

1. Transformative Pathways: Understanding Economic Growth in Africa using the African Transformation Index

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Despite its significance for inclusive growth, the literature tends to overlook the role of structural transformation in African economies. Using the African Transformation Index (ATI), this study seeks to address this gap and highlight the importance of structural changes in driving growth. This study uses panel data from 30 African countries from 2000 to 2022. Employing the Cobb-Douglas production function and panel quantile regression. It found that ATI positively impacts GDP per capita growth rates, notably at lower quantiles, emphasizing structural transformation's role in inclusive growth. Diversification negatively affects growth,

suggesting challenges in overly diversified economies. Export competitiveness and productivity enhancements positively influence growth, while technology upgrading's impact is significant mainly at lower quantiles, signaling the need for targeted policies. Human wellbeing emerges as a crucial growth driver, particularly at middle quantiles, emphasizing holistic development's importance. The study stresses the need for policymakers to prioritize structural transformation, export competitiveness, productivity, and human well-being for sustainable, inclusive growth in Africa.

Keywords: African Transformation Index; economic growth; Cobb-Douglas production function

2. Promoting Inclusive Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Policy Pathways for Sustainable Development

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Sub-Saharan Africa faces high inequality, with some countries having a Gini coefficient above 0.50 (Menyelim, 2021; Akinbode, 2020) and over 40% of people living below \$1.90 per day (Fosu, 2015). Climate change adds pressure, especially in agriculture-dependent economies like Mozambique, where over 70% of rural households rely on rain-fed farming (Go, 2007). The COVID-19 pandemic worsened inequality, pushing millions into extreme poverty, increasing national debts, and undermining investor confidence. This study explores policies and programs that reduce inequality and support inclusive, sustainable growth.

Using a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative case studies and quantitative analysis, the research draws on national databases, UNDP reports, and World Bank indicators. Key metrics include Gini coefficients, poverty rates, social protection coverage, and agricultural productivity. Findings highlight: (1) community programs, such as microfinance and vocational training, raise household incomes by 10–15% (Menyelim, 2021); (2) national policies, including social protection and debt restructuring, reduce extreme poverty by 5–7% and improve farming resilience by 12% (Akinbode, 2020); and (3) international partnerships strengthen policy impact through technical support, knowledge transfer, and funding (Hakura, 2016).

The study emphasizes the need for combined local, national, and international strategies. Policies focusing on education, healthcare, financial access, and climate resilience can make growth more inclusive and benefit all societal segments. Strengthening international partnerships provides additional resources and expertise to support sustainable development.

Keywords: Inclusive growth, Sub-Saharan Africa, economic inequality, social policy, sustainable development, climate resilience.

3. Sustainable Leadership Competency Model (SLCM) For Emerging Markets and Developing Economies: Integrating Global Frameworks with Regional Realities

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Effective leadership is critical for navigating the complex sustainability challenges unique to Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). While global leadership models provide a foundation, they lack contextual applicability for the distinct volatilities and socio-

cultural realities of EMDEs, creating a significant gap in both theory and practice. This study aimed to develop and validate a culturally attuned Sustainable Leadership Competency Model (SLCM) specifically for these contexts. The research employed a sequential mixed-methods methodology, beginning with a systematic review of global literature to extract competencies, followed by structured interviews with 13 regional experts for validation and refinement. The resulting validated model identifies five core domains: Strategic Competencies, Core Competencies, Core Values, Collaborative Competencies, and Personal Leadership Capacities comprising 16 specific competencies, including critical refinements such as Frugal Innovation, Critical Reflexivity, and Authentic Humility. This study provides policymakers, educators, and organizational leaders in EMDEs with a practical, evidence-informed framework to cultivate leaders capable of driving inclusive and resilient growth. Future research should focus on developing a quantitative instrument to test the model's predictive validity across diverse EMDE settings.

Keywords: Sustainable leadership, competency model, emerging markets, EMDEs, SDGs

4. An Analysis of Economic Relationship between African and Turkic States: Current Trends, Future Perspectives

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The study analyzes the economic relations between members of the African and Organization of Turkic States. Although OTS is a new organization in comparison to the African Union, the relations between some member countries at the bilateral level have a history, such as the relations between Türkiye and African countries. While the other members of the OTS countries are the post-Soviet countries, and they got independence in the 1990s, they increased their ties

with the countries and organizations at the regional and international levels. In the modern period, the international and regional projects and new initiatives create more options and ways for future cooperation. Based on geopolitical location, resources, and potential, the relations between the members of both organizations will have mutual benefit. The analysis covered three variables as areas of trade, level of trade, and level of investments. The data was collected from second data sources, such as articles, books, and official statistics from states and regional and international organizations. Qualitative research methods are used. The analyzed data creates sources for future research.

Keywords: African Union, OTS, trade

5. The Normative Limits of Macroeconomic Stability in Africa

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Afrika'da 2000'li yıllardan itibaren şahit olduğumuz ekonomik büyüme, yapısal borçlanma ve dış finansmana bağımlılıkla birlikte gerçekleşmiştir. IMF ve Dünya Bankası öncülüğündeki istikrar politikaları ile başta parasal disiplin sağlanması amaçlanırken, kamu harcamalarının kısılması ve yapısal uyum önerileriyle büyümeyi hedeflemiştir. Geçen çeyrek asırlık dönemde sözkonusu politikaların uzun vadede kapsayıcı kalkınmaya katkı sağlamadığı eşitsizlik ve yoksulluğun derinleşerek arttığı gözlemlenmiştir. Bu bildiride, Afrika'daki borçlanma süreçleri ile makroekonomik istikrar söyleminin toplumsal etkileri Gana ve Zambiya örneklerinde incelenmektedir. COVID-19 krizi kamu harcamalarının artması ve yükselen borçlar nedeniyle tekrar IMF programlarına başvurmayı gerektirdiği için özel olarak ele alınmıştır. Afrikadaki borç yükünün kamu yatırımları finansmanında kullanılmaması, kalkınmanın toplumsal tabanını zayıflatıcı bir rol oynamaktadır. Bu makalede bölgesel finansal kurumların güçlendirilmesi ve uluslararası borçluluk sözleşmeleriyle sosyal harcamalara

öncelik verilmesi ve iklim finansmanı ile borç takasları gibi yöntemler sonuç bölümünde politika önerileri olarak yer almıştır..

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kapsayıcı Büyüme, Normatif Kalkınma Politikası, Yapısal Uyum, Makroekonomik İstikrar, IMF Programları

6. Economic Growth, Human Capital, and Trade In Developing African Nations: Analysis Of Five High-Performance Countries

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Sustained economic growth remains a fundamental pillar for achieving long-term development, especially in African countries where deep-rooted structural constraints continue to hinder progress. This research examines the interplay between economic growth, human capital development and trade Dynamics in shaping developmental outcomes. The analysis highlights the critical importance of targeted investments in education and healthcare as drivers of economic resilience and enhanced trade competitiveness. Using a time series framework, the study employs the Facebook Prophet forecasting model to capture non-linear patterns, seasonal fluctuations and structural breaks in key economic and human capital variables. Prophet's adaptability to incomplete datasets and its ability to accommodate changing economic conditions make it a robust tool for projecting growth trajectories in rapidly evolving environments. The findings indicate that strengthening human capital significantly contributes

to deeper trade integration and broader economic expansion. These results support policy approaches that synchronize improvements in education and health systems with strategic trade policies to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. [1]

Keywords: Economic Growth, Facebook Prophet, Human Capital, Time Series Analysis, African Economies

7. The Nexus Between Economic Growth and Income Inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of Fiscal Policy in Achieving Inclusive Development

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Over the past three decades, the global economy has experienced substantial growth, but this growth has been unevenly distributed across regions and populations. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has seen

notable economic transformation since the late 1990s, with real GDP growth averaging around 4.3% between 1995 and 2009 and continuing at about 3.3% annually into the 2010s. This growth was fueled by improvements in macroeconomic stability, structural reforms, foreign direct investment, and expanding sectors such as telecommunications and banking. However, despite these positive trends, SSA's contribution to global GDP remains small, and the growth has not translated effectively into widespread poverty reduction or income equality. Income and wealth inequality in SSA remain profoundly high. The top 10% of income earners capture approximately 54–55% of total income, while the poorest 50% receive less than 10%. Wealth is even more concentrated, with the top 10% owning around 71% of wealth compared to roughly 1% held by the bottom 90%. This entrenched inequality persists despite some marginal improvements over the past four decades, highlighting how growth benefits have been disproportionately skewed towards the wealthy or particular sectors and regions.

