



Globelics International Conference 2025

*Innovation for Sustainable and Inclusive Development
to Build Resilience for Global Challenges*

24-26 November 2025 ■ National Research Foundation, Pretoria, South Africa



CALL FOR PAPERS

About Globelics

The [Global Network for the Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems](#) (Globelics) is the largest global academic community dedicated to innovation and development. Established in 2002, Globelics provides a platform for South-South knowledge exchange, and between mature economies and developing nations, focusing on the role of innovation in fostering social and economic development as well as effective policymaking. Through its annual conferences and regional and national chapters ([AfricaLics](#), [AsiaLics](#), [LaLics](#), [EuroLics](#), [NACLICS](#), [MEDALics](#), [CICALICS](#), [IndiaLICS](#) and [NigeriaLICS](#)), Globelics promotes academic collaboration, learning and the sharing of evidence-based experiences that can inform innovation policies globally.

The Globelics International Conference 2025

This year's conference focuses on innovation for sustainable and inclusive development to build resilience in the context of growing inequality, climate change and geopolitical disruptions, particularly as they affect developing nations. Against the backdrop of [South Africa's G20 presidency](#), the Globelics conference serves as a crucial intellectual forum that aligns with and reinforces the G20 objectives. Both platforms emphasise the transformative power of innovation in addressing global challenges by promoting collaborative innovation policies that prioritise inclusivity and sustainability. The conference will draw from the G20 discussion and contribute insights and recommendations that can shape the leadership role of Africa and the Global South on the world stage, ensuring that the voices of developing nations are amplified in the G20's decisions and outcomes.

The conference will precede the [Science Forum South Africa \(SFSA\)](#), scheduled for November 25-28, 2025. SFSA is widely recognised as one of the most significant events on the African continent for discussing science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy. This forum hosts thousands of international attendees, including policymakers, academia, science funders, industry representatives, and civil society, who come together to discuss the current and future roles of science in society. SFSA will be conveniently located within walking distance of the Globelics Conference venue so we encourage Globelics attendees to participate in SFSA's vibrant discussions.

This year's conference is organised by a consortium of Globelics members in South Africa, co-hosted by [South Africa's National Research Foundation](#), and the [DSI/NRF Trilateral Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4IR and Sustainable Development \(University of Johannesburg\)](#), with partners in Tshwane University of Technology, the University of Witwatersrand, and the Human Sciences Research Council.



Conference Themes

The conference welcomes papers that connect innovation efforts to sustainable and inclusive development objectives. Suggested themes and sub-themes include:

1) Innovation and Inequality Reduction

- Innovation systems addressing socio-economic disparities
- Innovation in, for and by marginalised communities
- Indigenous knowledge, informal sector, innovation and development
- Gender, innovation and development
- Skilled migration, brain drain and innovation

2) Climate Crisis and Sustainable Innovation

- Innovation as a tool for climate adaptation and mitigation
- Policy strategies for fostering green innovation
- Innovation, sustainable development and energy in the South

3) Geopolitical Disruptions and Resilient Innovation Systems

- Innovation system responses to global instability
- Regional collaboration to strengthen innovation and resilience
- Institutional frameworks for multistakeholder engagement

4) Digital Transformation and Data Infrastructure

- Digital innovation and marginalised communities
- Case studies of digital transformation in developing regions
- Digital technologies for the green transition in developing countries

5) Innovation Policy for Global Development Goals

- Reflexive governance and policy experimentation for innovation
- Public-private partnerships for innovation
- Science, technology and innovation policy and politics

6) Multi-level innovation systems

- Technological systems, learning and innovation
- Sectoral innovation systems, industrial policy and development
- Technological infrastructure and technological capabilities
- National, regional and local innovation systems
- University relationships with industry and society: the developmental university

7) Innovation and capabilities in firms and economies

- Work organisation, education and economic development
- Trade, FDI, value chains and global innovation networks
- Innovation, growth and catching up
- Organisational learning, firm capabilities
- Innovation management and entrepreneurship

8) Theoretical and methodological advances in Innovation & Development Studies

- Empirical methodologies, data requirements, indicators, different approaches and methodologies
- New methods in Innovation & Development
- Theoretical developments in innovation studies

Conference Structure

The conference will feature:

- **Plenary sessions:** Presentations by leading experts on innovation and development. Presentations by leading experts on innovation and development. This year, the conference will feature a dedicated session to commemorate the contributions by the late [Professor Richard Nelson](#), recognising his key role in Globelics and major impact in the field of innovation.
- **Paper parallel tracks:** Thematic paper oral presentations across multiple tracks.
- **Special sessions:** Focused discussions dedicated to showcasing specific projects, emerging research, and topical issues.
- **Policy engagements:** Dedicated policy dialogues will bring together policymakers, development agencies, business leaders, community organisations, and researchers to address critical topics aligned with the conference theme and South Africa's 2025 G20 priorities.
- **Poster sessions:** Interactive displays to present research findings and projects in a visually engaging format.
- **Cultural and networking events:** Showcasing South Africa's innovation ecosystem and cultural heritage.

