

9th ACIST, 2023

Theme: *Rapid Digital Innovation and African Coping*

Dates: 14th – 15th September 2023

Venue: Harare, Zimbabwe and/or Virtual

Local Organizer: Women's University in Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe (<https://www.wua.ac.zw>)

Conference Websites: <http://www.acistonline.org> &
<https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/acist>

Submission Website: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/cgi/ir_submit.cgi?context=acist

Call for Papers

The recent launch of the latest version of ChatGPT on 14th March 2023 is a typical instance of rapid digital innovations which Africa and the world at large have experienced since the 1990s. Other innovations in artificial intelligence (AI), digital infrastructure, and big data are all at the cutting edge, inducing considerable social and economic changes in Africa. Whether Africans have coped quickly or slowly with these rapid digital innovations, any coping is never a straightforward issue especially because of the African background.

In the African background are strong natural, historical, cultural, linguistic and philosophical deposits which have been evoked variously to cope with rapid digital innovations. There have been forms of coping which embrace these innovations for what is famously called digital transformations of individuals, organizations, nations, and the continent as a whole. There have been forms of coping which resist, delay, keep at arm's length, or even refuse some of these innovations entirely. This is because they, especially AI technologies, are perceived as threats to African lives. There have also been forms of coping in terms of financial and infrastructural struggles to access such new technologies, leaving many societies to lag behind adoption.

Still, rapid digital innovation and integration into Africa is a considerable reality. Similar to the colonial onslaught that swept the continent in the late nineteenth century, the adoption of digital technologies seems inevitable for many African societies. Therefore, the pressing question now is mostly about African coping than anything other one in key battlegrounds such as governance, culture, language, education, ethics, law, development, medicine, academia, economics, and agriculture. In order to maintain and develop African identities in the face of rapid digital innovation, how are we coping and how should we be coping?

As part of efforts to address this question, the 2023 (9th) edition of ACIST invites scholars and practitioners to share ideas, based on research, about *Rapid Digital Innovation and African Coping* from many different theoretical, philosophical, policy and practical perspectives.

We invite you to participate in ACIST 2023 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:

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

14 th – 15 th September 2023	Conference Days
5 th May 2023	Call for Submissions
14 th July 2023	Deadline for Submission of Full Papers, Research-in-Progress Posters, Panel Discussion Topics, Exhibition Requests
4 th August 2023	Notification of acceptance or rejection of Full Papers, Research-in-Progress Posters, Panel Discussion Topics, Exhibition Request
25 th August 2023	Deadline for submission of Camera-ready Papers

Conference Committee

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