The traditional Kuznets growth-inequality hypothesis posits an inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and inequality: as economies develop, inequality

initially rises due to structural shifts but eventually declines as growth becomes more widespread. Empirical analysis in SSA, however, reveals complexities not fully aligned with Kuznets' theory. Recent studies show a U-shaped relationship where economic growth initially reduces inequality in SSA, but beyond a certain threshold, inequality begins to rise again. This indicates that many SSA economies may still be on the downward slope of the Kuznets curve or experiencing a resurgence of inequality after initial improvements. Notably, factors such as weak institutions, limited legal frameworks for inclusiveness, and governance challenges undermine the equitable progression predicted by Kuznets. In addition, the failure of neoclassical supply-side "trickle-down" theories in SSA is evident, as economic growth at the top has not adequately translated into inclusive development or reduced poverty. These models fail to account for structural inequalities, institutional weaknesses, and sectoral imbalances that limit the diffusion of growth benefits. Instead, inclusive growth theories and pro-poor

development models emphasize the deliberate design of policies to ensure that economic gains reach marginalized populations directly.

Fiscal policy emerges as a crucial instrument in achieving inclusive development in SSA. Targeted public investments in education, health, skills, and technology development can build human capital essential for productive employment and participation in modern economic sectors. Social welfare subsidies and well-designed social protection enhance the safety nets for the poor, reducing vulnerability and facilitating economic inclusion. A well-structured progressive taxation system is key to resource mobilization and redistribution, addressing the common issue of regressive tax burdens in many SSA countries. Redirecting tax revenues towards pro-poor expenditures can foster equitable growth and reduce inequalities. This critique and empirical evidence underscore the necessity of moving beyond trickle-down approaches toward inclusive and pro-poor growth models in Sub-Saharan Africa, fully leveraging the role of targeted fiscal interventions to bridge inequality and promote broad-based development.

Hence, this study aims to empirically examine the role of economic growth in reducing inequality and poverty and explores how fiscal policy can effectively moderate the growth-distribution relationship to achieve inclusive development. Using panel data from 48 sub-Saharan African countries over the period 2000–2024, the analysis employs panel fixed effects, dynamic generalized method of moments (GMM), and quantile regression models. The primary findings reveal that economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa has been accompanied by widening income inequality and persistent poverty across models and over time. However, the interaction between economic growth and fiscal instruments, particularly taxation and public expenditure, emerges as a significant moderating mechanism in reducing poverty. This suggests that well-designed fiscal policy, especially pro-poor demand-side measures, can serve as an effective tool for fostering inclusive growth in the region. While some heterogeneity in effects is observed due to structural differences across countries, the results remain robust under multiple specifications and sensitivity tests. These findings provide timely and actionable policy

guidance for sub-Saharan African decision-makers, highlighting the need for tax base diversification, expanded pro-poor public spending, targeted social protection, countercyclical fiscal measures, strengthened fiscal transparency, deeper regional integration, increased sector-specific investment in job-creating industries such as agriculture and manufacturing, and the promotion of skills-enhancement programs linked to innovation, ensuring that economic growth translates into equitable and inclusive development.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Inequality, Fiscal Policy, Inclusive Development, Sub-Saharan Africa

8. Inclusive Growth and Normative Development Policies in Africa

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Kapsayıcı büyüme kavramı genel olarak ekonomik büyüme, ekonomik özgürlük ve fırsat eşitliği kavramlarının bir aradalığına işaret eder. İnsanın bedensel ve ruhsal iyi olma hali olarak kabul edilen esenlik uzun vadede ekonomik büyümenin bir hedefi olarak kabul edilir. Dolayısıyla ekonomik kalkınma teknik ve nitel hedeflerinin ötesinde ekonomik çıktılar açısından değerlendirilmenin ötesinde normatif bir içerik kazanır ve toplumsal ve etik yönleriyle birlikte ele alınır. Bu makalede Afrikada sömürgecilik sonrası gelişmeler ışığında ekonomi politikalarını ele alarak, Afrikada görülen uygulama sorunlarına dikkat çekeceğiz. Uzun dönemde baktığımızda toplumsal ve siyasal maliyetler eşitsizlik ve yoksulluğun derinleşmesi, yerel endüstrilerin ithal ürünlerin istilasına altında çözülmesi, eğitim ve sağlık hizmetlerine erişimin düşüşü ve giderek gıda ve su güvenliğinin tehdit altında kalması gibi. Bu makalede Amarta Sen'in insan esenliğini milli gelirin üstünde bir ekonomik hedef olarak gören kapsayıcı büyüme kavramı doğrultusunda Afrikada teknokrasi ve demokratik meşruiyet sorunu, kapsayıcılığın ölçülmesi ele alınarak sonuç ve politika önerilerine geçilecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kapsayıcı Büyüme, Normatif Kalkınma Politikası, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Ekonomik Kapsayıcılık, Yetkinlikler Yaklaşımı

9. Assessing the Impacts of Digital Impacts of Digital Finance Services on Financial Inclusion in the Americas

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This research aims to examine the diverse effects that Digital Financial Services (DFS) exerts on promoting Financial Inclusion (FI) in the Americas. Indeed, we fill the gaps explored from the literature, such as a lack of studies for both American regions, the use of classical probit

and logit models by most existing studies, and the lack of employing interaction terms. This research's primary objectives are to determine how DFS impacts FI in the region, examine which socio-economic factors significantly influence FI, and explore the interactive impacts of DFS with socio-demographic attributes on FI. This research extracted its dataset from the Global Findex database 2021, and it employs classical Probit and Logit models alongside supervised machine learning models to enhance robustness and prediction accuracy. The finding shows the statistical significance of age, female, education, employment, mobile ownership, internet access, any digital payment, and the richest income quintile coefficients of marginal effects of the probit and logit models. In contrast, the second to fourth income quintiles and the interaction term are not statistically significant. Nonetheless, there is an exception to the interactive variables, where female and digital payments have a negative coefficient in our probit model. The contributions of this study added to the established body of literature, theoretical enrichment of FI models like TAM, as confirmed by the influence of the

anydigpayment attribute in enhancing FI. Novelty in methodology, where we integrated random forest(RF) and XGBoost(XGB) models with classical regressions, because RF and XGB provide more accurate predictions by uncovering non-linear dynamics and interactions among variables. With the help of SHAP value, we demonstrated how ML outperforms classical models by ranking the most critical features and their directional effect on FI using a bar chart and a beeswarm plot, respectively.

10. From Aid to Autonomy: Rethinking Structural Dependency in Sustainable African Digital Development

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The rapid digitalisation of governance systems across Africa has been propelled in large part by foreign aid and donor-driven initiatives. However, recent global aid cuts exacerbated by shifting geopolitical priorities, economic crises, and post-pandemic retrenchment have disrupted these efforts, revealing deep structural vulnerabilities in many African states, particularly at the local government level. This paper thus comparatively examines how the withdrawal of USAID support affects specific digitalisation projects/programmes in different African countries, with a specific focus on the USAID Ubora Mashinani program (Kenya) and Governance for Local Development (GoLD) / GoLD+ (Senegal). Framed through the lenses of dependency theory and world-systems theory, the study situates the donor-recipient relationship within a broader historical and economic structure that reinforces technological dependence and peripheral positioning in the global digital economy. By analysing empirical cases in sub-Saharan Africa, the paper explores the cascading effects of aid cuts on the achievement of

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). Ultimately, the paper argues that Africa's digital future must be reimagined through regional and locally supported strategies that reduce reliance on external actors and build resilient institutions from the ground up. Keywords: African Digitalisation, Aid Dependency, USAID, Sustainable Development, Donor Relations

11. Digitalization and Economic Development in Namibia

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Digital transformation is reshaping the global economy, with digitalisation now central to policy discussions aimed at enhancing productivity and contributing to economic development. Both empirical and theoretical perspectives highlight that digitalisation has negative and

positive impacts on national income and employment creation. Africa Agenda 2063 and SDGs 8 & 9 place digitalisation at the core of economic diversification and sustainable economic development. Therefore, developing countries like Namibia have incorporated digitalisation and ICT in their National Development Plans. Despite policy interventions Namibia continues to face high income inequality, unemployment, poverty, and skill mismatches. This study examines the impact of digitalisation on economic development in Namibia. The study used the Autoregressive Distributed Lag model to estimate the effects of digitalisation on economic development using employment and national income as proxies of economic development. A digitalisation index was formulated using the Principal Component Analysis using mobile cellular subscriptions, fixed telephone subscriptions and individuals using internet as a percentage of population. The analysis covers the period from 1990 to 2022. The findings demonstrate that digitalisation has a positive and statistically significant impact on national income in the long run, however, the impact is negative in the short run. Education and

institutional quality have a negative and statistically significant impact on national income. While gross fixed capital formation and gross domestic savings have a significant and positive impact on national income. In terms of employment, digitalisation has a positive and statistically significant effect on employment creation; however, in the short run impact the impact is negative. Institutional quality is found to be detrimental to employment creation in the long run; however gross fixed capital formation has a positive and statistically significant effect on employment. In the short run education and gross fixed capital formation have a positive impact. The results highlight the need to align short-term interventions to long-term development goals. The findings support the goals for NDP 5 and 6, Agenda 63 and SDG 8&9 by highlighting the importance of digital infrastructure and investment in ICT for sustainable development. The study recommends the realignment of education system to upskill labour force with current market demand. Furthermore, it recommends reform in institutional

frameworks that discourage investment and create a conducive environment for increased development.

