



Advert: Principal Researcher (Economist) / Senior Researcher (Economist)

Do you want to be at the pulse of digital policy in Africa? Do you have ideas about how research can be conducted innovatively to create an evidence base for policymakers to ensure digital inclusion and contribute to sustainable development?

- Are you keen to lead research projects within RIA and co-ordinate them across African partners and with sister networks in Asia and Latin America?
- Are you excited by data and modelling it for evidence-based policy and regulatory intervention?
- Are you interested in finding out what drives the gig economy and how it can become more inclusive?
- Can you take research to policy influence? Can you bring research to life through public policy papers, briefs and media releases?

How does being based at a think tank based in a reclaimed warehouse in the tech and design heart of Cape Town with a view of the iconic Table Mountain sound? How would you like to engage with an international policy community on how the processes of digitalisation and datafication are increasingly characterising modern economies and how these can be directed to post-COVID-19 economic and social reconstruction, especially in developing country contexts?

Research ICT Africa conducts research on digital policy and regulation and global governance that facilitates evidence-based policy making for improved access, use and application of ICT for sustainable development in Africa and in the Global South. We are looking for a principal/senior economist to join our team!

This is a great opportunity for an individual interested in creating a space for themselves with a dynamic and diverse team to drive a public interest research to agenda.

Key responsibilities of the job current envisaged are:

Research leadership

- lead and co-ordinate public interest research projects for evidence-based digital policy and regulation
- develop working relationships with researchers in sister networks in the Global South
- initiate new research projects and prepare funding proposals
- collaborate on global research commissions, technical assistance projects and maintain relationships with donors and multilateral agencies
- create learning environment for in-house researchers and country partners

Research and analysis

- lead macroeconomic analysis of digitalisation, taxation, social protection, inequality, development.
- lead research for our repository of supply- and demand- side data and analysis for evidence-based policy
- Coordinate large scale, demand-side surveys across various African countries – quality control data gathering, undertake data analysis, econometric modelling and reporting
- lead quantitative and qualitative research and analysis on digital inclusion and intersectional inequality, examining topical issues such as platform work, biometric identity, financial inclusion.

- lead macroeconomic research on the impact of digitalisation and datafication on informality, e-trade, e-taxation
- develop and update tools for diagnostic analysis of policy outcomes, specifically pricing and quality transparency, market, competition, financial analysis

Communications and Networking

Lead research for:

- policy papers and briefs, blog posts to disseminate findings to diverse audiences at international, regional and national levels; and
- publication in peer reviewed journals and to represent RIA at international events and conferences.

Key Qualifications:

- PhD (social sciences, macro/micro economics, econometrics, statistics) with a minimum 10 years of experience for principal researcher (and five years of experience for a senior researcher) in surveying and data analysis, or digital policy, competition or sector regulation
- OR**
- for senior researcher a Masters with more than 10 years of industry in digital policy, competition or sector regulation, or survey and data analysis experience

Skills and knowledge

- strong research skills and research management experience
- knowledge and experience in development/policy/research work using quantitative & qualitative research methods
- ability to travel as needed (20% of time)
- experience in coordinating large scale research projects
- strong macroeconomic analysis or statistical or econometrics, including experience using SPSS or STATA
- experience in data management and database development an advantage
- ***Professional English language proficiency & strong writing skills essential***

Advantage

- knowledge of telecommunications/digital policy/regulation/data governance in developing countries an advantage
- ability to work as part of a distributed team and to work on multiple projects simultaneously
- exposure to working with people from diverse cultures and nationalities
- familiarity with blogging and social media
- strong public communication and speaking skills
- research to policy influence experience (working in or with governments, regulatory agencies & multilateral agencies)
- work experience in the Global South
- willingness and desire to travel (again one day)
- fluency in French, isiZulu, isiXhosa and/or kiSwahili also advantageous

Send your letter of motivation and CV (including list of relevant/current projects) to admin@researchictafrica.net.

Please note that unfortunately RIA is only in a position to respond to candidates who are shortlisted. If you do not hear from RIA within two weeks of the closing date you should assume that regrettably your application has not been successful. RIA also reserves the right not to make any appointments.

Location: *Research ICT Africa, Cape Town Office*

Closing date for applications: *21 August 2020*

Start date: *As soon as possible*