Submission Guidelines

- **Paper submission for oral presentation**
 - We invite scholars to submit academic papers that contribute to the conference theme.
 - Papers for oral presentations must be written in English, and the selected ones must be presented at the conference in English. Submission of a full paper (in PDF) not exceeding 8,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) should be made via the online submission form available on the Conference website.
 - The submission should clearly outline the research questions, methodology, and relevance to the field of innovation and development.
 - The selection of papers is based on a peer review process that focuses on relevance, academic quality and originality. Globelics reserves the right to use available software to control plagiarism and to take appropriate action in such cases.
 - Top ranked papers submitted to the conference will be considered for two dedicated special issues in the leading Innovation & Development journals published by Taylor & Francis: [Innovation and Development](#), and the [African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development](#)

- **Special sessions**

- We have space for about 4 special sessions - we invite applications.
- Special sessions serve as dedicated platforms for panel discussions and showcasing specific projects, emerging research, and topical issues. These sessions allow in-depth exploration and lively debate about complex subjects, allowing for a more nuanced discussion than what might be possible in paper sessions.
- Organisers of the special sessions are expected to cover the costs related to the special session themselves (e.g. travel costs of panellists if these are not already participating in the conference as paper presenters or otherwise).
- Organisers of the special sessions need to submit a 2-page summary of the session topic, including motivation for a special session format, names of participants and confirmation of capacity to cover the costs of the participants. Preference will be given to submissions that have multi-stakeholder representation.
- Submissions for special sessions should be sent to Globelics2025@uj.ac.za, indicating in the subject "SUBMISSION FOR SPECIAL SESSION".

- **Poster Presentations**

- We have space for about 20 poster presentations.
- We invite interested participants to submit poster presentations. The poster presentations are an excellent opportunity to present work in progress, completed and published research, as well as projects, innovations, and initiatives. This is a unique supportive environment to share your work with a broader audience and a best practice to learn from others.
- Poster submissions should be aligned with the conference themes
- Please submit a title, a 500-word abstract in English, and a mock-up of the poster with keywords.
- The selection of papers is based on a peer review process that focuses on relevance, academic quality and originality. Globelics reserves the right to use available software to control plagiarism and to take appropriate action in such cases.
- Submissions for poster presentations should be sent to Globelics2025@uj.ac.za, indicating in the subject "SUBMISSION FOR POSTER PRESENTATION".

Key Dates:

- **Submission deadline:** 16th May 2025
- **Notification of acceptance:** 20th June 2025
- **Confirmation of travel arrangements by the participants:** 1st October 2025

Opportunities for PhDs and Early Career Scholars

- Early-career researchers (i.e. registered postdoctoral fellows) and PhD students are encouraged to participate. PhD students can participate in the PhD paper competition – please mark in your submission if you are applying for the PhD Paper Award.
- Early career and PhD student papers that are highly ranked in the review process may be considered for travel support (please note that travel support is very limited and cannot be guaranteed, so we encourage participants to source for alternative sources of funding to cover for travel).

Conference Fees and coverage

- The conference will run for three days (24th, 25th, ending in the early afternoon on the 26th of November).
- Delegates who present a paper accepted for oral presentation will be provided with three nights of accommodation (23rd, 24th and, 25th of November). The delegates should be prepared to pay for all the other expenses in the hotel like mini bar, telephone, laundry, extra nights, etc. This support is only available for one paper presenter per accepted paper.
- All conference delegates (including those with an accepted paper) must pay a conference fee, according to the table below. The fee includes a delegate pack and badge, local transport from the hotel to the conference venue, lunch and refreshments during breaks (24th, 25th and 26th of November), and participation in the scientific programme. For paper presenters, the fee will also include a welcome reception on the 24th of November, a cultural visit during the conference, and a conference dinner on the 25th of November. Other participants can also select to participate in these activities at a cost.

Conference Fees

	High Income countries *	Upper middle income countries *	Lower middle income countries *	Low income Countries *
Faculty **	\$600	\$300	\$150	\$100
Students & Early Career Scholars **	\$450	\$180	\$100	\$0
Poster Presenters	\$250	\$80	\$50	\$0
Accompanying guests	\$100	\$80	\$50	\$0
Daily fee for non-presenting participants	\$100	\$80	\$50	\$0

* As per The World Bank Country Classification

** Faculty includes post-doc/research fellows; Students and Early Career include registered Masters and PhD students and registered Postdoctoral Fellows.

- Please note that while support for visa applications will be provided in terms of documentation, the costs for visas will not be covered by the conference organisers.

Local Organising Committee

- Erika Kraemer-Mbula, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Rebecca Hanlin, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Mpho Mogotsi, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Wandile Kelly Mlilo, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Siphwe Masoka, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Dulcie Dirwai, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Jean-Luc Mubenga-Tshitaka, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Phindile Mahlangu, TRCTI, University of Johannesburg
- Rasigan Maharajh, Tshwane University of Technology
- Mario Scerri, Tshwane University of Technology

- Glenda Kruss, HSRC
- Mammo Muchie, Tshwane University of Technology
- Geci Karuri-Sebina, University of the Witwatersrand
- Diran Soumonni, University of the Witwatersrand
- Sepo Hachigonta, NRF
- Refilwe Mashigo, NRF

Conference Scientific Committee

- Bengt-Ake Lundvall (Denmark)
- Erika Kraemer-Mbula (South Africa)
- Marina Szapiro (Brazil)
- Michiko Iizuka (Japan)
- Rasmus Lema (Netherlands)
- Susan Cozzens (USA)
- Andrew Cummings (El Salvador)
- Alexandre Vera-Cruz (Mexico)
- Roberta Rabellotti (Italy)
- Xiaolan Fu (UK/China)
- Ann Kingiri (Kenya)
- Julius Ecuru (Uganda)
- Caleb Adelowo (Nigeria)
- Miranda Risang Ayu Palar (Indonesia)
- Balaji Parthasarathy (India)
- Yuan Zhou (China)
- Jana Schmutzler (Colombia)
- Danilo Spinola (UK)
- Keun Lee (South Korea)
- Joanna Chataway (UK)

For more information, visit <https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/college-of-business-and-economics/trilateral-research-chair-in-transformative-innovation/events/globelics-international-conference-2025/>

or contact Globelics2025@uj.ac.za