

ACEIR
AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR INEQUALITY RESEARCH



ARUA
African Research
Universities Alliance



ACEIR is a research centre of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) that is hosted by the University of Cape Town. With country partners in eastern, western and southern Africa, ACEIR aims to contribute to deep, multidimensional and interdisciplinary understandings of inequality in each country context, and a continental and global understanding of how inequalities can be overcome.



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ACEIR NEWS BULLETIN

First quarter, March 2024

Our first quarterly newsletter of 2024 announces great strides for one of the central pillars of the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research. Namely, to contribute to research and data capacity development that help realise our vision of leading African research in overcoming inequality and poverty.

This comes as two summer/winter schools are on the cards for July 2024:

- ACEIR's node at the University of Nairobi is hosting the first school of the new Africa-Europe Cluster of Research Excellence in Inequalities, Poverty, and Deprivation. This learning event deals with the roots of inequality, poverty, and deprivation in Africa.
- Our hub at the University of Cape Town is the African partner in this year's School in Computational Social Science and Data Science of the University of Bremen and other partners. This school focuses on wealth data science.

We'll share news, insights, and learnings from these two platforms in the next quarterly newsletter.

Also read about a new publications and recent events, including an international conference on social responses to climate change in unequal societies that we co-hosted as part of the TSITICA project with the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development.

NEWS | Explore the roots of inequality, poverty, and deprivation in Africa



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The newly established Cluster of Research Excellence in Inequalities, Poverty, and Deprivation (CoRE IPD) is hosting its first research capacity building event with a summer school on the roots of inequality, poverty, and deprivation. The school is set for 15 – 19

July 2024 at the University of Nairobi and applications are currently invited. Research master's degree students, PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers will benefit from attending. The school will contain interactive lectures by the partners in the CoRE IPD, including the University of Groningen and ACEIR's nodes at the University of Cape Town, University of Ghana, and University of Nairobi. Limited scholarship funding is available for travel and accommodation. Applications close 25 April 2024.

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NEWS | Wealth Data Science Summer/Winter School 2024



Schools in Computational Social Science and Data Science

Research Incubators on Conflicts, Migration, Social Cohesion, the Democratic Debate, and Wealth

