



**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

# AFRICALICS

**THE AFRICAN NETWORK FOR ECONOMICS OF LEARNING, INNOVATION,  
AND COMPETENCE BUILDING SYSTEMS**



# Our vision and way of working....

Our vision is to see African countries developing and utilizing **high-quality research on Innovation and Development**, conducted by African researchers, to enable more **informed policy decisions** relating to the use of Science, Technology, and Innovation for **economic and social development** by business practitioners, civil society, and policymakers in the public sector.

- ❖ using **multiple pathways**, including e.g. fellowships, PhD academies, and research conferences, Research Coordinating Areas, as well as webinars and other forms of outreach
- ❖ governed by the **AfricaLics Scientific Board** and based on a **hub- and spoke model**, with a small secretariat and national and regional LICs, host institutions and supported by various organisations and funders.

# Results dashboard – key metrics



## 11 PhD Academies

291 PhD students trained.  
110 females and 181 male PhD students.  
6 alumni groups created.



## 6 Research Conferences

606 paper presenters.  
192 female and 414 male.  
208 from LICs have presented papers.  
3 conference participants' groups created



## PhD Visiting Fellows (VFPs)

44 PhD students (19 female & 25 male).  
25 VFPs have successfully completed their PhDs.  
57 papers published with input from VFPs.



## Communication

36 webinar series successfully hosted.  
28 blogs and 4 briefing notes published.  
1 flip book published.



## PhD Supervision Training

6 PhD supervision courses.  
11 experience sharing sessions held - 90 PhD supervisors and 8 mentors in 2025.  
PhD supervision good practice paper published and shared.



## Alumni and Mentoring

335 alumni members  
8 Alumni events held  
40 PhD students (22 female and 18 male) mentored.



## I&D Teaching and Learning

19 lecturers from 17 African countries developed action plans to create one or more courses or programmes.



## Thematic Research Support

4 Research Coordination Areas (RCAs) established  
Seed-funding for 6 research projects



## National and sub-regional LICs

3 national LICs (NigeriaLics, FasoLics and EthiopiaLics)  
1 subregional LIC (North Africa LICs/MAGHTECH)

# AfricaLics-RCS Project



- In July 2025, AfricaLics secured a **NEW multi-year GRANT** from @Sida to scale up research and training in **Innovation and Development across Africa**.
- The project will be hosted by **African Centre for Technology Studies – ACTS** - one of several AfricaLics spokes
- **More than 150 African PhD students and alumni will receive training and support** through the Visiting Fellowship Programme, physical PhD academies, and collaborative research opportunities.

# ASB as per 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Name / Member	Region
Dr. Justina Onumah	Alumni/West Africa
Prof. Juliana Ukonze	West Africa
Dr. Faten Attig-Bahar	North Africa
Dr. Jegede Oluseye	West Africa
Dr. Oluyemi Adeosun	Alumni/West Africa
Dr. Pamela Meji	East Africa
Prof. Susan Cozzens	Outside Africa
Prof. Samir Maliki	North Africa
Dr. Patrick Marie Nga Ndjobo	Central Africa
Dr. Abdi Yuya	East Africa
Dr. Glenda Kruss	Southern Africa
Dr. Elvis Avenyo	Southern Africa
Mr. Golam Rabbani	Outside Africa

We sincerely thank our outgoing members for their dedicated support:

Prof. Daniel Kitaw, Prof. Geci Karuri-Sebina, Prof. Diran Soumonni, Dr. Gregory Mvogo, Dr. Rajesh GK, and Prof. Nadine Machikou.

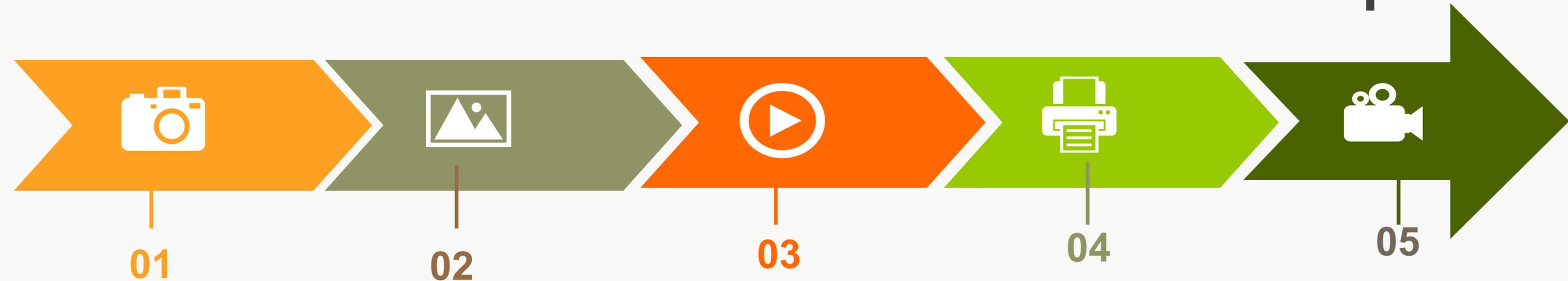
## **Congratulations to the newly elected board members:**