Keywords: digitalisation, gross national income, employment, SDGs

12. The Impact of Digital Transformation in Banks on Achieving Sustainable Development

Goals: An Analytical Study of the Algerian Banking Sector

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Digital transformation has become a central driver of innovation and efficiency in the global banking industry. As Algerian banks increasingly adopt digital technologies to modernize their services, fundamental questions arise regarding the extent to which these transformations

contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within this context, the study is guided by the following central research question: To what extent does digital transformation in Algerian banks contribute to the realization of sustainable development objectives?

This research aims to analyze the relationship between the digitalization of banking services in Algeria and progress toward sustainable development, focusing on three core dimensions: financial inclusion, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.

The study employs a descriptive-analytical methodology to examine prevailing digital practices within Algerian banks, assess their role in promoting green finance and inclusive banking, and evaluate institutional awareness of sustainability requirements.

The research relies on primary data collected through surveys and in-depth interviews with banking professionals, complemented by secondary data drawn from official reports and academic literature.

The findings are expected to shed light on the opportunities and challenges associated with aligning digital transformation with the imperatives of sustainable development in the Algerian banking sector. Based on these insights, the study will offer policy recommendations for decision-makers and financial institutions to support this strategic transition.

Keywords: Digital Transformation, Sustainable Development, financial inclusion, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.

13. Geospatial Network Analysis of Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility Experiences in Africa

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Infrastructure networks and ease of mobility constitute fundamental pillars of modern economic systems, facilitating trade flows, labor movement, and knowledge transfer that drive growth and development. The quality and extent of transportation infrastructure determine transaction costs, market access, and the ability of economies to integrate into global value chains. Contemporary economic performance requires robust connectivity, leaving regions with inadequate infrastructure at a disadvantage in attracting investment and fostering trade. Despite the African continent's vast territorial expanse, diverse political systems, vibrant young populations, and abundant natural resources, infrastructure deficits remain a persistent constraint on economic integration and development.

This study examines Africa's physical infrastructure connectivity through network analysis that maps the continent's highway, railway, and air transportation networks, complemented by Afrobarometer survey data that captures citizens' experiences and perceptions of cross-border movement.

The findings show that a substantial proportion of survey participants report significant obstacles in cross-border travel. Corruption, road quality, internet access restrictions, and income levels emerge as primary factors that contribute to these mobility challenges. The network analysis demonstrates considerable variation in infrastructure density and quality across different regions, with notable disparities in connectivity infrastructure.

The study concludes that meaningful regional integration requires substantial infrastructure investment and the removal of mobility barriers, which constitute fundamental prerequisites for African economic integration and sustainable development. These findings provide empirical foundations for policy interventions aimed at enhancing intra-African trade and mobility.

14. A Historical Analysis of Ghana's Economic System: A Post-Colonial View

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The yield spread is known to have a good predictive ability of economic activity. In about the Fall of 2023, a Deutsche Bank comparative study revealed that in the U.S., four of the macro triggers that were most commonly associated with recession became imminent. Using monthly data from January 2020 to September 2023, we attempted to study this system of variables relative to the yield curve. Among other things, we found that the counter-cyclical monetary policy model, which states that the yield curve moves in the direction of monetary policy, was relatively more pronounced, which was characteristic of the immediate post-COVID monetary policy path. However, this was short-lived, as the yield spread responded negatively only in the first three months and normalized thereafter. If a “technical recession” is referred to as an overall decline in economic activity for two to three quarters, contrary to the Deutsche Bank research, we subsequently inferred that an imminent recession was less likely.

Key Words: Yield curve, U.S., Recession, Deutsche Bank, Macro Triggers

JEL: C32, E43, G12, N12

15. South Africa's Inclusive Growth Strategies: Performance Assessment with Socio-Economic Indicators

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This study analyzes inclusive growth performance across the African continent, particularly comparing its policies with those of South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North Africa. The study analyzes subcomponents of the Human Development Index (HDI) and socio-economic indicators such as the Gender Development Index (GDI), as well as levels of inclusiveness in the context of governance, energy policies, social assistance, and education investments. An analysis of indicators from the post-2000 period reveals that South Africa has achieved

inclusive growth performance above regional averages thanks to its depth of social policies, institutional capacity, and direct interventions aimed at reducing inequalities. In this context, the study not only highlights cross-country differences but also opens the door to the applicability of South Africa's exemplary policies to Sub-Saharan Africa. The study aims to provide a regional comparative perspective and make a unique contribution to the literature by integrating the relationship between economic growth and social inclusion within an institutional policy framework.

Keywords: Inclusive Growth, South Africa, Sub-Saharan African Countries, Economic Growth, Sustainable Development

16. Testing for the Structure-Conduct-Performance-Hypothesis in the Context of Banks' Profitability in The Gambia

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Widely accepted fact showcasing the banking industry plays a pivotal role in any given economic development, which has ignited conversations about the growth and stability of banks within academic, policymaking, research, and economic circles. The study assesses two opposing hypotheses, the Structure-Conduct Performance Hypothesis and the Efficiency Structure Hypothesis in the banking industry of The Gambia. Six banks were used in the studies because of their long existence and availability of the data. Financial and income statements of each bank were used to compute the financial indicators ratios, which were requested from the Central Bank of the Gambia. Quarterly data was provided spanning from 2008q1 to 2022q4. Pre-estimation tests were conducted to analyze our data, including descriptive statistics, cross-

sectional dependency, slope homogeneity, and unit root test. Pre-estimated tests enabled us to employ both static and dynamic models, comprising the Fixed Effect Model, Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS) and Dynamic Ordinary Least Squares (DOLS). Using two dependent variables, ROE and NIM; whereas Concentration ratio and Market Share are our main focus independent variables and a vector of control variables of EAR, LDR, BS, and banks type. The findings support the efficiency structure hypothesis, which demonstrates a positive and significant value across all models. On the other hand, there was not enough evidence to support the Structure-Conduct Performance Hypothesis during our study. Therefore, we conclude that there is no evidence of collusion in banking industry of The Gambia. Furthermore, all the control variables were found to be positive and significantly contributed to the bank performance. The study also found the dummy variable bank type to be significant. The conventional banks dominate the banking industry's market share in terms of profitability, liquidity and capital adequacy; however, the Islamic bank demonstrated to be more efficiency

and less risky than their counterpart. This study suggests that policymakers should focus on policies and strategies to promote efficiency and fair competition in the banking industry; and regulators should design policies that are tailored to fit each bank type operations and investment opportunities in the sector of The Gambia.

Keywords: Concentration, Market share, Structure-Conduct-Performance and Efficiency Structure hypotheses.

