

DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA

The last decade has witnessed a notable increase in the sheer volume of research on Africa, ranging from the suitability of foreign practices, the transfer of practices to topics like leadership and sustainability in the face of globalization. Yet, much more research remains in the academic periphery, even as organizations in Africa make substantial strides particularly in the area of technological innovation. Evidently, African success stories are not being told often and loudly enough, and the scope for creating indigenous knowledge is not being fully realized. This track seeks to address this issue by giving a forum to scholars to engage more fully with these critical debates, to demonstrate how scholarship in and about Africa can both challenge and enhance the mainstream. We wish to generate debate on the emergence of theories and management practices embedded within African value systems, to foster critical debate on the robustness and future of indigenous systems such as Ubuntu and the community, and their underlying epistemologies, to uncover how managers in Africa have created solutions that are both theoretically sound and contextually valid. Additionally we seek papers that shed light on the Africa-Asia dialogue, in particular the role of Chinese organizations in Africa and how African partners might strengthen their bargaining positions in this new engagement, as well as how concepts like cross-vergence and hybridization might inform this debate. We seek both conceptual and empirical papers that address but are not limited to:

- the place of indigenous knowledge
- the development of human resources and managerial expertise
- the effect of globalisation and the role of MNCs
- the emergent Africa-Asia dialogue and the nature of Africa-China relations
- the informal economy and home-grown solutions
- entrepreneurialism and innovation
- CSR, sustainability and business ethics

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