



JOHANNESBURG INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

An initiative of the University of Johannesburg
and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

WORK AND THE FUTURE:



Four panel discussions





From 15 August to 12 September 2018, the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) will host four high-level panel discussions on the future of work. The series is aimed at providing South African role players and other participants with an opportunity to discuss the nature and implications of the far-reaching technological changes under way in the workplace in South Africa as well as globally.

Analysts and practitioners alike have increasingly come to realise that the technological changes driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution will profoundly affect the world of work, and therefore human societies in general.

At the heart of the matter is the recognition that many jobs traditionally performed by human beings are now being performed by machines, and others are simply disappearing. This requires a paradigm shift in understanding, education, politics, and the laws regulating the role of human beings in society.

As Klaus Schwab, founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, has put it:

'We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. We do not yet know just how it will unfold, but one thing is clear: the response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving stakeholders of the global polity, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society.'

What seems clear is that societies that quickly grasp and come to terms with these changes will stand a better chance of adapting to them in the longer term.

This series will provide representatives of government, business, organised labour and academia an opportunity to share their views and experiences of the changing nature of work, and what the technological changes driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution hold for work and the future. High-level participants will include Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg. More information about the four panel discussions, the venue and format appears overleaf.



PANEL 1: WHAT'S FACT AND WHAT'S FANTASY?

Date: Wednesday 15 August 2018
Time: 16h30 for 17h00
Panelists: **Professor Tshilidzi Marwala**, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UJ
Enoch Godongwana, Chairperson, Economic Transformation Sub-Committee, National Executive Committee, ANC
Moderator: **Professor Lyal White**, Johannesburg Business School, UJ

This opening panel will discuss the broad changes involved in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The discussion will then focus on the implications of these changes for the future of work in general. Questions to be addressed include whether the Fourth Industrial Revolution entails the end of work as we know it, and whether certain economic sectors are likely to be more affected than others. Another is whether South Africa is ready and capable of addressing the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the future of work.

PANEL 2: TRADE UNION PERSPECTIVES

Date: Wednesday 22 August 2018
Time: 16h30 for 17h00
Panelists: Representatives of COSATU, FEDUSA, NACTU and SAFTU
Moderator: **Professor Fiona Tregenna**, UJ

This panel will consider the views of workers on the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the future of work. Trade union representatives will be asked to talk about the practical experiences of their members of the changing nature of work, the steps trade unions are taking to secure future employment for their members, and what society should do to ensure that there is work in the future.

PANEL 3: BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES

Date: 5 September 2018
Time: 16h30 for 17h00
Panelists: **Sipho Maseko**, CEO of Telkom
M D Ramesh, President and Regional Head for Southern and Eastern Africa: Olam International
Yolisa Kani, Head of Public Policy, Uber South Africa
Moderator: **Dr Bongani Ngqulunga**, Deputy Director, JIAS

Business leaders at the cutting edge of the technological changes will serve on this panel. Besides offering industry-specific views, they will explore ways in which business, the economy, and society can prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



PANEL 4: PERSPECTIVES FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

Date: 12 September 2018
Time: 16h30 for 17h00
Panelists: **Professor Babu Paul**, University of Johannesburg
Professor Ruksana Osman, University of the Witwatersrand
Professor Robin Crewe, Pretoria University
Moderator: **Professor Peter Vale**, Director, JIAS

This panel will consider the implications for universities of the technological changes involved in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Some of the questions to be discussed include probing the curricular implications. Do the changes mean that universities have to only provide science and technology subjects? Is there a future for the humanities? Do universities have to work closely with the industry?

VENUE AND TIMES

The panel discussions will be held at JIAS, 1 Tolip Street, Westdene, Johannesburg, on four Wednesdays from 15 August to 12 September 2018. They will start at 16h30 for 17h00, and last for 90 minutes. Each panelist will speak for ten minutes, followed by a moderated discussion. Refreshments will be served, providing a further opportunity for informal discussions.

ATTENDANCE

The panel discussions are open to all, but seating will be limited. Participation in the whole series is encouraged. To register for attendance of any or all of the panel discussions, please contact Emelia Kamena at emeliak@uj.ac.za. For updates, see the JIAS website at www.jias.joburg.

