



AfricaLics Newsletter

October 2020 – October 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



→ Important upcoming events and activities – Save the date

Webinar series, Globelics conference and TIP conference 2022...

Page - 2 -

→ News highlights

7th PhD Academy on innovation and competency building system, hosted by the university of Gondar, Ethiopia...

Page - 3 -

→ AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellows Programme (VFP) and related activities 2019/2021

Five AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows from the 2020 - 2021 cohort arrived in Copenhagen, Denmark....

Page - 4 -

→ AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) Corner

New publications alert and UNESCO Science report....

Page - 10 -

→ AfricaLics Blogs

Please check out the AfricaLics blogs...

Page - 11 -

ABOUT AFRICALICS

In March 2012, the African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) was launched in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Secretariat is based at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), in Nairobi, Kenya and has been implementing a research capacity building (RCB) programme entitled “Enhancing research capacity on Innovation and Development (I&D) in Africa.” The network is financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). In line with the overarching vision, the network supports African countries towards developing and utilizing high quality research, conducted by African researchers, to enable more informed policy decisions to be made relating to the use of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for economic and social development as well as efficient governance. To realize this vision, the network works closely with like-minded relevant international and local researchers and research networks.

Check out more information on impact at
<http://www.africalics.org/impacts>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

17th Globelics conference, Heredia, Costa Rica

Date: 3rd - 5th November 2021

The 17th Globelics Conference “Innovation Systems and Sustainable Development: new strategies for growth, social welfare and environmental sustainability” will be held in Heredia, Costa Rica, combining both face to face and online participation. The conference will be hosted by the International Center of Economic Policies for Sustainable Development, CINPE (Centro Internacional de Política Económica para el Desarrollo Sostenible), an institute of the National University.

The conference will combine plenary sessions, presentations of research papers in parallel tracks, thematic panel sessions or special sessions, poster presentations, book presentation session and debate, exhibition on industrial research, innovative start-ups presentations, sightseeing and cultural events, as well as artistic and culinary exhibitions.

The conference will also consider the need to tackle new challenges related to innovation and capacity building and papers studying on how systems and policies can be implemented at different levels and across different countries to innovate and promote inclusive growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability. Learn more about the conference [here](#).

Webinar series 09: Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects

Date: 2nd December 2021 **Time:** 5:30PM – 7:00PM

The webinar will be based on work done by the three AfricaLics visiting fellows programme (VFP) Post-docs in their capacity of guest-editors of a special issue of the journal called Innovation and Development. The special issue will be published in 2022 and presents a series of articles on building local technological capabilities and their implications for formulating and implementing policies in Africa’s industrialization agenda. Learn more and register [here](#).

TIP Conference 2022 Announcement! 'Building a Sustainable Knowledge Infrastructure on Transformative Innovation Policy'

The Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium (TIPC) and the European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation (Eu-SPRI) have co-organised **the 2022 TIP Conference**, that will be held digitally from 17th - 21st January 2022. The conference aims to bring together a diverse range of actors and stakeholders to mobilise people, ideas, and initiatives to produce an evolving action research agenda for Transformative Innovation Policy.

The **TIP Conference 2022** is organised and funded by the **TIPC** and the **Eu-SPRI** with the participation of **Globelics** and **Africalics** members and with the involvement of **Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN)** members.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

7th PhD Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems

Two weeks of online training:

Week 1: 26th - 30th July 2021

Week 2: 20th - 24th September 2021

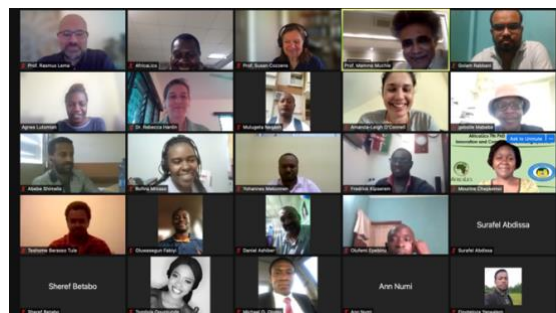
The Academy was hosted by the University of Gondar, Ethiopia, and AfricaLics. Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy was held online using Zoom platform. The event took place in two blocks of 5 days training. The first block was in July 2021 and the second in September 2021. Each day during each of the two weeks consisted of three (3) sessions. Each session was 1.5 hours long with a break between each session.

