



# SPRU Africa Newsletter

We are pleased to share these updates to our SPRU Africa wide community. Our current work at SPRU which focuses on Africa, ranges from research in tackling cancer, pathways to agricultural transformation, renewable energy, and the landmark five year Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium (TIPC), to capability building for infrastructure delivery. This edition also feature the launch of our inaugural STI policy training course, as well as events and publications. We hope you find this newsletter useful, and continue engaging with us for more exciting initiatives - Professor Joanna Chataway, Deputy Director, SPRU, University of Sussex

[SPRU Africa Website](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE JUNE 2018

### Research

- ✓ Tackling Cancer Care in Africa
- ✓ STI in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda
- ✓ Agricultural transformation in Kenya and South India
- ✓ Transformative Innovation Policy

### Capacity Building

- ✓ Course on Innovation Policy for International professionals
- ✓ SPRU collaboration on UNCTAD's Policy Learning Manuals
- ✓ SPRU–University of Pretoria collaboration

### Miscellaneous

- ✓ Policy Engagements
- ✓ Upcoming Events!
- ✓ Spotlight publication on Solar power in Africa
- ✓ Publications: reports and articles

## RESEARCH

### ESRC GCRF RESEARCH ON TACKLING CANCER CARE IN AFRICA

[Joanna Chataway](#) and [Chux Daniels](#) are co-investigators in a recently awarded ESRC research grant titled “GCRF Inclusive Societies: How to link industrial and social innovation for inclusive development: lessons from tackling cancer care in Africa”. Other institutions involved in the research consortium include the Open University UK, University of Edinburgh UK, and the Kenyan Medical Research Institute.

### PROMOTING RELEVANT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION IN KENYA, TANZANIA, AND RWANDA

SPRU is working in partnership with the African Centre for Technology Studies ([ACTS](#)) and The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation ([CSIRO](#)) to understand how knowledge systems can promote science, technology, and innovation in three African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Participating SPRU faculty include [Joanna Chataway](#), [Fiona Marshall](#), and [Tommaso Ciarli](#). More info can be found [here](#).

### POVERTY PATHWAYS AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN KENYA AND SOUTH INDIA

Global poverty compounds as climate-related events, political-religious conflicts, and growth inequality combine with social exclusion based on gender, race, and class. This project explores new ways of understanding complex pathways in and out of poverty in order to illustrate disadvantaged people's capacity for transformative change. SPRU faculty involved are [Saurabh Arora](#) and [Andy Stirling](#). For more info visit [here](#).

### TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY CONSORTIUM – START OF FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME

SPRU-Africa team is involved in the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium ([TIPC](#)), a global partnership aiming to transform innovation policies. In May 2018, the TIPC officially launched a [Five Year Programme](#). SPRU's co-founding members are Colombia, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, and Finland. Mexico has recently joined the consortium, while China and Panama are associate members. More info can be found [here](#).

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### TRAINING COURSE ON INNOVATION POLICY IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

Technological change is reshaping society, contributing to ongoing geopolitical shifts, and driving environmental change at a geological scale. SPRU now has an annual training course to enable policy professionals from around the world to engage with these issues and think about solutions and policy interventions. With a unique thematic focus each year, the policy courses offers an exciting opportunity for policymakers, researchers and professionals to engage with a range of new arguments and perspectives on science, technology, and innovation. More information on the June 2018 inaugural five-day policy course, entitled “Innovation Policy in a Changing Global Context”, can be found [here](#).

### SPRU COLLABORATES WITH UNCTAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STI POLICY MANUALS

In 2017, SPRU's [Chux Daniels](#) was part of the international team of experts on the United Nations Convention on Trade and Development's [UNCTAD](#) Innovation Policy Learning Programme. The team is responsible for the development and review of UNCTAD's STI Policy Training Manuals for Policymakers in Low and Middle Income Countries. Module 1 on “Innovation and Development” is available [here](#).

### SPRU AND UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA COLLABORATE ON STUDENT SUPERVISION

With the aim of strengthening research and policy collaborations with African, SPRU faculty [Joanna Chataway](#) and [Chux Daniels](#) will be working with the Graduate School of Technology Management (GSTM), [University of Pretoria](#), South Africa, in the delivery of GSTM's STI Policy Module and in the co-supervision of MSc students and Doctoral thesis. These initiatives are led by GSTM's [John Mugabe](#) and [David Walwyn](#) respectively.

## POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY CONSORTIUM IN AFRICA – UPDATES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, GHANA, NIGERIA AND ETHIOPIA

South Africa has recently developed a white paper on STI in order to ensure its National Systems of Innovation (NSI) respond to “megatrends” such as the next industrial revolution, the increasing pressure on the environment, the issues of rapid urbanisation, and the population imbalance that is favourable to young people. Reflecting on the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa’s participation in TIPC, Deputy Director-General Imraan Patel said, “The refreshed White Paper is grounded on the need to accelerate inclusion and transformation in a rapidly changing world. This requires new thinking and policy experimentation with national and international research and policy partners.”

Relatedly, SPRU organised a two-day workshop for countries aspiring to join TIPC. The workshop, convened in partnership with the Ghanaian STI Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), took place in April 2018 at Accra. Participants include policymakers, researchers, innovation practitioners, and civil society actors from Ghana, Ethiopia and Nigeria. Similar events being planned to take place in the future, will involve more African countries.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: JULY – DECEMBER 2018

- **5 July** Prospects for Innovation and Development: Remembering and Celebrating Calestous Juma. [Professor Juma](#) completed his MSc and PhD at SPRU in the 1980s. SPRU will hold a special memorial workshop in his honour, with participants from across the globe.
- **12-14 July** Perspectives on research excellence in the Global South, Johannesburg, South Africa. As part of the Science Granting Council Initiative ([SGCI](#)), a two-day workshop will be hosted by University of Johannesburg ([UJ](#)), Stellenbosch University’s DST-NRF Centre in Scientometrics, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy ([SciSTIP](#)), and Canada’s [IDRC](#). The workshop aims to provide analytical tools and strategic options for emerging granting councils. SPRU faculty, [Joanna Chataway](#), will be participating.
- **13-15 August** STI Policy Module. This is sponsored in collaboration with the Graduate School of Technology Management ([GSTM](#)), University of Pretoria, South Africa. SPRU faculty [Chux Daniels](#) and [Joanna Chataway](#) will participate.
- **1-5 October** TIPC conference, a series of workshops based on the four elements of the five year programme, to be hosted at SPRU.
- **24-26 October** [Globelics International Conference](#), Accra, Ghana. SPRU Faculty presenting are [Chux Daniels](#) and [Joanna Chataway](#).
- **5-7 November** Science Granting Council Initiative’s [call for papers](#). The November meeting’s theme is on “New Approaches for Funding Research and Innovation in Africa”, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. SPRU colleagues will be in attendance.
- **12-14 December** [Science Forum, South Africa](#), a platform for igniting discussions on science, technology, innovation, and policy.

## PUBLICATIONS

### THE UPTAKE OF SOLAR POWER IN AFRICA

[Rob Byrne](#) and [David Ockwell](#) co-edited a special issue of Energy Research and Social Science ([ERSS](#)) with researchers from the [UNEP-DTU](#) Partnership. The publication focuses on the uptake and diffusion of solar power in Africa. The publication is now available [here](#).

### UNCTAD Reports, Discussions, and Manuals

- UNCTAD Flagship report: [Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development](#) outlines how society can adapt to rapid technological change. Contribution from [Marie Blanche Ting](#)
- [The role of science, technology and innovation in increasing substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030](#), from UNCTAD Commission for Science and Technology for Development ([CSTD](#)), 14-18 May 2018. Contribution from [Marie Blanche Ting](#)
- [Training Course on STI Policies: Innovation, Policy, and Development Participant’s Handbook](#). Contribution from [Chux Daniels](#)

### Book Chapter and Journal Articles

- [A political economy of niche-building: Neoliberal-developmental encounters in photovoltaic electrification in Kenya](#). Byrne, R., Kennedy Mbeva, and David Ockwell (2018).
- [The uptake and diffusion of solar power in Africa: Socio-cultural and political insights on a rapidly emerging socio-technical transition](#). Ockwell, D., et al (2018).
- [Revitalisation of Agriculture biomass for an industrial bio-economy, case studies on South Africa and Netherlands Bio-economy](#). Ting, M.B. and Jim Philp (2018).

## STUDY WITH US!

[MSC AND PHD STUDY @SPRU](#)

[SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY](#)

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