17. Determinants of Microfinance Credit Demand in Ethiopia's North Wollo Zone: Implications for Rural Sustainable Development

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Despite microfinance institutions (MFIs) expanding across Ethiopia, the socio-economic and institutional drivers of rural credit demand particularly the divergence between demand likelihood and credit intensity remain poorly understood, hindering progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty) and 8 (Decent Work). Addressing methodological limitations in prior studies, this mixed-methods research employs the Heckman Two-Stage model to analyze data from 369 households, focus-group discussions,

and key informant interviews in North Wollo, Ethiopia. The results reveal that 65.8% of sampled households demanded credit, alongside counterintuitive trends: male-headed and married households with high dependency ratios are more likely to seek credit (SDG 1), yet larger families and socially connected households borrow smaller amounts, reflecting risk aversion and reliance on informal safety nets. Education amplifies credit intensity (SDG 8), while perceptions of short repayment periods suppress demand. Paradoxically, off-farm work reduces credit demand but increases loan amounts, highlighting diverse livelihood strategies. These findings underscore systemic inequities, as rigid MFI products fail to align with household realities, disproportionately excluding women and low-income groups (SDG 5: Gender Equality). MFIs should adopt flexible repayment schedules, gender-sensitive lending practices, and partnerships with social organizations to bridge demand-supply gaps. By contextualizing credit systems within rural socio-economic dynamics, this work advances

actionable pathways for inclusive financial policies, urging future research to address urban-rural disparities.

Keywords: Credit demand, Microfinance, Heckman Two-Stage, Ethiopia, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

18. Analyzing Wealth Inequality in Turkey: The Effects of Monetary Policies and Financial Inclusion

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This study investigates the effects of monetary policies on wealth inequality in Turkey, emphasizing the role of financial access and socio-economic disparities. Wealth inequality,

characterized by the unequal distribution of assets, financial resources, and opportunities, undermines social cohesion and limits economic mobility. Recent monetary policies in Turkey, such as negative real interest rates, credit expansion, and the Currency-Protected Deposit Scheme, have disproportionately advantaged individuals with access to financial systems, allowing them to benefit from asset protection and high returns. In contrast, financially excluded individuals have faced increasing economic vulnerabilities, including rising living costs and eroding real wealth.

The research highlights how cultural and religious factors, particularly the avoidance of interest-based financial instruments, further restrict financial inclusion. Using quantitative methods, this study examines the mechanisms through which monetary policies deepen wealth inequality by favoring high-income groups and marginalizing those with limited financial access. By exploring the intersection of monetary policies, financial systems, and socio-cultural factors, the study provides valuable insights into the dynamics of wealth inequality in Turkey.

The findings stress the urgency of developing inclusive financial frameworks and equitable monetary policies to mitigate wealth disparities. Policymakers must prioritize financial literacy, access to diverse financial instruments, and culturally sensitive solutions to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Keywords: Wealth Inequality, Monetary Policies, Financial Access, Financial Inclusion, Socio-Economic Disparities

19. Economic and Institutional Drivers of Social Welfare Expenditure in Emerging Economies

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This research examines the economic and institutional factors influencing public social welfare spending in eight emerging countries—Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Korea, Romania, Poland, and Turkey—over the period from 2010 to 2023. By employing a fixed effects panel regression model with robust standard errors, we assess how employment rates, government consumption, GDP per capita, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and control of corruption affect levels of social spending. The findings indicate that higher employment rates and enhanced government effectiveness are significantly linked to reduced welfare expenditure, implying that better labor market conditions and administrative competence may lessen the necessity for extensive social support. Conversely, increased government consumption, elevated GDP per capita, stronger regulatory quality, and improved control of corruption show a positive relationship with social welfare expenditure, highlighting that both economic capacity and institutional integrity are vital in increasing public investment in social programs.

These results emphasize the need to align macroeconomic policies with institutional reforms to maximize the scale and effectiveness of social welfare spending in emerging economies.

Keywords: Social welfare expenditure, institutional quality, emerging economies, panel data analysis

20. Lessons From Türkiye's Health System Reforms (2003-2013) In the Way of Achieving Universal Sustainable Healthcare Delivery”

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Türkiye has implemented a comprehensive health system reform after 2000s, which focuses on strengthening the overall capacity of the healthcare delivery together with consolidating the social health insurance schemes in the healthcare financing. In 2003, Türkiye initiated a large-scale ten-year-long Health Transformation Program 2003-2013 (HTP, Sağlıkta Dönüşüm

Programı) in line with the World Health Organization's 'Health for All in the 21st Century' policy. The broad objectives of the health policies introduced through the health system reform program include achieving universal health coverage (UHC), improving access to healthcare services, enhancing efficiency with better service quality, and reducing health inequalities. In pursuit of these goals, the HTP reforms revised every component of the country's health system simultaneously, which has radically changed all the dynamics of the national healthcare environment.

From 2003 onwards, Türkiye's health system has transformed to achieve universal health coverage, resulting in increased availability and universal access to healthcare. The Ministry of Health (MoH) implemented the health reforms with an approach that incorporates all national health-related resources, including the private sector, into the health system, while also implementing strong government regulation and planning practices. Türkiye's health system has achieved universal health coverage by consolidating its socially funded health insurance

system to finance healthcare, while encouraging private sector involvement and competitive policies in healthcare delivery. This approach has helped to, even in the early stages of the reform program, a significant increase in the overall capacity of the Turkish health system and notable improvements in main health outcomes in a relatively short period. The reforms have resulted in improved universal access to healthcare, health outcomes, and financial protection of citizens, despite relatively lower levels of the country's health expenditure. During the HTP reform program, social health insurance schemes were consolidated and extended to cover everyone. Progress towards universal health insurance coverage of the population through mandatory social health insurance and increased availability of healthcare delivery resources resulted in greater accessibility to healthcare.

Through multidimensional comprehensive health reforms under the Health Transformation Program (2003-2013), remarkable progress has been made in ensuring better access to healthcare and financial protection. Although Türkiye has made appreciable progress in its

health system reforms, challenges can still remain in the way of providing equal access to sustainable quality healthcare. This policy-oriented article aims to review and assess the achievements of the reform program during the pre- and post-reform periods in order to draw policy lessons and able to identify health policy areas that still need further attention.

When Türkiye's HTP reforms were completed in 2013, successful progress in the transformed Turkish health system was made in the availability and access to health services with better coverage and financial protection for everyone, but the continuity of the monitoring and design process of health policies is required for the strengthening and continuation of the gains. The notable progress in universal health coverage until the 2010s has stalled in the years following the reform program. The lack of further improvement in the post-reforms years serves as a warning. For this, it is essential to continuously monitor and assess the current situation and progress in universal health coverage in the country's health system.

From a policy perspective, the article offers insightful discussions and lessons about health systems and health policy design, highlighting areas for further improvement and challenges. The analyses are rooted in Türkiye's specific country experience, but the conceptual ideas and policy implications extend beyond national borders. They provide valuable insights into critical issues in health policies that can offer lessons to any national health system around the world.

Keywords: Universal health coverage, SDG 3, Türkiye's health system, Health transformation program (HTP, 2003-13)

21. Are Proxies of Balassa-Samuelson Effect Robust? Evidence from Developing Countries

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Exchange rate movements have started achieving a pivotal role in shaping economic expectations of a common man in today's world. These variations which once used to be regular oscillations between currencies in the world market have gradually become the real drivers of change of the macroeconomic fundamentals in every economy. On the one hand, the daily changes in these rates impact the consumption and investment decisions of the individuals while their deviation from a perceived rather calculated normal steers action from the governments on the other, in order to control other connected macroeconomic indicators including inflation, investment, exports, imports etc. The evidence suggests that no matter how deviated these the real exchange rates between two countries may be, there exist tacit drivers that pull them back to converge to a similar pattern over time to the least. Despite evidence on convergence of real exchange rates, the studies that aim to investigate the determinants of equilibrium exchange rate find scant or at least inconclusive evidence in favour of Balassa Samuelson hypothesis (and hence purchasing power parity) as being a determinant of real exchange rate (or equilibrium

real exchange rate). The study investigates using broader evidence (and not a country specific case) that the convergence of real exchange rates between different countries emanates from the law of one price. This requires first, finding a relationship between real exchange rates and Balassa Samuelson proxies and next between different proxies of BS and the relative sectoral productivities and in turn the price ratios of tradable to non-tradable goods. Evidence suggests that the higher relative price of non-tradables in the catching up economy leads to appreciation of its real exchange rate. Hence, this helps us establish the robust proxy(ies) for BS that reiterate the existence of BS hypothesis. Our sample includes six developing countries from different parts of the world namely, Pakistan, Turkiye, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand while the data pertaining to period 1981-2024 is used for evaluation and analysis. Evaluation uses panel data analysis techniques along with relatively new CS-DL (Cross Sectional Distributed Lag) approach. The results will help us determine the the robust proxies of BS effect hence

Equilibrium real exchange rate. This in turn ensures precise calculation of REER misalignment, a key information for most policies pertaining to exchange rates.

