



Advert: Principal Researcher / Economist

Research ICT Africa (RIA) is recruiting for a Principal Researcher / Economist to lead and work on exciting projects in relation to digital regulation, data and technology in Africa. The postholder will bring an economic perspective to the multidisciplinary research undertaken by RIA across several large projects in this area and which intersects with other core areas of RIA research on:

- digital indicators for evidence-based policy making
- economic and competition regulation of digital markets
- global governance of digital public goods
- digitalisation, in/formality, state visibility, taxation and social protection
- digital inequality, data justice, gender, intersectional inequality

Research ICT Africa is a think tank based in Cape Town, South Africa, that 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.

This is a great opportunity for an economist interested in creating a space for themselves within a dynamic and diverse team to drive a public interest research agenda around a critical and emerging area of digital policy and economic regulation of data markets.

Key responsibilities of the job

Research leadership

- Lead and coordinate 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

- Undertake research for our repository of data and analysis for evidence-based policy
- Coordinate large scale demand-side surveys across various African countries – quality control data gathering, undertake data analysis and reporting
- Conduct quantitative and qualitative research and analysis on topical issues
- Undertake supply-side analysis of policy outcomes, specifically market, competition, financial and pricing analysis
- Undertake the research on platform economy, Artificial Intelligence, digital work, e-trade, taxation of digital goods

Communications and networking

Prepare 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 and experience

- PhD (Social Sciences, Economics, Econometrics, Statistics) with minimum five years of research, survey or data analysis, or competition analysis and regulation experience
- A track record of leading large research projects in fields related to RIA's areas of focus, preferably in the African region
- A track record of research publications in fields related to RIA's areas of focus
- A track record of mentorship

Skills and knowledge

- Strong research skills and research management experience
- Knowledge and experience in development/policy/research work using quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Knowledge of telecommunications/digital policy/regulation/data governance in developing countries an advantage
- Ability to travel as needed
- Experience in coordinating large scale research projects
- Strong statistical or data science background, including experience using SPSS or STATA
- Experience in data management and database development an advantage
- ***Professional English language proficiency and strong writing skills essential***

Preferred

- 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
- Knowledge and background in ICT policy and regulation
- Familiarity with blogging and social media
- Excellent public communication and speaking skills
- Research to policy influence experience (working, in or with governments and multilateral agencies)
- Work experience in the Global South
- Fluency in one major world language in addition to English, preferably French
- Fluency in isiZulu, isiXhosa and/or Swahili also advantageous

The Principal Researcher / Economist position is a five- (5-) year contract post. RIA offers a competitive salary commensurate to the level of qualifications and experience.

Send your letter of motivation and CV (including list of relevant/current research projects and publications) to admin@researchictafrica.net. Inquiries related to the position can be directed to agillwald@researchictafrica.net

RIA is committed employment equity in its pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its vision and mission. Suitably qualified candidates irrespective of age, gender, race and nationality are invited to apply. Preference will be given to qualified candidates from the under-represented groups (women, LGBTQ+, people with disability) in the policy research and digital sector and, as an African think-tank, to African candidates.

Please note that RIA is unfortunately only able 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 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: 30 April 2022

Start date: As soon as possible