The Academy hosted students from Africa and a handful of students from the rest of the world. The Academy invited frontier researchers in the field of innovation and development from around the world to provide lectures and mentor students.

The format and sessions were slightly different from previous years due to the transition to online sessions. However, the following activities were retained:

- 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.
- Sessions focused on enabling interaction between the students and practitioners and policy makers on innovation and development issues

The first week focused on presentations by doctoral students and various practical skills building sessions relating to studying a PhD. The second week focused on lectures on theory and methods. In between the two weeks' activities the student participated in group work activities.

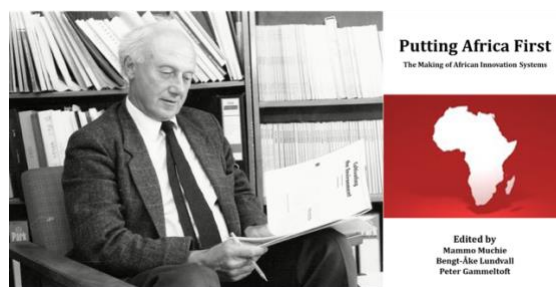


A snapshot of facilitators and students during the 7th PhD Academy hosted by the University of Gondar, Ethiopia

Putting Africa First – Revisited: A discussion series in fond memory of Prof. Christopher Freeman

Date: 16th August - 20th September 2021

Putting Africa First book was published in 2003 by Prof. Bengt-Åke Lundvall and Prof. Mammo Muchie. The book served an important role by bringing the national systems of innovation discourse to the African continent. The AfricaLics evaluation undertaken in mid-2021 reported the book as one of the most cited books from the African Innovation and Development publications.



Putting Africa first book cover

The series started on 16th August, 2021 and had six weekly episodes corresponding to the chapters of the book, featuring the original contributors and discussants.

More details about the panel discussions and registration details can be accessed through this [link](#)

AFRICALICS PhD VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME (VFP) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES 2020/2021

The VFP fellowships offer opportunities for PhD and post-doctoral students from low income and low-middle income African countries to receive additional training and capacity building support at Aalborg University, Denmark in the area of innovation and development.

Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, five AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows from the 2020 - 2021 cohort had an opportunity to visit and stay in Denmark between August 2021 and end of October 2021. The study visits to Aalborg University provided the students with opportunities to present their work and interact with peers, mentors and other scholars working in the field of Innovation and Development. It provided them with time away from home to focus on writing and studying, attend a few events and selected PhD courses and make use of library facilities and other support services.

The five PhD fellows are:

- **Betty-Ann Ananeh-Frempong** from Ghana studying at University of Cape Town, who works on innovation capabilities in West African Firms and on improving indicators on innovation capabilities in Africa.
- **Fabiya Oluwasegun Tope** from Nigeria studying at University of Ilorin, who works on value chain development and agricultural innovation with focus on cashew nut production.

- **Mrosso Rofina Martin** from Tanzania studying in University of Mzumbe, who works on Women employment creation through food processing industries in Tanzania.
- **Moges Tufa Adinew** from Ethiopia studying in Addis Ababa University, who works on the impact of Import Competing Industrial Policy Incentives (Second Schedule Program) on the Performance of Domestic Manufacturing Firms in Ethiopia.
- **Wisdom Kaleng'a** from Zambia studying at University of Zambia, who works on Firm-level Technological Capabilities development and Industrial Linkages in Zambia's mining sector: A focus on local manufacturing and engineering suppliers.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical/face-to-face seminars were initially not possible. Instead, several online events/webinars were organized aimed at strengthening the cooperation between AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows, their mentors and their home supervisors while focusing on comments to the work done by the VFPs. Online activities included paper presentations, bilateral/trilateral meetings with the Aalborg University (AAU) mentors and the home supervisors and a Writing Course with follow up in the form of facilitated writing sessions.

