

7th ACIST, 2021

Theme: *Digital Innovation for Africa Free Trade & Development*

Dates: 26th – 27th August 2021

Venue: Blantyre, Malawi and/or Virtual

Local Organizer: Malawi University of Science & Technology, Malawi
(<https://www.must.ac.mw>)

Submission System: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=acist2021>

Conference Website: <https://www.acistonline.org>

Call for Papers

Digital innovation is shaping, to various degrees, all human activities around the world. For some activities which include significant volumes of information exchange, the degrees of digital innovation are very high. This is because digital innovation enables better, faster, and cheaper transactions, operations, and decisions. In Africa, it is positively influencing new ways of trade and development across the continent. With the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) leading to the beginning of trading in January 2021, we envision digital innovation to have a greater positive influence on Africa.

However, this influence cannot be taken for granted because driving digital innovation is hard work. Positively influencing trade and development requires significant research to produce knowledge on the relationship between digitization and the key issues in Africa trade and development. The target for every practical step in applying digitization will be shifting, disruptions of conventional ways will abound, and competition will increase. These are significant challenges which have to be researched so that we can produce knowledge on how and why they manifest, and how and why they can be addressed through digital innovation and policy.

The 2021 (7th) edition of ACIST focuses on digital innovation challenges and opportunities for Africa free trade and development. As we prepare for the conference, it is hoped that researchers in Africa and elsewhere will think creatively, broadly, and provocatively about the theme of *Digital Innovation for Africa Free Trade & Development* from many different theoretical, philosophical, policy and practical perspectives.

We invite you to participate in ACIST 2021 by submitting completed papers, research-in-progress papers or posters, position papers, panel discussion topics, and exhibition posters on topics which include, but are not limited to, the following:

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| • Digital Innovation | • Digital Platforms and Smartness |
| • Smart Technologies and Development | • Ubiquitous Computing |
| • Sustainable (Green) ICTs | • Big Data and Business Intelligence |
| • ICT and Organisational Structuring | • Cloud and Smart Computing |
| • Smart Devices and Mobile Ecosystems | • Smart Cities & Wireless Communications |
| • Internet and IS Development | • Smart Government and Smart Business |
| • Smart Networks and Collaborations | • Smart Collaborations & Crowdsourcing |
| • Information Systems Strategy | • ICT in the Oil and Gas Industry |
| • Digital Society, Knowledge and Identity | • Information and Computer Security |
| • ICT Curriculum and Education | • Decision Support Systems |
| • Philosophy & Methods in IS Research | • Human Behaviour and ICT |
| • ICT and Social Inclusion/Exclusion | • ICT-Enabled Services |

Paper submissions will be subjected to double-blind reviews by at least two Programme Committee members. Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings with **ISSN 2467-8988**; and will be considered for further review and publication in the *African Journal of Information Systems* (www.ajisonline.com).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

26 th – 27 th August 2021	Conference Days
1 st March 2021	Call for Submissions
21 st June 2021	Deadline for Submission of Full Papers, Research-in-Progress Posters, Panel Discussion Topics, Exhibition Requests
12 th July 2021	Notification of acceptance or rejection of Full Papers, Research-in-Progress Posters, Panel Discussion Topics, Exhibition Request
31 st July 2021	Deadline for submission of Camera-ready Papers

Conference Co-Chairs

Gamel Wiredu	<i>Ghana Institute of Management & Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana</i>
Irwin Brown	<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Wallace Chigona	<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Bennett Kankuzi	<i>Malawi University of Science & Technology, Malawi</i>

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Local Organising Committee

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