



NVAS Africa Day 2021: ‘Entrepreneurial responses to Covid-19 in Africa’

Date: Saturday 16 October 2021

Location: Online / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Most regions in Africa are now dealing with lengthy corona measures such as lockdowns and market closure. Partly due to Africa’s reliance on the global supply chain and drying up of external financial flows, African economies are hit hard, with prognoses of GDP per capita recovering to 2019 levels in 2024 at the earliest.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are among the enterprises that are most heavily affected by the pandemic, and entrepreneurial activity is expected to have a broad downturn due to substantial risks on both demand- and supply side. At the same time it has been argued that, ‘entrepreneurship as a socio-economic activity provides a way for society to recover from the crisis’ ([Ratten 2020: 6](#)) and that the crisis may drive innovation and technological advancements globally, and perhaps even more so in Africa due to its young demographic ([Godin 2020](#)).

The 2021 NVAS Africa Day will study the role of entrepreneurship in contemporary Africa, and specifically aim to explore how entrepreneurs across Africa respond to the global pandemic. Themes include organisational resilience, business planning, female entrepreneurship, the (in)formal sector, and more. Moreover, possible intersecting identifications of gender, class, ethnicity, etc. are relevant aspects to take into account when discussing the broad and generalizing notion of entrepreneurship.

We welcome empirical papers from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. Papers must engage with one of our four panel themes (cross-sections between themes are also welcome):

- 1) Agriculture, farming, and livestock
- 2) Retail, hospitality, and tourism
- 3) Education, health, and governance
- 4) Tech, finance, and digital solutions

All papers will be published in an Open Access publication; publication is scheduled for spring 2022.

Guidelines for authors

Please send your abstract (200-300 words) to nvas.africa.day.2021@gmail.com before 1 June 2021. Notification of acceptance will be end of June. Accepted authors are expected to present and participate during NVAS Africa Day 2021 on 16 October 2021 (on line).

Important dates

Abstract deadline	1 June 2021
Draft paper deadline	15 September 2021
Paper presentation	16 October 2021
Full paper deadline	1 January 2022

Organising committee

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