- Dr. Glenda Kruss (Southern Africa)
- Dr. Elvis Avenyo (Southern Africa)
- Dr. Abdi Yuya (East Africa)
- Dr. Patrick Marie Nga Ndjobo (Central Africa)
- Mr. Golam Rabbani (Outside Africa)

Supplementary elections for the AfricaLics Scientific Board will be held in 2026 – so remember to up-date your profile in the AfricaLics database!



# AfricaLics Scientific Board Members- election process



**Creation of vacancy lists-** (Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa, North Africa); AfricaLics Alumni and; reps. outside Africa.

**Nomination process:** All members of AfricaLics can nominate candidates for all vacancies (must meet requirements)

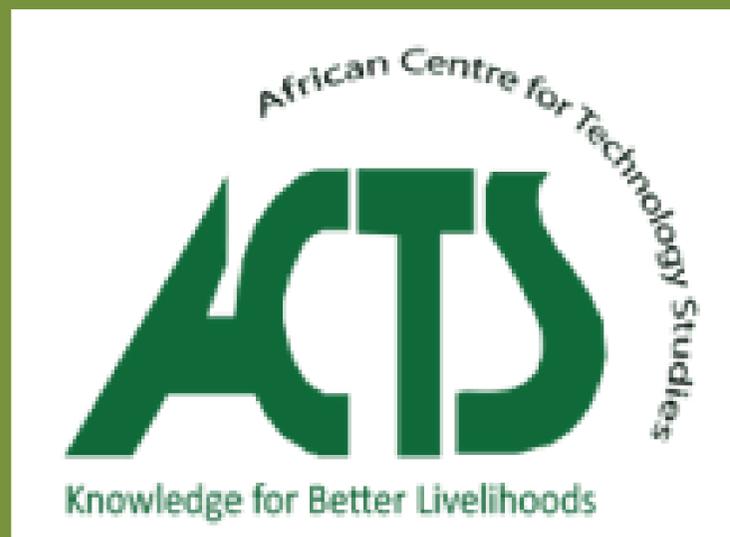
**Voting procedure:** filled by a simple majority; used an electronic voting system. geographical diversity and gender balance- candidates run only one position

**Creation of final candidate voting lists:** at least twice as many candidates nominated for each list as the number to be elected from the respective list. ASB approves single candidates

**Results procedure;** the highest number of votes will be elected (consider gender and regional/national diversity).



# NATIONAL LICS / SPOKES





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# VFP 2025/2026 activities



## 2026 Cohort

- ❖ Call closed on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025
- ❖ 159 Applications received
- ❖ In-depth assessments ongoing with ASB – WG3
- ❖ Interviews scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025
- ❖ Applicants to be informed end of December or early January

## • 2025 Cohort

- ❖ Writing Course & writing sessions, Journal writing & Systematic Review Training
- ❖ 4 paper presentations, one pending.
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> PhD Academy + AfricaLics webinars
- ❖ Seminars at UJ + Globelics Conference and Science and Technology Forum in Pretoria



# VFP Mentors 2025



**Prof. Opeyemi Ayinde**



**Dr. Anne Kingiri**



**Prof. Rebecca Hanlin**



**Dr. Justinah Onumah**



**Dr. Juliana Ukonze**



**Dr. Maruf Sanni**



**Dr. Caleb Adelowo**



**Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun**



**Prof. Jesper Lindgaard**



**Dr. Samir Malik**



**Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen**

# VFP Events at UJ, Sept 2025

- ❖ Paper presentations
- ❖ PhD supervision workshop
- ❖ Bi-and trilateral meetings





# AfricaLics VFP who graduated in 2025



**Molla Tadesse** (2024 Cohort)  
Haramaya University, Ethiopia.



**Rofina Mrosso Martin** (2022 cohort),  
Mzumbe University, Tanzania.

## AfricaLics VFP 2025- Welcome to the Alumni network



**Mercy Jacob**  
University of Ilorin,  
Nigeria.



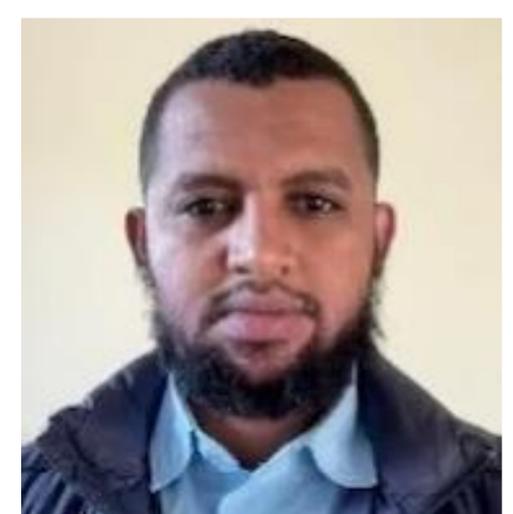
**Dismas Jerome  
Kimaro**  
Nelson Mandela African  
Institute of Science and  
Technology, Tanzania.



