

# Call for Case Studies

The Open African Innovation Research network, Open AIR ([www.openair.org.za](http://www.openair.org.za)), is calling for African case studies that shed light on the following two overarching research questions:

- How can open collaborative innovation help businesses scale up and seize the new opportunities of a global knowledge economy?
- Which knowledge governance systems will best ensure that the social and economic benefits of innovation are shared inclusively across society as a whole?

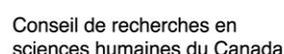
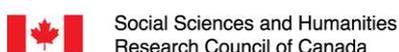


Open AIR is seeking case studies that examine the connection between the practice of collaborative innovation and the processes of knowledge sharing and/or knowledge appropriation through intellectual property rights and other mechanisms. Studies should focus on one or more of Open AIR's four priority research themes: (1) high technology hubs, (2) informal sector innovation, (3) indigenous and local entrepreneurs, and (4) metrics, laws and policies. The first theme explores the nuances of innovation at high technology hubs, explaining how and why new business are likely to succeed or fail in these spaces. The second research theme is informal sector innovation, where resilience and creativity are often attributed to a shared spirit of openness and collaboration. Third, Open AIR is interested in researching and collaborating with entrepreneurs in indigenous and local communities, which have a long history of collaborative knowledge production. Open AIR's fourth research theme explores the cross-cutting issues of metrics, laws and policies for measuring, valuing, facilitating and scaling up knowledge production.

As a multi-disciplinary and international network, Open AIR invites researchers from all fields and all countries in Africa to submit proposals. Following a rigorous peer review of all case study proposals, selected proponents will be invited to present, discuss and refine their ideas in collaboration with others at Open AIR's next international workshop, to be held in the first quarter of 2016. Case studies will be completed before the end of 2016, at which time further support may be provided for the publication of research results and the application of new knowledge in policy and practice.

Proposals can be made for up to ZAR 150,000 per case study to support the costs of research personnel, tools and materials, travel and other justified expenses. Proposals with well-justified budgets that include co-payment and/or in-kind contributions from proponents or their organisations will be assessed favourably.

To obtain further information, please contact Open AIR Program Manager Ms. Nan Warner, [Nan@OpenAIR.org.za](mailto:Nan@OpenAIR.org.za). To submit a proposal, please complete the Draft Case Study Proposal Form enclosed and send it by email to Ms. Warner on or before **10 December 2015**.



## Draft Case Study Proposal

*Your Case Study Proposal should be brief, between 1500-2500 words, focussing especially on the specific research questions to investigate and methods proposed to answer them.*

### 1. Title

**2. Personnel & Institutions:** (Provide information on the individuals/institutions to be involved in the case study, including a brief summary of their expected role in the project, suitability and qualifications.)

**3. Problem & Context:** (State the problem/issue/assumption/theory/phenomenon to be investigated by the study. Provide context and justification for the proposed case study, including a description of its fit within Open AIR's conceptual framework and within one or more of Open AIR's research themes.)

**4. Objectives & Research Questions:** (Outline the objectives of the research in terms of its potential contribution to knowledge, its potential relevance to policymakers, and its potential to support capacity-building of African innovation stakeholders such as innovators, creators and entrepreneurs as well as policy and issue leaders. State the over-arching question and its sub-questions.)

**5. Methodology & Design:** (Describe how, where, by whom, and according to which timeline the research would be executed, and why the proposed methods and design are suited to the objectives of the case study and the Open AIR research project.)

**6. Stakeholders:** (Outline the stakeholders a) to be engaged during the study, and b) who could potentially be targeted during follow-on Open AIR policy engagement and capacity-building activities emanating from the findings of the study.)

**7. Linkages & Collaborations:** (Describe possible linkages between your proposed case study and research that is being undertaken (or that could be undertaken) by researchers/institutions in other countries, both within and outside Africa.)

**8. Tentative Budget:** (Estimate total costs for personnel and travel, linked to the timeline, in order to successfully complete the case study and subsequent outreach and capacity-building activities. The limit allowable for a case study is ZAR 150,000.)