

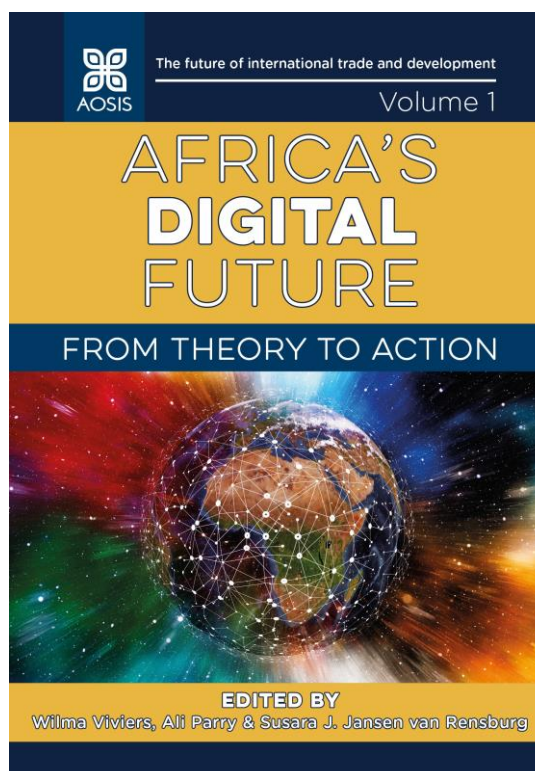
*Announcing* a NEW BOOK from the North-West University

## AFRICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE: FROM THEORY TO ACTION

The WTO Chairs Programme in the TRADE research entity (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences) at the North-West University (NWU) in South Africa is delighted to announce the publication of a new book, *Africa's digital future: From theory to action*.

In keeping with the NWU's reputation for high-quality research in diverse fields, including science and technology, international trade, economics and law, *Africa's digital future* makes an important and timely contribution to the literature on Africa, exploring the many opportunities and challenges that the continent faces in a world characterised by accelerating technological change.

Edited by **Prof Wilma Viviers, Ali Parry** and **Dr Adelia Jansen van Rensburg**, the book has been published in an online format by AOSIS, the open-access publisher which hosts a wide range of journals and independent publications on its platform. The book is therefore freely available to anyone who wishes to read it online or download a copy. Get your copy at: <https://books.aosis.co.za/index.php/ob/catalog/book/199>



The overarching question that *Africa's digital future* addresses is whether African countries have the foresight, resources and motivation to leverage the considerable power of digital technologies to transform their economies in sustainable and inclusive ways.

The book comprises 10 chapters which examine a wide range of topics that are central to Africa's growth and development prospects – industrialisation, global and regional value chains, transport and logistics, trade facilitation, labour-market dynamics, employment, education, policies and regulations, and more – all through a digital lens, with digital trade forming the backdrop to several of the chapters.

Other trade experts who contributed chapters to the book are **Prof Peet Strydom, Dr Marie-Luce Kühn, Dr Emmanuel Orkoh, Prof Sonja Grater, Prof Alwyn Hoffman** and **Biandri Joubert** – all of whom are members of the extended research network of the NWU, the WTO Chairs Programme and the TRADE research entity.

The steady encroachment of automation, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and other digital technologies into people's lives has attracted much research interest around the world. But few publications (until now) have delved deeply and thoroughly into the implications of digitalisation for Africa specifically and what countries on the continent need to do to chart a steady course into the future.

Written in an engaging style which will appeal to a wide audience, *Africa's digital future* combines academic rigour with reflective policy-related commentary, emphasising the need for Africa to realistically consider its future while not forgetting its past. The word 'action' in the title is intended to convey a sense of urgency and to emphasise that Africa needs to *own* its future if it is to benefit from it.

*Africa's digital future: From theory to action*: <https://books.aosis.co.za/index.php/ob/catalog/book/199>

For more information about the publication, contact Prof Wilma Viviers on [wilma.viviers@nwu.ac.za](mailto:wilma.viviers@nwu.ac.za).