**Esdras Obossou Abrewa**  
National Agriculture  
University of Benin.



**Aline Mutabazi**  
University of Rwanda.



**Mohammed Hassen  
Toyib**  
Addis Ababa University,  
Ethiopia.



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## Dr. A. O. Segun- Olusanmi

### VFP 2023 Cohort

- Delivered multiple invited talks to university staff across and beyond her institution, integrating innovation concepts and contributing to a **visible shift toward innovation-driven administration.**
- Introduced **OAUKonnect**, a digital platform enhancing alumni engagement and institutional resource stewardship.
- Joined and moderated sessions in the **University Innovation Club**, working with staff and students developing solutions to real-world challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND FARM MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fellow of the 2025 AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme at the University of Johannesburg

PhD Thesis: Impact of Index-Insurance Bundled with Micro-Credit on Maize Productivity among Smallholder Farmers in NorthCentral Nigeria

Sinmidele Mercy, Jacob

PhD Student: Agricultural Economics and Farm Management at University of Ilorin

with AfricaLics Secretariat and 2 others

## Mercy Jacob

VFP Fellow- 2025

Recognized at the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations at her university.



## Dr. Maruf Sanni

- Led the launch of the **Innovation and Sustainable Energy Transition for Africa** initiative within **the AfricaLics Research Coordination Areas.**
- **Provided strategic leadership as President of NigeriaLics**, working with the Scientific Board to successfully oversee the appointment of a new Secretary-General, thereby strengthening the organisation's governance and continuity.



# AfricaLics PhD Academy 2025

- **The 11<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy -22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> July 2025**
- **Hosts:**
  - **University of Johannesburg, South Africa**
  - **Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia**
  - **The EthiopiaLics**
- **42 participants: PhD fellows, facilitators, speakers, and the secretariat**



# Congratulations to all new PhD Academy Alumni (2025)

You join a community of  
over 250!



- Melesa Abawa
- Maanzou BOUKARI
- Kefale Eniyew Mamo
- SIA Idrissou
- Esdras OBOSSOU
- Yohanan Y. Yokamo
- Rahinatu Haruna
- Frezer Yizez Melaku
- ADELOWO A. David
- Mohammed T. Hassen
- Joseph K. Ekundayo
- Dismas Kimaro
- Aline Mutabazi
- Olajoke Temilayo Ilesanmi
- Gabriel C. Malima





# AfricaLics @ Globelics conference 2025



- In 2025, AfricaLics was able to support **13 African scholars** with accepted papers to take part in the Globelics Conference 2025 in South
- **Outstanding Achievements**
  - **Pamela Mreji** – Awarded Best Globelics Paper 2025 -1 out of 3.
  - **Justina Onumah** – Received the Paper Reviewers' Award.
- Congratulations to all our scholars for raising the AfricaLics flag high!!



# AfricaLics alumni who attended the Globelics Conference 2025, courtesy of AfricaLics...

*I will be attending*  
Globelics Conference 2025

November 24th-26th 2025

National Research Foundation, Pretoria, South Africa



**Rosalyne Baddoo**  
POSTHARVEST TECHNOLOGY EXPERT, POSTHARVEST INNOVATION HUB

This year's Globelics conference focuses on innovation for sustainable and inclusive development, addressing global challenges like inequality, climate change, and geopolitical disruptions, especially in developing nations.

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National Research Foundation, Pretoria, South Africa



**Liza Onyango -Abuje**  
CO-FOUNDER, ADALI INNOVATION AND INCUBATION CENTER

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**Moges Tufa**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ADAMA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

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**Maruf Sanni**  
HEAD OF TRAINING DEPARTMENT-NACETEM

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**Jemberu Tarekegn Asmare**  
LECTURER AND RESEARCHER, DEBARK UNIVERSITY  
PHD. CANDIDATE - UNIVERSITY OF GONDAR

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**Pamela Mreji**  
AFRICALICS SCIENTIFIC BOARD MEMBER (ASB)

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**Caleb Adelowo**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RESEARCH - NACETEM

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**Justina Onumah**  
AFRICALICS ASB MEMBER

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# AfricaLics Alumni Network

**Dr. Adeosun Oluyemi Theophilus**

Bsc, Msc, M.B.A, DTM, SPHRi, GPHR, MCIPM,

Plans for 2026



**Zoom Poll**

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**AFRICALICS**



Break out session –  
meet old and new AfricaLics friends

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# Upcoming AfricaLics activities 2026

