



Advert: Senior Researcher (AI)

Research ICT Africa (RIA) is recruiting a Senior Researcher to lead and work on exciting projects in relation to Artificial Intelligence (AI), data and technology in Africa. We are particularly interested in the postholder bringing 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.

AI is a new and exciting area of focus for Research ICT Africa. We are leading a number of large research projects that seek to deepen knowledge around the impacts of AI and digital technologies on African societies and markets, and to develop policy solutions that advance digital and data inclusion and justice.

These projects include:

- [Africa Just AI research and policy project](#)
- [African Observatory on Responsible AI](#)
- [Global Index on Responsible AI](#)

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 position:

Research leadership and analysis

- lead and coordinate public interest research projects for evidence-based digital policy and regulation, particularly in relation to AI
- 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
- support the creation of a learning environment for in-house researchers and country partners
- coordinate large scale research projects in various African countries
- lead quantitative and qualitative research and analysis on AI, digital inclusion and intersectional inequality, examining topical issues such as AI and sustainability, platform work, biometric identity and financial inclusion

Research, communications and networking

- write up policy papers and briefs, blog posts to disseminate findings to diverse audiences at international, regional and national levels
- research and write up publications for peer reviewed journals and to represent RIA at international events and conferences

Key qualifications:

- PhD (social sciences) with five years of experience as a senior researcher with quantitative research skills (macro/microeconomics, econometrics, statistics, data analysis) though qualitative and hybrid research skills are an advantage, as are experience in indicator and index development, digital policy, competition/sector regulation or data governance, gender or feminist research.

OR

- for senior researcher a Masters (social sciences), with more than 10 years of experience using quantitative research skills (macro/microeconomics, econometrics, statistics, data analysis), qualitative and hybrid research skills are an advantage as are experience in indicator and index development, digital policy, competition/sector regulation or data governance, gender or feminist research.

Skills and knowledge

- strong research skills and experience, in relation to AI-related research an advantage
- knowledge and experience in development/policy/research work using quantitative and qualitative research methods
- ability to travel as needed
- experience working on large scale research projects
- macroeconomic analysis or statistical or econometrics, including experience using relevant software
- ***Professional English language proficiency and 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 speaking and communication skills
- research to policy influence experience (working in or with governments, regulatory agencies and multilateral agencies)
- work experience in the Global South

The Senior Researcher post is a two-year contract position, in the first instance. RIA offers a competitive salary commensurate to the level of experience and qualifications.

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 radams@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