Prof Gregory Mvogo
13:00 – 14:30	14:00 – 15:30	Keynote lecture IN-CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR Dr Josep M. Coll , author of “Buddhist and Taoist Systems Thinking: The Natural Path to Sustainable Transformation”	Speaker: Dr. Josep M. Coll, <i>Professor of Strategy, Sustainability and Innovation at EADA Business School, Spain</i>

		<i>NB: A separate Zoom link will be given for this lecture</i>	
15:30 – 17:00	16:30 – 18:00	Student presentations 4 (firm innovation) Frezer Yizez Melaku ADELOWO Abimbola David	Discussants: Prof Samir Maliki and

Thursday 24th July 2025 (Moderator: Ms Mourine Cheruiyot)

Time (CAT)	Time (EAT)	Activity	Speakers/ Discussants
10:30 – 12:00	11:30 – 13:00	Methods workshop: Hands-on Research Methodology for Scientific Writing.	Speaker: Dr. Moges Tufa
13:00 – 14:30	14:00 – 15:30	Student presentations 4 (climate innovations) Kayode Joseph Ekundayo Gabriel Clement Malima Olajoke Temilayo Ilesanmi Aline Mutabazi	Discussants: Dr. Maruf Sanni
14:30 – 14:45	15:30 – 15:45	Closing keynote Innovation studies and policy impact	Speaker: Dr Ann Kingiri, ACTS, Kenya
15:00 – 16:30	16:00 – 17:30	AfricaLics webinar & official launch of the innovating resilience: Advancing inclusive agricultural innovation for climate resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa' Research Coordination Area (RCA)	Speaker: Prof. Michael R. Carter and Dr. Mercy Salami

ANNEX 3: LIST OF THE 11TH PHD ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Institution	Country (citizenship)	Gender	Title of PhD project
1	Melese Abawa	Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Male	Adoption of Improved Feed and Its Impact on the Welfare of Smallholder Milk Producers: Evidence from Northwestern Ethiopia
2	Maanzou BOUKARI	University of Parakou, Benin	Benin	Male	Contribution of Sustainable Agricultural Models to the Transformation of Food Systems in Benin: The Case of the Organic Rice Value Chain in Matèkpo
3	Yohanan Yokamo Yotona	Hawassa University	Ethiopia	Male	The Implementation of E-Governance in Decentralized Urban Public Service Delivery in Sidama Region, Ethiopia.
4	Esdras OBOSSOU	National Agricultural University, Graduate School of Water and Agricultural Sciences, Benin	Benin	Male	Effectiveness of climate adaptation in West African vegetable farming systems
5	Rahinatu Haruna	Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies	Ghana	Female	Digital Technologies and Resilience of Marginalized Enterprises in Ghana.
6	Mohammed Hassen Toyib	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia	Male	Does Robotisation Reduce FDI Flow to Less Developed Countries? The Case of Sub-Saharan Africa

7	Frezer Yizez Melaku	Oromia State University	Ethiopia	Male	Effect of Innovation Leadership on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Performance with the Mediating Role of Innovative culture
8	Kayode Joseph Ekundayo	The Federal University of Technology Akure	Ethiopia	Male	Household Adoption of Climate Innovation Mix and Net Zero Energy Building Development In Southwest Nigeria
9	Kefale Eniyew Mamo	University of Gondar.	Ethiopia	Male	Transforming the Dairy Food System towards Sustainability: Integrating Agroecological Approaches into the Current Extension System in Gondar City Milk Shed, Ethiopia
10	SIA Idrissou	Université Thomas SANKARA (UTS),	Burkina Faso	Male	Adoption des Pratiques Agricoles Innovantes et Durables (PAID) et bien-être des ménages au Burkina Faso
11	Dismas Kimaro	The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)	Tanzania	Male	Market Readiness for The Adoption of Horticultural Solar Drying Technologies: The Case of Smallholder Farmers in Northern Tanzania
12	Gabriel Clement Malima	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	Male	The Role of Multinational Companies in Tanzania's Off-Grid Solar Market: Linkages, Constraints, And Future Prospects
13	Olajoke Temilayo Ilesanmi	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria	Female	Technology Evaluation of Smart Photovoltaic Infrastructure for Decentralized Electricity Generation in Osun State, Nigeria

14	ADELOWO Abimbola David	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria	Male	Assessment of Financial Technology (Fintech) Adoption and Diffusion among End Users in Selected States in Southwest, Nigeria.
15	Aline Mutabazi	University of Rwanda in collaboration with Gothenburg University in Sweden.	Rwanda	Female	Household Behavior and Economic Perspectives in Technology Adoption for Environmental Sustainability in Sub- Saharan Africa: Essays on Clean Cooking, Waste Management, and Electric Mobility