Activity	Format	Timing	Venue and co-hosts
<b>AfricaLics VFP</b>	One year fellowship incl. online and on-site activities	Online starts 1st Feb 2026 1st face-to-face meeting: 11-13th March 2026 2nd face-to-face meeting: XX Sept 2026	Kenya/ACTS + South Africa/UJ
<b>RCA-event</b>	2 day workshop	9-10th March 2026	Kenya/ACTS
<b>PhD Academy</b>	2 weeks, on-site	Oct- Nov 2026	Johannesburg, Wits
<b>AfricaLics Conference</b>	2-3 days conference on-site	10-12th Nov 2026	Johannesburg, Wits and partners
<b>Webinar series</b>	Online, 8-10 times per year		AfricaLics Secretariat/partners



## 7<sup>TH</sup> AFRICALICS CONFERENCE

 Dates: 10 – 12 November 2026

 University of the Witwatersrand  
Venue: Wits School of Governance,  
2 St. David's Place, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa

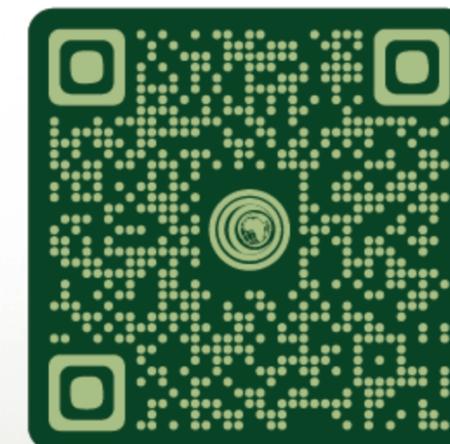
Conference Theme:

**CRITICAL, RETROSPECTIVE AND CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATION AND SOCIETY IN AFRICA.**

The 7th AfricaLics Conference seeks to critically reflect on the relationship between innovation and society in Africa – examining power, inequality, and the social dimensions of innovation in the digital age. It calls for new, forward-thinking approaches to achieving shared development goals across the continent and globally.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Abstract collection opens: 24 November 2025
- Conference registration opens: 2 February 2026
- Paper submission deadline: 31 May 2026
- Poster submission deadline: 1 July 2026
- Conference registration deadline: 15 October 2026



Scan QR code  
for more details

WITS SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNANCE   
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

AISS

M·I·C·E  
JOBURG

 SOUTHERN CENTRE FOR  
INEQUALITY  
STUDIES

# 7<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics International Research Conference 2026

## Sub-Themes:

- Historical, theoretical and conceptual perspectives on innovation and development
- Political economy challenges for innovation in Africa
- Digital revolution, AI, and the African gig economy
- The creative sector, arts, and innovation
- African knowledge traditions and innovation systems
- Sustainability-oriented innovation (energy, water, agriculture, manufacturing, etc.)
- Innovation policies and socio-economic transformation (STISA 2034, Agenda 2063, SDGs)
- Financing innovation in key economic sectors
- Innovation for sustainable health and wellbeing
- Inclusive innovation, education and development (gender, youth, disability)

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

### 1. Paper Presenter

Submit original, unpublished papers (max 8,000 words) aligned to conference sub-themes

### 2. Thematic Session Organiser

Submit concept notes for special sessions

### 3. Poster Presenter

Submit a one-page overview of your poster presentation

### 4. Day Delegate

Attend full conference; open to policymakers, researchers, and practitioners

# Transition Announcement



**Dr . Anne Kingiri**



**Dr. Maruf Sanni**

Also happening: New Secretary General supported by a new Secretariat will be taking over from early 2026 – with support from the new ASB, the RCS project team at ACTS, the LICs and other spokes - and many others!

# Thanks for great collaboration to our collaborating partners in 2025!

- African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya
- University of Johannesburg and Wits University, South Africa
- NigeriaLics, University of Ilorin,
- FasoLics, University of Thomas Sankara,
- EthiopiaLics (Universities of Gondar, Addis Abeba, ASTU and others)
- CeSTII, NACETEM and numerous individuals engaged in the development of the AfricaLics Research Coordination areas!
- Globelics and LICs partners in Asia, Latin America, Europe
- Swedish Sida





## Connect with us on Social Media:

Stay updated and engage with our community through our social media platforms:

- **Twitter:** [@Africalics](https://twitter.com/Africalics)
- **LinkedIn:** [Africalics Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/africalics-network)
- **Facebook:** [Africalics](https://www.facebook.com/Africalics)
- **YouTube:** [Africalics Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



# WARM HOLIDAY *Greetings*



AfricaLics Secretariat is sending joy, love, and festive cheer your way this season.