Keywords: Exchange Rates, Balassa Samuelson, REER, EREER, misalignment

22. AFRICAN REGIONALISM: SUBREGIONAL POWER SHIFTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON AFRICAN UNION INTEGRATION

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This paper addresses the persistent gap between the African Union's (AU) ambitious goal of deep regional integration and its limited progress. While much scholarship attributes this stagnation to institutional weaknesses, structural constraints, and cultural heterogeneity, often

in comparison with the European Union, this study identifies a neglected dimension: the impact of subregional power shifts on continental integration. Using a neorealist framework, particularly Waltz's balance of power [1] and Mearsheimer's offensive realism [2], it argues that instability within the AU's eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) undermines cohesion at the continental level. The analysis draws on updated 2024 GDP per capita and military expenditure data from the World Bank [5] and SIPRI [4], alongside alliance patterns within four politically and economically significant RECs: the Arab Maghreb Union, East African Community, Southern African Development Community, and Economic Community of West African States. Findings show that recurring rivalries such as those between Algeria and Morocco, Kenya, Rwanda and the DRC, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Angola, and Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire generate multipolar instability at the subregional level, which then spills over into AU decision-making. Without stronger subregional integration and a widely accepted regional hegemon, the AU's supranational ambitions will remain aspirational. This

paper reframes the integration debate by foregrounding power politics as a decisive but underexplored factor.

Keywords: Regionalism, Regional Order, Neorealism, African Union, Balance of Power

23. Abdul DEMOCRATIZATION, INEQUALITY, AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA:
EVIDENCE FROM A LONGITUDINAL SURVEY

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A more democratic political system is anticipated to pave ways for greater just and fair society with little or no internal violent tendencies and criminal vices. Some scholars have demonstrated that there may be a complex relationship between state's transition to a more democratic political environment and equitable distribution of resources as well as maintaining peaceful and violent free society that can guarantee meaningful and sustainable economic development. Nevertheless, it is widely believed that democracies empower citizens to participate in decision-making through formulation of policies that address inequality, social justice, and conducive environment devoid of internal conflicts that enhance economic prosperity.

The search for social justice, fairness and equitable distribution of resources, violent free society, and overall economic growth and development under the democratic dispensation in Nigeria, can only be realized by ensuring existence and adherence to democratic principles. There are concerns that deviation from or failure to adhere to rudiments of democratic

governance can lead to a wide income and wealth disparities in an economy, which in turn may lead to disruptions of laws and orders by increasing the rate of criminal activities and chaos. Against this backdrop, the study intends to examine how some of the fundamentals of democratic governance in Nigeria influence socioeconomic outcomes. Specifically, the study will be underpinned to:

- i. Examine the effect of the conduct of electoral process on socioeconomic outcomes in Nigeria.
- ii. Ascertain how the extent of democracy affects socioeconomic outcomes in Nigeria.
- iii. Determine the effect of government effort towards curbing inequality on internal security in the country.

The paper will use longitudinal data from Afro barometer dataset consisting of 8 waves (wave 2 to wave 9). The overall dataset consists of over 17,000 respondents drawn across the 6 geopolitical zones of the country and a cluster sampling strategy was used in collecting the data.

Conversely, the paper will adopt appropriate discrete choice logistic models to achieve its preoccupation.

Findings from the study will form part of crucial policy documents for measuring the performance of democratic governance in Nigeria towards realisation of yearnings and aspirations of Nigerian electorates in general as well as measure government efforts towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country with particular emphasis on reducing inequality in Nigeria; provide a reference document to think-tanks among researchers and institutions of learning in the country at large; and contribute to the body of knowledge by providing a paradigm shift in debate and public discussion on democratization and socioeconomic outcomes in the country.

Key Words: Democratization, Inequality, Internal Security, Sustainable Development Goals

24. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDS OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN THE
FIELD OF INVESTIGATIONS, CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, AND PROTECTIVE
MEASURES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

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This study examined the implementation of the standards of the Istanbul Convention in the field of investigations, criminal prosecution, and protective measures in the Republic of Kosovo. Over a 12-month period, the research combined analysis of legal and strategic documents with semi-structured interviews conducted with key stakeholders from the justice system and law enforcement agencies. The findings indicate that, although Kosovo has undertaken significant steps through the adoption of national laws and strategies, the level of compliance with the standards of the Convention remains partial and often formal. Deficiencies were identified in the rapid and proportional response of judicial and prosecutorial institutions, as well as in the effectiveness of mechanisms for enforcing protective measures. Nevertheless, the research highlighted positive practices in inter-institutional cooperation and the growing professional awareness of the obligations arising from the Convention. The study concludes that full compliance requires strengthening institutional capacities, further harmonization of legislation, and continuous monitoring of the implementation of measures. The findings contribute to the

enrichment of the scientific and policy debate in Kosovo by providing concrete recommendations for the improvement of national policies and adherence to international human rights standards.

Keywords: Istanbul Convention, violence against women, domestic violence, criminal procedure, protective measures, legal compliance.

25. IMPLEMENTING TAX POLICIES THROUGH COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

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This article examines the use of arbitration in international contracts as a mechanism for resolving disputes related to indirect taxes, including value-added tax (VAT), excise duties, and customs duties. The possibility of referring such disputes to arbitration facilitates global

business, as national courts are often overloaded with cases, leading to delays that may last for years and result in significant losses of public revenues. By presenting the role of commercial arbitration in tax-related disputes, particularly in an international context, this article emphasizes arbitration as a tool to balance conflicting interests between states and private parties. A special focus is given to situations where foreign investors challenge state tax policies before arbitral tribunals, especially within the framework of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). In such cases, arbitration becomes relevant when tax measures are perceived as discriminatory or inconsistent with bilateral investment treaties (BITs) that protect foreign investments. The article concludes that arbitration provides a rapid, professional, and efficient alternative for dispute resolution in the fiscal domain. It highlights the importance of integrating arbitration into tax-related matters as a means of safeguarding both state interests and investor rights, thereby enhancing legal certainty, protecting revenues, and supporting international economic cooperation.

Keyword: Arbitration, Tax Disputes, Indirect Taxes, International Investment, BITs.

26. Protecting Rights in Africa: The Interplay Between the African Court and Commission

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This essay critically examines the role of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) in advancing human rights across the continent, with particular emphasis on their mandates, functions, and interrelationship. The Court, established under the Protocol to the African Charter, exercises both contentious and advisory jurisdiction, delivers legally binding judgments, and provides reparations, while facing challenges of state non-compliance. The Commission, created by the African Charter, serves as a quasi-judicial body with promotional, protective, interpretive, and monitoring functions, including state reporting and fact-finding

missions. The essay highlights six areas of interaction between the Court and Commission which are referral of cases, interpretive synergy, complementarity of mandates, shared political and institutional challenges, collaborative promotional initiatives, and joint follow-up on implementation further demonstrating how the two institutions collectively strengthen the African human rights system despite persistent limitations. Furthermore, it explores the protection of children's rights through their cooperation with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), illustrated by landmark cases such as APDF & IHRDA v. Mali and SERAP v. Nigeria. The analysis concludes that while institutional, political, and enforcement challenges remain, the complementary relationship of the Court and Commission, alongside their collaboration with the ACERWC, provides a vital framework for the promotion and protection of human and children's rights in Africa.

27. Caught in the Crossfire: Livelihood, Employment and Forced Displacement in Nigeria

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Forced displacement due to Boko Haram conflict poses a significant shock to livelihood opportunities with far reaching implications of claiming lives and properties in Nigeria. Considering gender differences, we assess the outcomes for individuals displaced by Boko Haram conflict in terms of livelihood opportunities and labour market. We use the World Bank data on the profile of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North-East Nigeria 2018. Our logistic and Probability score matching (PSM) results suggest that female who are forcibly displaced are more likely to be self-employed in non-farm activities. Our result indicates different patterns for both males and females. We reveal a trend for male farm employment,

where forced displacement exerts negative impact, resulting in substantial reduction in the likelihood of self-employment in farm activities. Despite the cost of displacement on livelihood opportunities, we find no discernible impact on labour force participation for both IDPs and hosts. The overall costs of forced displacement are modest. Therefore, we conclude that forced displacement has discernible impact on livelihood opportunities for male than female with no impact on labour force participation for IDPs. Our finding underscores the critical role of informality as a buffer against forced displacement shocks in conflict-affected regions.