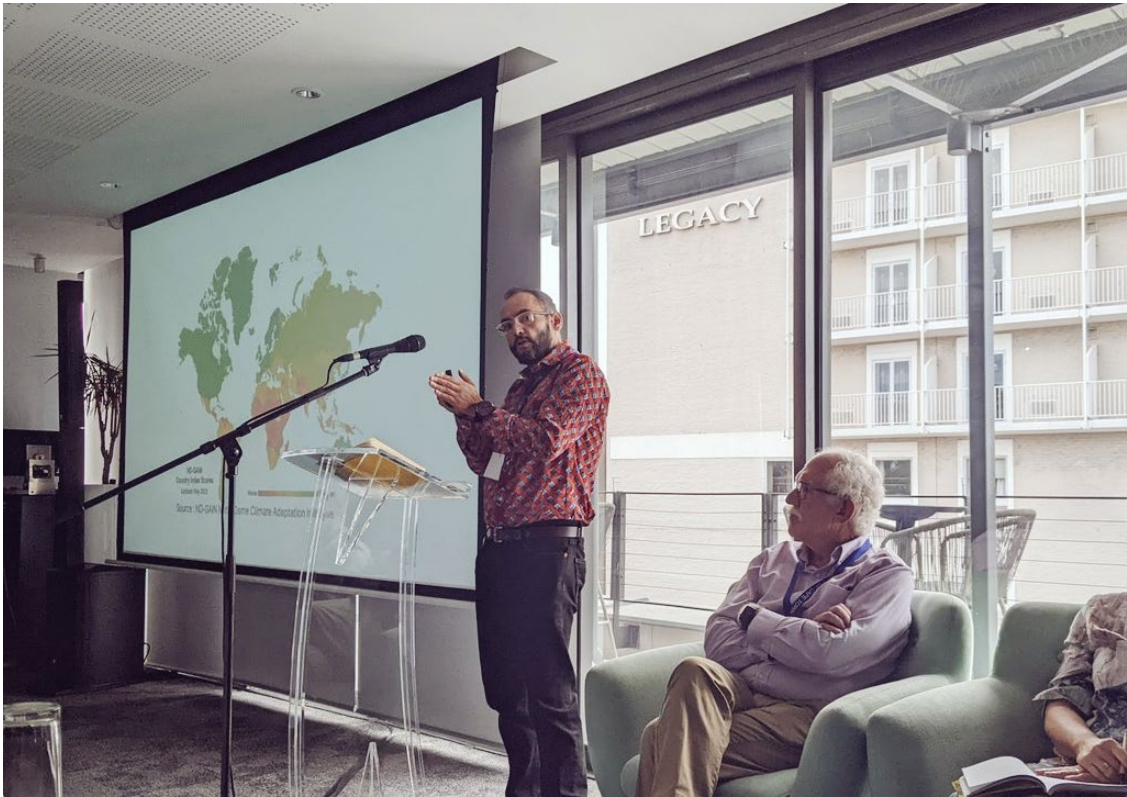


Schools as Research Incubators | Wealth Data Science Summer/Winter School 2024 | Schools 2018-2023

ACEIR's hub is the African host of the Wealth Data Science Summer/Winter School (WeDSS) that is part of the Schools in Computational Social Science and Data Science of the University of Bremen's International Graduate School of Social Sciences and other partners. The WeDSS takes place from 1 – 12 July 2024 on two campuses: Constructor University in Bremen, Germany, and at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Both campuses will form a joint online campus for lectures, project work, and exchange. Most projects will take place in Bremen, and one project in Cape Town.

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OUR FOOTPRINT | Pathways of change in the social response to climate change in unequal societies



Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón (left) and Prof. David Lam (right). Photo by Dr Michelle Shields, ARUA-CD, via X.

The TSITICA project was one of the hosts of a transdisciplinary research forum to advance the understanding of pathways of change in social responses to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The event in mid-March was held in partnership with the African Research Universities Alliance and NISANSA, a joint project of the University of Marburg and University of Giessen, Germany, which focuses on climate change impacts the societies of the Global South. On the first day, ACEIR researcher Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón and ACEIR affiliate Prof. David Lam contributed to a panel discussion that contextualised dynamics of human development and well-being in the climate crisis.

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OUR FOOTPRINT | The role of assets in alleviating climate change-related shocks



Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón (left).

Dr Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón was a guest speaker at the interdisciplinary seminar series of the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA), University of Cape Town, early in March. He discussed climate change-related shocks, assets, and welfare outcomes in South Africa. This research was part of the TSITICA project and investigated the effects of the 2015/2016 drought on individual welfare and assess whether access to assets helps alleviate these negative impacts.

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

THE TEAM | Congratulations

Dr Moses Muriithi was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Development Studies, University of Nairobi.

Dr Muna Shifa has received a fellowship from the newly established Visiting Scholars Programme of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the World Bank's Africa Region Chief Economist's Office (AFRCE). She is based at the World Bank headquarters in Washington D.C. until the end of June 2024. The fellowship's goals include improving African scholars' skills and research outputs by giving them direct access to more and better information, mentorship, networks, economic research opportunities, and data accessible through the World Bank and partner organisations.

Dr Emma Whitelaw was awarded the 2023 Economics Research Southern Africa (ERSA) prize for the first-placed PhD in Economics at the University of Cape Town. ERSA is an independent institution that supports the development of economic policy by connecting research to national policy debate and identifying areas of future work. Each year, ERSA offers prizes for all universities in South Africa with an economics teaching programme.

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | Journal articles

Andrés Díaz Pabón, F., Shifa, M., Ranchhod, V., & Machemedze, T. 2024. [Climate change-related shocks, assets and welfare outcomes in South Africa](#). *South African Journal of Economics*, January 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1111/saje.12368>

Senou, M.M., & Houensou, D.A. 2024. [From expanding financial services to tackling poverty in West African Economic and Monetary Union: The accelerating role of mobile money](#). *Journal of International Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3881>

Whitelaw, E., & Branson, N. 2024. [What goes up must come down? The effect of '2020'on university students' academic performance trajectories](#). *South African Journal of Economics*, 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1111/saje.12367>

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | Book chapters

Oduro, A. D. & Swaminathan, H. 2024 Individualising wealth and asset measures in the global south: Challenges and new directions for research. In F. Bennet, S. Avram & S. Austen (Eds.) [A research agenda for financial resources within the household](#). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

IN THE MEDIA

Handling, but with care

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds the potential to act as a facilitator in achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa”, argue Azza Mustafa Babikir Ahmed and **Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón** in this *D+C* article: “At the same time, there is a risk that AI will exacerbate inequalities and tensions on the continent in environmental, social and economic areas, not least through data exploitation.”

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