



THE AFRICA RESEARCH AND IMPACT NETWORK
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STEPS METHODS YEAR

CALL FOR PAPERS

DECOLONISING METHODOLOGIES TO SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

In the Global South, 'coloniality' has long been associated with political rule over subordinated countries. Struggles for 'decoloniality' have evolved from the undoing of colonial rule, to the even more fundamental challenge of freeing knowledge, practice and culture from deeper worldwide concentrations of incumbent power. Researchers and the research community in the global South are increasingly reflecting on various research methods that can have positive outcomes and impacts on society, and challenge existing methods including how they are addressing current sustainability challenges. Accordingly, the neglected imperative to 'decolonise methodologies' in research and policy appraisal, embodies some of the most important and intractable challenges in sustainability – offering crucial opportunities for thinking, knowing, and doing alike. It is emerging that there is a need to open-up and broaden out the space for free thinking (and therefore being innovative in research and engagement), that would allow for scholarly activism (with more room for researchers to critique – academic and policy – power and the dominant culture). Further, decoloniality considers the inter-relation between the researchers, with the researchee, with the ability to unpack tensions in how researchers articulate methods among disciplines. The Africa Research and Impact Network in partnership with the STEPS Methods Year (SMY) theme on "Decolonising Sustainability Research" aims to contribute to the methods year through co-production with key STEPS consortium partners, and to draw on the considerable methodological expertise and learning from across the STEPS network. In addition to the convening through webinars, training session, we are developing a book that will document the theory, practice and case studies for Decolonising Methods in Transformation to Sustainability. This book will be launched at the Annual ARIN International Conference 2021 where the authors will get an opportunity to present. In addition, we envisage the authors presenting their book chapters at selected webinars under the SMY.

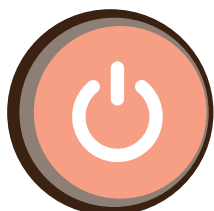
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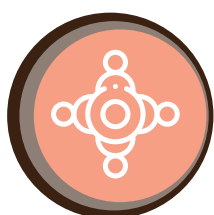
While paying attention to the three aspects, we invite book chapters from researchers, practitioners, and policy actors, third party actors, and private sector actors on the following broad thematic areas;

THEMATIC AREAS INCLUDED



Power and Methods

This theme is centred on how larger theories about methodologies have been applied to engage, challenge and shift power, and rein in hierarchical authorities (coloniality) associated with methods in the global south (and in Africa more specifically).



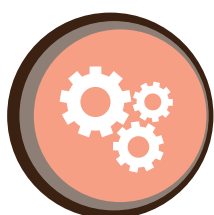
Valuing Diversity

This theme will explore how methods have been used to open-up, broaden-out, and let-go. The theme focuses on how concrete methods have been applied in different (geographical, social, political) settings to demonstrate diversity, with a multiple of range inputs, framings, and voices. Central to this, is inviting case-study discussions that demonstrate how methods have contributed to decolonising of methodologies drawing on theories to illuminate practical examples and reflections.



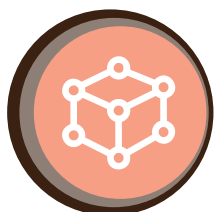
Philosophical Underpinnings around methods in the global south

There are various philosophical underpinnings around methods based on prior commitments where some researchers tend to have a 'positive view' in research and a 'constructivist view' and while others tend to favor quantitative method over qualitative methods. Therefore this type of research transdisciplinarity – bringing the physical versus social sciences and how they sit together is paramount. This theme will therefore bring in different ontological and epistemological perspectives associated with decolonizing methodologies, for instance the Ubuntu philosophy within the African realities.



Articulating methods

This theme will provide a reflection on how decolonizing methodologies would contribute to the transformation to sustainability in the future. The theme focuses on what decoloniality of methods would mean to various actor groups (e.g., academia, policy/practitioners, third party actors, and private/business actors) in the global south, and how they have been able to identify, customize, apply, and learn from dominant methods.



Multidimensionality of methods

Considering that different disciplines have variety in methodological applications, which are perceived differently among researchers, it follows that aspects such as funding flows, research politics, and the perceived research power dynamics between female and male researcher; is likely to tilt decolonising research into multiple layers of actions. This theme explores these multiple facets of research, and how collectively they promote or undermine decoloniality of methods.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite extended abstracts which should give a clear sense of the proposed book chapter providing a brief intro, methods, findings, discussions, conclusions) at least highlighting the key arguments for the contribution.

Please submit abstracts online at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4zBdVf6_MTyRLINIMrQ2ISGDkpBINvgVRTTDZXuXapyCcZw/viewform

If you experience challenges uploading, please contact Joel Onyango on j.onyango@acts-net.org

Address any general inquiries to:

Dr. Joel Onyango on J.Onyango@acts-net.org and Syprose Ochieng on s.adhiambo@arin-africa.org

IMPORTANT DATES

May 2, 2021 - Deadline for the submission of abstracts for book chapters

May 28, 2021 - Feedback on successful book chapters

July 28, 2021 - Write shop with authors and external reviewers for chapter book authors

September 1, 2021 - Deadline for receiving full book chapters.

November 20, 2021 - ARIN annual International Conference

December 30, 2021 - Revised chapters from authors

Early 2022 - Book publication and launch