The online Writing Course involved the AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows (2020-21 cohort) plus a few other PhD students related to AfricaLics. It has proven very useful to the students both because of the tools introduced and the follow up sessions which provided much-needed structure dedicated in writing time and interactions with other PhD students at a time where physical interactions have been extremely limited. Please read a blog on this issue [here](#). The tools and writing sessions are useful not only for PhD students, but also for others.

In the fall of 2021, two other courses with the visiting fellows were piloted: one on how to write journal articles and another on preparation of systematic literature reviews. It is hoped this will enhance development of a number of online courses that will be part of the future PhD VFP and may be offered to a larger group of young scholars in the field.

Meanwhile, the first face-to-face seminar with the PhD visiting fellows 2020-21 took place on 17th June 2021 in Copenhagen. The seminar was a hybrid event, as not all participants including fellow's supervisors, were able to participate physically. In future, more face-to-face meetings and events are expected to take place.



Betty-Ann Ananeh Frempong (University of Cape Town) from Ghana, Rofina Mrosso (Mzumbe University) from Tanzania, Moges Tufa (Addis Ababa University) from Ethiopia, Fabiyi Oluwasegun Tope (University of Ilorin) from Nigeria



With AAU mentors, Associate Professor Rasmus Lema (Business school), Associate Professor Eun Kyung Park (Business school), Professor Edward Lorenz, AfricaLics Research Assistant Ariadni Zormpa and Senior Advisor and AfricaLics Academic Coordinator Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen.



During the Paper Presentation seminar on June 17th, 2021.

AFRICALICS POST DOC VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME

The three AfricaLics post-doc fellows (Abdi Yuya Ahmad, Charity Osei-Amponsah and Kassahun Y. Kebede) have completed the guest-editing of a special issue of the journal *Innovation and Development*. The Special Issue is entitled '*Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects*' and will come out in 2022 only, but articles are online already. Please check out two of the articles for the special issue here:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/2157930X.2020.1836460> and

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/2157930X.2020.1845481>

AFRICALICS ENGAGEMENT IN RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS IN INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT - VIRTUAL EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the need to go virtual. The following are a few selected webinars that AfricaLics has organized/co-organized in the reporting period.

Please follow and keep checking AfricaLics website and social media platforms for latest news, blogs, upcoming events, opportunities and publications

Website: <https://www.africalics.org>

Twitter Page || Facebook page

Webinar series 01: The origin of AfricaLics and the field of innovation and development studies research in Africa

Date: 4th February 2021

Speakers: Dr. Ann Kingiri, Prof. Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Dr. Bitrina Diyamett and Prof. Mammo Muchie

Background

In this webinar, some of the founding members of AfricaLics outlined the background for the establishment of the AfricaLics network and kicked off discussions on future research priorities of the network. Follow [this link](#) for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog, and video recording).

Webinar series 02: The future of Innovation and Development studies research in Africa

Date: 4th March 2021

Speakers: Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Dr. Rebecca Hanlin, Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat, Dr. Samah Souleh, Dr. Diran Soumonni and Prof. Opeyemi Ayinde

Background

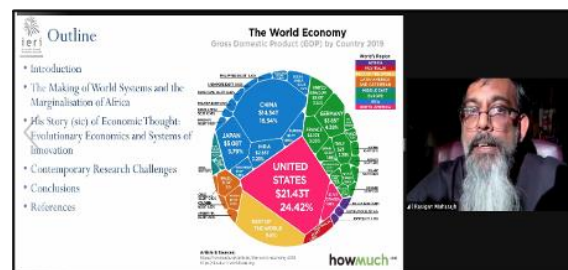
The webinar aimed at providing an opportunity for members of the AfricaLics community and interested partners to come together and discuss the future of Innovation and Development studies research in Africa

Following the presentations, participants had an opportunity to discuss what they think I&D as a field looks like today - and where it should be going. Members of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) moderated the breakout sessions. [Follow this link](#) for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 03: Knowledge and Innovation: Evolutionary and Revolutionary Techno-economic Change over Time

