



AfricaLics
Conference 2026

7TH 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.

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)



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Submit original, unpublished papers (max 8,000 words) aligned to conference sub-themes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

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

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN!



Submit your work on or before the above deadlines (max 8,000 words) via the QR code below



Scan QR code
for more details