28. THE EDUCATION SPENDING PARADOX: CROSS-SECTIONAL EVIDENCE AND DYNAMIC ANALYSIS FOR MENA AND AFRICAN ECONOMIES

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This study investigates the complex relationship between education spending and economic productivity across 164 countries from 1988 to 2023, with a detailed focus on 38 Mena and Sub-Saharan African economies. Using a novel productivity measure (verim) that captures a country's relative economic efficiency, we first establish a stylized fact: a consistent, negative correlation between education spending as a percentage of government expenditure and short-term productivity. To unpack this finding, we employ Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) and Nonlinear ARDL (NARDL) methodologies. The dynamic analysis reveals that while short-term productivity trade-offs are common, the long-run effects are highly heterogeneous and often asymmetric. Many Mena and African countries show positive long-run productivity gains from increased education spending, but the response to spending increases often differs significantly from the response to cuts. Our findings suggest that policymakers must manage immediate productivity costs while fostering long-term human capital growth, emphasizing the need for stable, context-specific education investment strategies.

Keywords: Education Spending, Economic Productivity, ARDL, NARDL, Human Capital, Mena and African Economies

29. Job Polarization in the Turkish Labor Market: Routine-Biased Technological Change(RBTC)

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Title: Job Polarization in the Turkish Labor Market: Routine-biased Technological Change (RBTC).

The global acceleration of technological innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence and machine learning, presents a paradigm shift for labor markets worldwide. While enhancing productivity, these advancements simultaneously challenge the demand for human labor across

various occupations, often displacing roles characterized by routine tasks. This study investigates the impact of routine-biased technological change (RBTC) on employment structures in Türkiye, a developing yet technologically dynamic economy.

Extending the seminal work of Autor et al. (2003) and the empirical models of Goos et al. (2014) beyond developed economies, we analyze whether technological adoption has driven job polarization—the simultaneous growth of high- and low-skilled jobs at the expense of middle-skilled occupations—in Türkiye. Utilizing microdata from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Household Labor Force Survey and complementary secondary data from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye from 2009 to 2022, we construct a longitudinal dataset for the prime-age labor force (15-60 years). Our modified linear model regresses labor demand (measured by working hours) on key variables, including average occupational wages, a Routine Task Intensity (RTI) index, and industrial controls for marginal cost and production.

The findings confirm that job polarization is a evident phenomenon in the Turkish labor market. Mirroring patterns observed in developed nations and other major emerging economies like China (Chen et al., 2021) and Mexico (Medina & Posso, 2010), employment growth has been strongest in high-skill cognitive and low-skill manual service occupations, while medium-skill routine-intensive jobs have declined. However, our results also align with evidence from Daş (2021), suggesting that the polarization trend in Türkiye may not yet be as pronounced as in advanced economies, potentially due to differences in the pace of technological diffusion and industrial composition.

This research provides critical empirical evidence that developing countries integrated into global high-tech value chains are not immune to RBTC-driven polarization. For policymakers in Türkiye and the broader Global South, these findings underscore the urgent need to design forward-looking education, vocational training, and social protection policies that mitigate the risks of polarization and harness technology for inclusive growth.

Keywords: Job Polarization, Routine-Biased Technological Change (RBTC), Technological Adoption, Labor Market, Türkiye, Developing Economies.

30. Women, Climate Conflict and Environmental Peacebuilding: Lessons from the Niger Delta

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The resource-rich Niger Delta is home to crude oil, which is the major export source accounting for over eighty per cent of Nigeria's revenue, but remains one of the most environmentally

polluted and conflict zones in sub-Saharan Africa. Against this backdrop, this paper examines the intersection of gender, climate-induced conflict, and environmental peacebuilding in the region, with a focus on the contributions of women to sustainable development and conflict transformation. Using data from secondary sources and field reports, the study's findings revealed that far from being passive victims, women in the Niger Delta are active agents who mobilise creativity, respond to environmental and livelihood challenges, and also shape peacebuilding processes. This role notwithstanding, they are often excluded from participating in formal decision-making processes. This study underscores the need for a genuinely gender-responsive approach that integrates women's knowledge systems, leadership roles, and lived experiences into the broader frameworks of environmental and climate governance. The study further revealed that ensuring women's participation in climate policy and action is essential for fostering a more resilient and equal society. It is in this regard that it is recommended that policy efforts must prioritise the empowerment of women and also focus on institutional reforms that

promote gender equity in environmental policymaking and collaborative partnerships among civil society, government actors, and international development stakeholders.

Keywords: Climate change, Conflict, Environmental peacebuilding, Women, Niger Delta

31. Impact of climate change and variability on cattle production in yabello woreda Oromia region
Ethiopia

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Climate change poses significant threats to agricultural economies, particularly in pastoral communities dependent on cattle production. This study examines the impacts of climate change and variability on cattle production in Yabello Woreda, Borena Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia, and identifies adaptation strategies employed by local pastoralists. Total out of 15,810

household heads residing in the three kebeles of the woreda, 123 households were selected using systematic random sampling method. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected using semi-structured questionnaire, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 20). The findings of the study showed that for the period from 1993 to 2022, average annual rainfall has decreased 2.5 mm per year (80 mm total for last thirty years) and while both average annual minimum temperature and average annual temperature have increased $+0.35^{\circ}\text{C}$ per decade ($+1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ last thirty years). The majority of respondents (97.6%) perceived that the rainfall amount received is decreasing while temperature is increasing posing high heat stress in some years, affecting cattle production and productivity. As observed from focus group discussions and key informant interviews, the frequency of dry/drought years has increased from decade to decade. They noted the drought spell that occurred at ten years interval in the past is now happening at 5-year

interval. Indications of climate change in the study area include decreased cattle production, reduced rainfall, and limited water availability, leading pastoralists to face climate-related challenges such as reduced availability and quality of feed and water, increased risks of animal diseases, and reduced animal performance. It is recommended that the establishment of structured Climate-smart pastoralism is key. Strengthen early warning systems, promote mobile grazing, drought-resistant feed, and water capture. Boost resilience through community networks, diversified livestock, and insurance programs

Keywords: Adaptation Strategies, Agro-pastoralists, Climate Change, Cattle Production and Pastoralists.

32. Enhancing Lake Victoria's Sardine Value Chain in Tanzania: A Collaborative and Inclusive Business Model

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Tanzania's Lake Victoria sardine (dagaa) industry, contributing 71.2% of fish landings and US\$227.7 million annually, supports over 800,000 livelihoods but is hindered by inefficiencies, income inequality (Gini 0.61), and 53.6% post-harvest losses. This study proposes an inclusive business model to enhance marketing, value addition, and equitable benefit distribution. Employing a mixed-methods approach in Mwanza, Mara, and Kagera, guided by stakeholder theory and the Structure-Conduct-Performance framework, data from 546 respondents, 18 interviews, 12 focus groups, and 12 landing site observations highlight trader dominance (60.2%), poor market access, and consumer preferences for fresh (78%) and sun-dried sardines (65%). The model integrates cooperatives, solar dryers, market linkage platforms, gender-inclusive training, and institutional partnerships, projecting a 40% reduction in losses and a 20% decrease in inequality. Key recommendations include cooperative formation, adoption of

modern processing technologies, and policy support for subsidies and legislation, aligning with SDGs 1, 5, 8, and 17. This stakeholder-driven approach addresses market inefficiencies and promotes sustainable development in Tanzania's sardine value chain, offering a scalable model for regional fisheries.

Keywords: Inclusive business model, Lake Victoria, sardine value chain, stakeholder collaboration, market inefficiencies

33. Capital Budgeting and Construction Economics under Uncertainty

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Capital budgeting in construction projects is a complex decision due to several factors affecting economic decisions and uncertainty. In this paper, an advanced performance-driven capital

budgeting optimization model for construction economics is utilized, considering cost, value, and risks in the construction industry using fuzzy linguistic terms. A novel model is presented, and an illustrative construction case is given. Finally, a decision-making support and business analytics system for managing capital budgeting problems is provided. The results can be further used in multi-project construction projects where construction managers need an efficient integrated system to handle performance measurement and capital budgeting issues. The proposed approach yields the optimal results.