Date: 8th April 2021

Speakers: Prof. Rasigan Maharajh, Dr. Ann Aseeey and Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun



Prof. Rasigan Maharajh keynote presentation

Background

This webinar considered the origins of innovation and development field internationally and in the African context. By delving into issues of history, theory, and pedagogy, it addressed the following overarching questions:

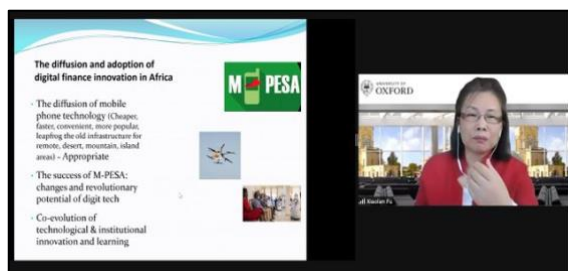
- Where are African countries in the history of innovation and development studies as a field of study?
- What are the prospects for advancing the I & D field in Africa?

Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog, and video recording).

Webinar series 04/Book launch: Innovation under the radar: African experience and the way forward

Date: 22nd April 2021

Speakers: Prof. Xiaolan Fu, Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, Prof. Mammo Muchie, Dr. George Essegbey, Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun and Prof. Rasmus Lema



Prof. Xiaolan Fu keynote presentation

Background

AfricaLics partnered with the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Department of International Development University of Oxford, to inspire a conversation on the “innovation under the radar: experiences from Africa” towards identification of gaps in theory and policy for Africa. Prof. Xiaolan Fu shared her thoughts about this topic, in line with the global dynamics that are shaping the African innovation diffusion pathways. She drew on case studies from the book. Discussants who were drawn based on their expertise in this field added their voice to the discussion, thereby setting the pace for a wider discussion during the webinar. Follow this [link](#) for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 05: Africa's Innovation and Industrialization Strategy Post-Covid-19 recovery

Date: 6th May 2021

Speakers: Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Prof. K.J. Joseph and Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula



Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka keynote presentation

Background

The COVID -19 pandemic has been devastating from human, social and economic perspectives. The economic impacts on Africa are such that several African countries are either currently in recession or will soon be. Why are the economic effects so pronounced in Africa? One reason is that most African countries rely heavily on international commodity trade. The large dependence of African economies on the international value chain means any slow down on the international commodity market negatively affects the economies. Follow this [link](#) for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 06: Skills for Innovation

Date: 3rd June 2021

Speakers: Dr. Gussai H. Sheikheldin and Dr. Agnes Lutumiah



Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin keynote presentation

Background

This webinar presented a comprehensive review of the challenges and opportunities resting on the role of highly skilled African migrants in African Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) systems. The two speakers, Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin and Dr. Agnes Lutumiah deliberated on the topic with a view to identifying lessons that innovation scholars can draw on to inform the future of I & D studies research in the continent. Follow this [link](#) for more information and

access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar series 07: How innovation is fostering a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa

Date: 5th August 2021

Speakers: Dr. Julius Ecuru, Dr. Ann Kingiri and Dr. Julius Gatune



Dr. Julius Ecuru keynote presentation

Background

In this webinar, Dr. Ecuru shared his thoughts on how innovation is fostering a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa. Bioeconomy in its broadest sense, is the use of scientific knowledge to add economic and social value to biological resources in a sustainable way. The whole process of value addition is underpinned by innovation. Several countries in Africa, which are rich in biological resources, have prioritized value addition and agro-processing in their national development plans.

Dr. Kingiri was the discussant. She acknowledged that bioeconomy generates relevant knowledge to add economic and social value to biological resources in a sustainable way. Scientific knowledge has been generated from a wide knowledge of biotechnology applications for more than two decades in a bid to address key challenges affecting agricultural production in Africa. Arguably, many applications involving biotechnology and in particular genetic engineering have not been exploited for industrial and development purposes.

Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

Webinar Series 08: Leap 4.0: African Perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

Date: 7th October 2021

Speakers: Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Zamanzima Mazibuko-Makena and Dr. Michael Gastrow



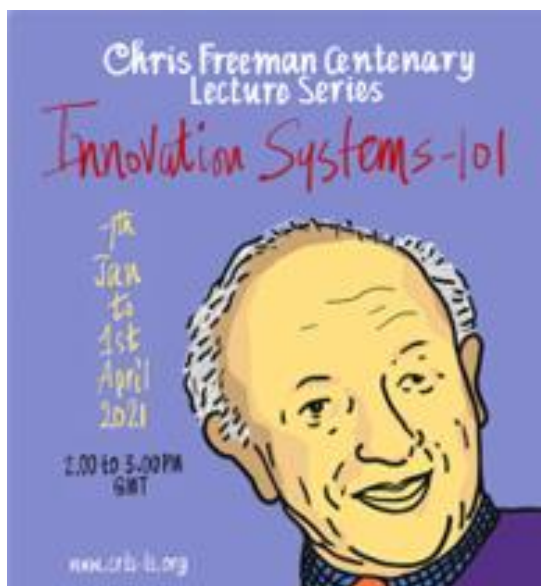
Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula keynote presentation

Background

This was a joint webinar between AfricaLics, University of Johannesburg - Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Sustainable Development (UJ-TRCTI) and Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). It was based on the book: Leap 4.0: African Perspectives on the 4IR, edited by Zamanzima Mazibuko-Makena and Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula. Dr. Michael Gastrow who authored one of the chapters in the book also joined in as a panelist. Follow this link for more information and access resources (power point presentation, blog and video recording).

AfricaLics Briefing Notes can be accessed through this [link](#)

Chris Freeman Lecture Series – Innovation System – 101



Prof. Chris Freeman lecture series poster

The first season of Chris Freeman Centenary Lecture Series was live streamed online from 1st January to 7th April 2021 where members of the AfricaLics network participated as facilitators or speakers. The lecture series were coordinated by Dr. Rajesh GK who is a member of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB). The series featured the following lectures.

More information about the Chris Freeman lecture series plus resources can be accessed through this link: <https://www.cris-is.org/>

Chris Freeman Lecture Series - Innovation System - 102

Innovation Systems-102 is a series of seven seminars which started on 8th October 2021, each lecture (except the inaugural session) featured two empirical papers employing the Innovation Systems theory. These papers were selected through a call for papers advertised in June 2021. Please follow this link for more information about the lecture series (<https://www.cris-is.org/>)

Freeman Projected into the Future

Date: 28th July 2021, 11th & 25th Aug 2021

These events constituted three online seminars on the Freeman Special Issue of Innovation and Development, organised jointly by Globelics and Innovation and Development (I&D) Journal. More information can be accessed through this link: <https://www.cris-is.org/>

AfricaLics Knowledge Base

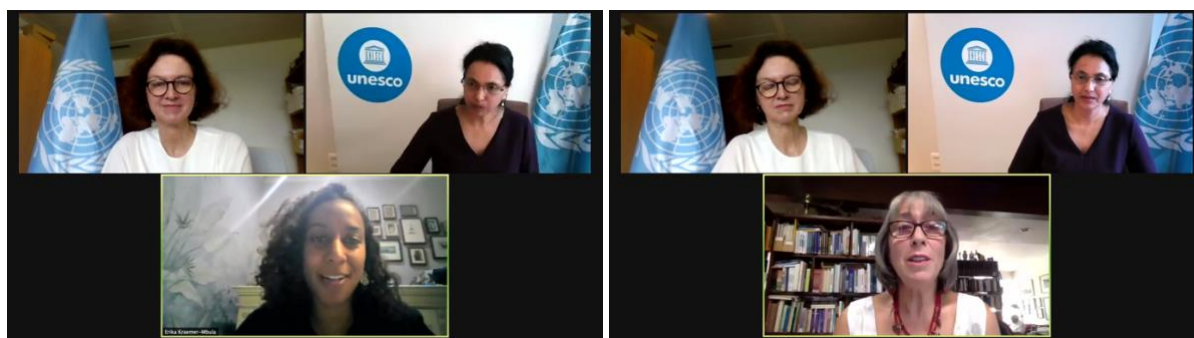
The contents of the AfricaLics Knowledge Bank are intended to form a set of materials that provide background and a starting point for discussion and analysis on innovation and development issues facing Africa. These materials can be accessed through this link:

