



Atlas-AFMI



1st International Conference Africa Development Innovation



CALL FOR PAPERS

**School of Management – University of Poitiers
Presential and Online Conference : October 6 & 7, 2022
Professional day : 5th October 2022**

What research on and for innovation in Africa?

Chair of the Organizing Committee

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Born in 2021, the ADI (Africa Development Innovation) research project, supported by the Sefacil Foundation, focuses on innovation as a factor in the development of organizations in Africa, both as a source of direct competitive advantages and as a source of non-direct competitive advantages through its contribution to individual and collective well-being. The issues at stake in the deployment of innovations are based on various reasons and can be seen in many areas. In strategic, managerial, ecological, digital and governance terms, these different fields, which are connected, are articulated in this project in a logic of prospective reflections. They are studied in the field of logistics and transport. Innovation in all its forms, including qualitative, is therefore a driver of economic performance and social development.

The first event organized in the framework of this research contract, the [ADI International Virtual Forum](#), on the theme "Innovation in transport and logistics for development in Africa", which took place on 3 and 4 February 2022, allowed for a wide-ranging exchange of views between researchers and field actors on these themes and on the current issues that cross transport and logistics organizations and infrastructures, and on the need to strengthen professional capacities and resilience. The need to take a deep continental ("Africa") look at these issues and to articulate reflections at three scales of analysis: macro, meso and micro emerged.

Behind the complexity of the projects and strategies lie the questions posed to companies (economic actors and stakeholders), governments and their administrations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, which are organizing themselves so that the challenges of innovation in transport and logistics do not remain strictly technical and commercial. Indeed, the aspirations of local populations and those of the continent as a whole for a more sustainable, more virtuous development and a response to social and societal expectations, influence decisions and actions in the short and medium term. Tensions thus arise between the constraints of international competition, including intra-regional competition, and the emergence of a management style that combines African attitudes and orientations with international standards, based on criteria that are better grounded in the continent's diverse realities.

Strategic choices seem to be decisive. Transport and logistics are strong elements of development and competitiveness whose innovations can find their substance of application. For example, the global issue of transport in Africa is both a question of logistics infrastructures (major and secondary ports, platforms, equipment, warehouses, access routes and roads, etc.) and of digital infrastructures allowing the emergence of start-ups, creating the necessary connections for commercial, logistics and information activities, etc.

In the field of logistics and transport in Africa, and international relations with Africa - which some analyze as 'of the Africa's - issues of innovation in, and for, Africa directly challenge research and all researchers (not just those working on Africa) on their fundamentals.

What challenges does innovation pose to research in and for Africa(s)?

This first ADI International Conference extends the exchanges that have taken place in the ADI International Virtual Forum in order to produce research that is useful for Africa (s). The question of research on and for innovation in Africa(s) is understood to include basic, pragmatic, empirical and field research. Authors are thus invited to propose papers to address the following cross-cutting issues - the list is not exhaustive. In this conference, we ask :

1. What are the robust innovations operating in Africa? What are the prospective orientations? How to innovate without duplicating what is done elsewhere? How to avoid becoming a low-cost production territory? How can we create, and control local and continental value chains based on complementarities in the key sectors of agriculture and energy? How can transport and more broadly logistics evolve towards more innovative practices in line with the needs of the ecological transition in the context of the climate emergency that is affecting the African continent as much as other regions of the world? How can innovation be an ethical value? How can digital technology facilitate intra-regional trade or help the development of e-commerce in Africa? How to develop access to information and the production of grounded information to develop projects between African countries? How to ensure digital security to support business model innovations? What skills are needed to support African organizations in their digital transformation? What is the role and place of women in projects and drivers of innovation? How to consider major social transitions in the management models of logistics and transport actors? What place should be given to the informal sector? How can innovation in Africa provide opportunities for learning, professional capacity building and resilience, and which, translated into its innovations, are sources of performance and social and economic development?

1. What research on innovation in organizations in Africa? What is the state of knowledge? Is academic research close enough to the field in Africa? How is it produced or how can it be produced? Which actors produce it? For what objectives? For which impacts? If it does produce, what does it return to the field? How is it diffused or how should it be diffused? What does it produce in return for Africans? What are the managerial uses?

2. What local and grounded research? To what extent should research conducted on and for Africa be grounded (Kamdem, Chevalier, Payaud (eds), *La recherche enracinée en management*, 2020)? What should be the part and role of the 'ethic' (the universal) and the 'emic' (the particular) in the foundations of research? Can there be, and should there be, 'African-style' research, just as there should be an African model of management? What place should be given to the various strata of research, i.e., fundamental research and pragmatic, empirical, field research? Which research practices are the most effective? What innovative or atypical research methods can be devised to construct robust data for scientific analysis? What epistemologies are best suited? At what scale should research be conducted? With which methodologies? What challenges does business research pose to local research (observation and documentation)?

3. How to connect academic research actors with the research needs of field actors? According to which models of interaction, financing and organization? How can we avoid a standardization of scientific production in management that responds to the constraints of classification (or ranking) logics, at the risk of turning research towards internal professional logics that are far removed from the needs of actors in the field? How can we assess the relevance of what research produces? How can we appreciate the complexity of the relational and transactional modalities put in place in Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world?

Particular attention will be given to papers that link these issues to transport and logistics in Africa, as this is the core of the topic. However, proposals that are less directly focused on this field of research may also be considered, as long as their conclusions could be transposed to the main field - which it will be up to the authors to show.

Guidelines for the submission of a proposal

The proposal should be written in English or French and include the following elements:

1. On the first page (Anonymous)

- The title of your paper (maximum 180 characters including spaces) which establishes a link with the framing text of the conference.
- An abstract (maximum 1,500 characters including spaces) which allows you to situate your paper in the general framework of the conference. It must also contain elements of the problematic, one or more research objectives, a conceptual or reference framework, the methodology as well as the announced or expected research results.
- 4-5 keywords

2. On a second page

- The name of the author(s), postal address, telephone number, e-mail address, status, department, institution of the author(s)

3. On a third page, the paper proposal must include

- A proposal of 6000 signs including spaces (maximum) in Times New Roman format, font 12 and single line spacing
- An outline of the paper
- The main bibliographical references that will be used

All proposals must be submitted on the Numérev platform at the following address:
<https://adi2022.sciencesconf.org/>

For any other question, use this email address : colloqueADI2022@poitiers.iae-france.fr

Key Dates :

- May 7th : Diffusion of the call
- June 20th : Submission opens
- July 1st: Submission deadline of proposals for papers (long abstract)
- July 13th: Decision notifications to authors + communication on the conference
- September 1st: Registration opens
- September 10th: Receipt of texts
- September 15th: Diffusion of the conference program
- October 6 & 7: Poitiers ADI Conference
- November 15th: Return of the texts by the authors after personal revision
- December: Start of the review process for publication

Estimated registration fees for the conference :

Presential participation (recommended)

- Teacher, researcher, professional: 50 €.
- PhD., DBA students: free
- Gala dinner: 50 €.

Remote participation possible (in case of impossibility to attend): free

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