Keywords: Economics, Uncertainty, Fuzzy logic, construction projects, Business analytics, capital budgeting

34. THE INTERDEPENDENCE AND COINTEGRATION OF STOCK MARKETS: EVIDENCE FROM JAPAN, INDIA, AND THE USA

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In a rapidly globalizing world, understanding the relationships between major stock markets is of paramount importance for investors and economists. This study explores the interdependence and cointegration of stock markets in Japan, India, and the USA, and explores the dynamics of global financial markets as well as the survival of a long-term and short-term link between these three indices. These leading stock markets were selected because of the researchers' desire to learn more about the connections between them. From April 2012 through March 2024, we used monthly data from three major stock market indices: the NIKKEI (Japan), the BSE SENSEX (India), and the NASDAQ (USA). Stock market performance in both the United States and India tend to move together. Additionally, the GC test is utilized in an effort

to ascertain if the markets have any form of forecasting ability. Based on the results of the tests conducted, it was determined that the NASDAQ index can accurately predict the SENSEX index, but the NIKKEI index. The United States and the Indian stock markets are highly correlated. To further investigate the markets' potential for foresight, the Granger causality test is applied. Tests showed that while the NASDAQ index predicted the SENSEX index with high precision, the NIKKEI index did not.

Keywords: Granger causality, stock price indices, stock exchange, cointegration, vector autoregression

35. Analyzing the Impact of Fiscal Austerity Policy on Urban Resilience in Türkiye

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Urban resilience is defined as the ability of urban economies to absorb, respond to, and recover from external and internal shocks, including economic crises, policy changes, natural disasters, and socio-political disruptions. During financial crises, governments often attempt to stabilize the economy through fiscal austerity policies, which is one of the most comprehensive policy responses, including methods such as the government increasing taxes or reducing public spending. However, the socioeconomic impact of such policies in developing nations remains unexplored. Therefore, the objective of this research is to empirically analyze Türkiye's fiscal austerity and its potential implications for regional urban resilience. While most literature predominantly explores the macro-level impacts of fiscal policies, this research conducts cross-regional comparative research using data on urban resilience and fiscal austerity in all 81 provinces of Türkiye between 2008 and 2024. With Principal Component Analysis (PCA), the urban resilience index is developed using 14 comprehensive indicators across three dimensions: economic, social, and infrastructural, allowing the analysis to provide a more nuanced

interpretation of the relationship between urban adaptability and fiscal pressures. Moreover, an advanced mapping technique was employed through the R program to visualize and interpret spatial disparities in urban resilience. Panel VAR analysis is another important component of this analysis, as it intends to capture dynamic policy effects over time, while fixed effects estimation captures the relationship between fiscal austerity and urban resilience. The study reveals that fiscal austerity limits local growth by lowering investments in public development projects. This threatens regional urban resilience, undermining the impacts on weaker economies and exacerbating spatial inequalities. The study suggests that policymakers should develop inclusive fiscal strategies to promote equitable urban development. It provides real-world policy considerations and implications for fiscal austerity as part of sustainable urban economies.

Keywords: Fiscal Austerity, Türkiye,'s Fiscal Policy, Urban Resilience.

36. Forecasting NAV of Selected Large Cap and Mid-Cap Mutual Fund Schemes using ARIMA

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"Wealth, place & power are no measure of sources. The only true measure is the ratio between what we might have been & what we have become". In this regard people should upgrade their knowledge & keep in pace with changing technology & market condition to reach their desired goal. As new opportunities are opening up in every field all over the world. The desired goal can achieve only when both theory and practical go together hand in hand. This article is such an attempt to understand or link the theoretical concept with that of practical applicability. It

provides an in-depth analysis of Mutual Funds Schemes, encompassing their benefits, various facts crucial to understand and associated risks. Furthermore, the theoretical background of mutual funds, including the types of funds available, their advantages, and potential risks have been dealt with.

The study majorly focuses on evaluating the performance of specific mutual fund schemes in the large-cap and mid-cap categories. By analyzing various portfolio evaluation models, including Sharpe, Treynor, and Jensen's alpha, as well as other metrics such as Standard Deviation, Beta, and Portfolio Return, the research aims to identify top-performing funds. The study utilizes correlation analysis and the ARIMA model to forecast the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the highest-ranked funds, providing insights into risk and return profiles, and assisting advisors in recommending suitable investment choices to investors. The study concludes by emphasizing the importance of professional management and diversification in investment, particularly within the dynamic and unpredictable stock market environment.

Keywords: Risk, Return, Beta, Standard Deviation (SD), Net Asset Value (NAV) & Assets under Management (AUM), Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA)

37. Microfinance Credit and Household Food Security in North Wollo, Ethiopia: An Endogenous Switching Regression Analysis

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Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are championed as tools to combat rural poverty and food insecurity, yet their effectiveness remains debated, especially in vulnerable regions like Ethiopia's North Wollo Zone. This study analyzes 369 households using an Endogenous Switching Regression model to assess microfinance's causal impact on food security while correcting for selection bias. Results demonstrate significant benefits: participants consumed 17% more calories (2,496 vs. 2,129 kcal/AE/day) and achieved greater dietary diversity (6.29 vs. 5.72 food groups). Treatment effects show a 1.09-point improvement in Food Consumption Scores for participants ($p < 0.01$), though potential gains for non-participants (0.41 points) were statistically insignificant. However, access barriers persist, with male-headed households 15.5% more likely to obtain credit ($p < 0.05$), revealing gender disparities. Restrictive loan terms (high interest rates, rigid repayment) further limit participation. The findings underscore

microfinance's dual role in immediate hunger relief and long-term resilience building through agricultural investments and income diversification. To maximize impact, MFIs should adopt gender-sensitive policies and flexible repayment schedules synchronized with harvest cycles. These adjustments would better align microfinance with SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 5 (Gender Equality), transforming it into an effective tool for equitable food security in drought-prone regions. Future research should examine long-term effects and urban-rural differences to optimize targeting strategies.

Keywords: Microfinance, Food Security, Endogenous Switching Regression, Ethiopia, SDGs

38. Semiparametric Bayesian Analysis of the Spatial Disparities and Determinants of Severe Food Insecurity in Africa

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This study investigates the environmental, socio-economic, and spatial determinants across the African continent from 2015 to 2021 using a Geo-Additive Mixed Model (GAMM) within a semiparametric Bayesian framework. The dataset for this study was sourced from FAO, WHO, the World Bank and the Ethiopian Statistical Service (ESS). The analysis simultaneously estimates the effects of fixed and nonlinear covariates and spatial effects in a unified regression framework. Inference was carried out using the Integrated Nested Laplace Approximation (INLA) algorithm with Gaussian Markov Random Fields (GMRF). Results from linear fixed effect covariates revealed that electricity access, malaria incidence, climate change, and livestock production significantly influence severe food insecurity with 95% credible intervals. The nonlinear effects of cereal import dependence, dietary energy supply, GHG emissions, GDP, unemployment, inflation, caloric loss, and dietary protein supply were also statistically significant. From a spatial perspective, substantial disparities in severe food insecurity were observed across African countries. Central and parts of Eastern Africa including South Sudan,

Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, Malawi, Chad, Cameroon, Guinea, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and Liberia experience severe food insecurity due to localized shocks, short-term events, or country-specific policies. In contrast, the northwestern and southwestern regions of the continent experience severe food insecurity due to long-standing structural factors rather than temporary shocks. Therefore, this study recommends that policymakers prioritize spatial considerations in developing strategies to combat severe food insecurity, thereby enhancing the targeting of interventions and resources to vulnerable areas.

Keywords: Severe Food Insecurity, Geo-Additive Mixed Model, Spatial Disparities, R-INLA, Africa

39. Effects of Biomass Energy Extraction and Agricultural Land Use on Land Use Emission in Nigeria

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The harnessing of biomass energy resources and agricultural land expansion have consequences on land use emission. Both agricultural expansion and biomass energy production continue to drive land use change due to their direct connection to forestry. High demand for biomass to produce biofuel might cause agricultural expansion, leading to biodiversity reduction, degradation of soil quality and higher land use emission. On this background, the research examines the effects of biomass energy extraction and agricultural land use on land use emissions in Nigeria. The study compiles data from FAO and WDI and covers the 1990-2022

period. We employ fully modified ordinary least square (FMOLS) model with land use emissions as the dependent variable. Meanwhile, the explanatory variables include biomass energy extraction, hectares of agricultural land, and hectares of forest land. The findings establish that agricultural land use significantly amplify land use emission, while biomass energy extraction depress emissions from land use. However, the undesirable effect of agricultural land use dominates the mitigating effect of biomass energy extraction. Beside, forest land use has no significant effect on land use emissions. The results have implications for the Nigeria's drive towards sustainability. First, unsustainable agricultural practices hinder environmental sustainability, which leads to increased land use emissions due to agricultural land expansion. Second, extraction of biomass resources does not put much pressure on sustainability due to biomass carbon neutral status. Sustainable biomass energy production will facilitate emission mitigation and enhance sustainable environment. Therefore, the research recommends investments in sustainable agricultural production through public private

partnership to align agricultural practices with sustainable land use.