<https://www.africalics.org/knowledge-base/>

AFRICALICS SCIENTIFIC BOARD (ASB) MEMBERS CORNER

UNESCO Science report 2021 launched

The UNESCO Science Report monitors trends in science governance worldwide to identify which development path countries are following. The seventh edition in the series explores how countries are using science to realize a digitally and ecologically smart future. There was notable contribution by many AfricaLics members as authors or co-authors of regional chapters and editors. These include Dr. George Essegbey, Prof. Erika Kraemer Mbula, Dr. Ann Kingiri, Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin, Dr. Natewende Sawadogo, Dr. Gabriela Dutrénit and Dr. Bitrina Diyamett.



AfricaLics members presenting during 7th edition of UNESCO Science report 2021 launch

The 7th edition of the report is available on the following link:

<https://www.unesco.org/reports/science/2021/en/countries-regions>

Selected new publications alert

- **Knowledge Economy and the agricultural rural sector: The Algerian Experience** – This is a book co-authored by Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat member ASB and Rachid Benaissa. More details about the book are found here: <https://casbah-editions.com/fr/Catalogue/économie-de-la-connaissance-et-le-développement-agricole-et-rural-l'expérience-algérienne>
- **Emerging trends in theorizing and use of the concept of innovation: what implication for development?** – This is a Journal article authored by Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, member ASB and Executive Director, STIPRO, Tanzania. More details about the article can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XQNMTYIRXBGQCQSPBTFM/full?target=10.1080/2157930X.2021.1975360>

LATEST EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

If you have any academic opportunities you would like to advertise to the network, please email them to secretariat@africalics.org

AFRICALICS BLOGS

Please check out the AfricaLics blog page. Here are some of the most recent blogs that have been posted:

- Reflections on the Webinar “Skills for innovation” – Moses Owidhi, Josephat Okemwa and Mourine Chepkemoui, 14 October 2021.
- Writing and implementing a PhD Proposal: some practical thoughts about how to enhance a smooth process – Justine Nalunkuuma, 23 September 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “Africa’s Innovation and Industrialization Strategy Post-Covid-19 Recovery” – Josephat Okemwa, 21 August 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “Knowledge and Innovation: Evolutionary and Revolutionary Techno-economic Change over Time” - Ann Numi and Josephat Okemwa, 14 June 2021.
- Writing skills: tips learnt during the pandemic which will last a lifetime - Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen and Ariadni Zormpa, 26 May 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “The future of Innovation and Development studies research in Africa” - Ariadni Zormpa, 17 May 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “Advancing discussions on gender and innovation within AfricaLics” - Dr. Ann Kingiri, Mourine Chepkemoui and Maria Martina Marchesotti, 28 April 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “The origin of AfricaLics and the field of innovation and development studies research in Africa” - Dr. Ann Kingiri and Mourine Chepkemoui, 6 April 2021.
- Inclusive innovation, gender, and energy access: some reflections - Maria Martina Marchesotti, 6 April 2021.
- The social dimension of inclusive innovation: rethinking energy access from a gender perspective - Maria Martina Marchesotti, 6 April 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “National & Sub-regional Hubs as Networks for Innovation & Development: Options for NigeriaLics” - Olufikayo Abodunde and Oluseye Jegede (NigeriaLics Hub), 3 March 2021.
- Reflections on the Webinar “Co-Evolution of Innovation System and Global Value Chains” - Bolanle Solomon-Adewusi (NigeriaLics Hub), 1 February 2021.



AfricaLics Secretariat
African Centre for Technology Studies
ICIPE, Duduville Campus, Kasarani
P.O. Box 45917 - 00100
Nairobi - Kenya

 secretariat@africalics.org

 +254 710 607 210

 <https://www.africalics.org>

 Follow us on Twitter