Keywords: Biomass energy extraction, Agricultural land use, Land use emission, Sustainability.

40. Time-Varying Connectedness between Precious and Rare Earth Metals

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After the COVID-19 pandemic, spectacular challenges appeared in global financial markets, prompting renewed attention to finding valuable investment opportunities to improve portfolio

management. The current study examines the dynamic interconnectedness between rare earth and precious metals, and emphasizes their implications for optimal portfolio management. By considering the TVP-VAR model, this study depicts the dynamic nature of volatility and return spillovers between these categories of metals. The study considers four precious metals, namely, Gold, Silver, Platinum, and Palladium, and eight rare earth metals: Battery-Grade Misch metal, Cerium, Dysprosium, Lanthanum, Neodymium, Praseodymium, Terbium, and Yttrium. The sample period is from November 1, 2010, to October 31, 2024. Further, the sample is divided into two sub-samples to examine the connectedness between precious and rare earth metals: pre-COVID-19 and during COVID-19. The results show potential time-varying connectedness in times of economic uncertainty, implying that both types of metals respond to market-specific factors and macroeconomic shocks. From the investment perspective, this study highlights the diversification and hedging potentials of considered metals with the implications of various asset allocation strategies. The study also contributes by offering

nuanced insights into the behaviors of emerging assets within the dynamic investment framework.

Keywords: Interconnectedness, Rare Earth Metals, Precious Metals, TVP-VAR, Portfolio Management

41. EVALUATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE-DRIVEN MIGRATION ON FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA: AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF INTERCONNECTED VULNERABILITIES IN GHANA

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Scientific and environmental evidence giving credence to the occurrence of climate change abound. It is also on record that African countries are the least contributors to the occurrence

of the phenomenon. Regrettably however, it is a trite knowledge that the continent of Africa suffers the brunt of the erratic changes in the climate the most when juxtaposed with industrial nations in other continents. With majority of the workforce in Africa engaged in agricultural activities, environmental degradations occasioned by these erratic climatic changes tend to cause a lot of havoc, rendering many individuals displaced and/or unemployed. The situation compels a significant number of people to migrate to other countries in search of alternative source of livelihood. Such a trend is the food insecurity situation in many African countries. This paper is mainly a literature review of existing works on the subject. The results indicated that, while no direct link has been established with respect to the relationship between climate change and migration, there are ample evidence to the effect that farmers who primarily depend on rainfall do migrate during dry seasons, or when low rainfall is forecasted in a rainy season.

Keywords: Climate change, climate migration, food security

42. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, ADAPTATION, AND DYNAMICS: PERSPECTIVE FROM BLACK AFRICAN MALE IMMIGRANTS IN INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE IN TÜRKİYE

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This study examined the role of cultural differences in interracial marriages. A qualitative approach employing in-depth interviews with 20 individuals in marriages involving black male African immigrants and ‘white’ female Turks was utilized to examine how the couples perceive culture differences as a variable in their marriages, its impact on the formation of their relationships, how it shapes and continues to shape their union, including the challenges it presents, and how they navigate these challenges. Almost all the respondents appreciated cultural differences as a likely route of conflict in their unions. In the same breath, they tailored the strength of their union to these differences. In this regard, cultural differences provided spices to nourish their union, preventing the union from going dormant with rudimentary claws.

There is always something new to learn, which instills an element of adventure into the union. While improved and constant communication was key in resolving conflicts generally, downplaying differences and holding on to a common identity in religion were significant for many. These findings further existing literature by shifting the focus away from the overly focused hostile terrain of conflicts associated with cultural differences.

Keyword: African immigrants; Communication; Cultural differences; Interracial marriages

43. FROM WEALTH TO WELFARE: ASSESSING DIGITAL ASSETS AS MĀL IN ISLAMIC LAW

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This study reinterprets the classical Islamic concept of *māl* (property) for the digital age, focusing on emerging digital assets—including, but not limited to, cryptocurrencies—as illustrative cases. Against the backdrop of Africa’s young and economically marginalized population, the research presents a principle-driven evaluative framework grounded in societal recognition (*‘urf*), Sharia compliance, utility, and necessity. The framework aims to guide young Muslim innovators toward Sharia-aligned wealth-building that supports social welfare.

Purpose

The research critically reexamines classical definitions of *māl* within Islamic jurisprudence and proposes a flexible evaluative model for digital assets. The aim is to enable Muslim youth—particularly in Africa—to reconcile digital innovation with Sharia-compliant economic participation.

Design/Methodology/Approach

The study employs qualitative textual analysis of primary juristic sources across the Ḥanafī, Mālikī, Shāfi‘ī, and Ḥanbalī schools. Core jurisprudential principles are distilled and applied to various forms of digital assets, with cryptocurrencies serving as a high-profile case study.

Findings

- Across the four Sunni madhāhib, societal recognition (‘urf) and Sharia permissibility consistently emerge as the primary criteria for defining māl. Secondary attributes—such as utility, storability, and transferability—derive from these conditions, reflecting a principle-based rather than item-specific approach to classification.
- Cryptocurrencies, while neutral in their default ruling and potentially beneficial in specific contexts, currently lack the universal recognition required for classification as māl within a global Islamic legal framework. Their acceptance remains limited, with global usage and ownership falling below the thresholds indicated by juristic principles such as al-ḥukm li’l-ghālib (“legal judgment follows what is predominant”).

- In Africa—used here as a representative case of digitally underserved economies—structural gaps persist: as of 2024, only about 38 percent of the population used the internet (global average: 68 percent), and 90 percent of the labor force in Sub-Saharan Africa is engaged in informal employment (ITU, 2024; Princeton Journal of Public & International Affairs, 2023). These constraints hinder equitable participation in emerging digital economies.
- Empirical studies show that religiosity remains a strong driver of values, civic engagement, and entrepreneurial ambition among African Muslim youth, including those in secular higher education (Boubker et al., 2024; Rehan et al., 2019). This finding creates a strategic opportunity: a Sharia-aligned evaluative model for digital assets can encourage economic inclusion while safeguarding ethical commitments.

44. LINKAGE BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: AN EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM PAKISTAN

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Concerns related to environmental sustainability are increasing, particularly in the case of developing countries where redundant human capital poses a severe threat to the environment. Present study examines the role of higher education towards environmental sustainability in the case of Pakistan. The association between higher education development and CO₂ emission is examined through the ARDL model from 1965 to 2020. Apart from ARDL the non-linearity among variables have been tested through QARDL model. The number of students enrolled in higher education institutes has been used as a proxy for higher education development. The bounds test findings confirmed the cointegration among variables, whereas the Error Correction Term (ECM) coefficient indicates that the series converges toward its long-run path with a

speed of 49 percent per year. Findings concluded that development in higher education act as a catalyst in reducing environmental degradation, raising awareness among individuals to change their consumption patterns from non-renewable to renewable energy sources. Furthermore, results of Quantile regression confirmed that the U-shaped environmental Kuznets Curve exists in the case of Pakistan. This study suggests that expanding higher education can be a powerful instrument for finding an innovative solution to overcome environmental challenges.

Keywords: Higher education, Carbon Dioxide Emission, Economic Growth, Johansen Cointegration

45. INCLUSIVE AI IN DIVERSE LINGUISTIC CONTEXTS: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF USER EXPERIENCES WITH CHATGPT

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Abstract

Purpose—This study investigates how using a first or second language influences user perceptions of ChatGPT. It aims to better understand how multilingual contexts shape AI-human interactions. **Design/methodology/approach**—After participants interacted with ChatGPT in both their native language (Turkish) and second language (English), semi-structured interviews were conducted. We conducted a phenomenological analysis that examined emotional engagement, human likeness, cultural fluency, and perceived intelligence in both languages. **Findings** – Participants with lower English proficiency attributed more humanlike qualities to ChatGPT in their native language, Turkish. They also reported stronger emotional engagement in their native language. However, most participants perceived English interactions as more efficient and intelligent, and concerns arose over ChatGPT's cultural fluency. **Research limitations/implications**—Balancing emotional connection with linguistic

and cultural accuracy is tricky for non-native speakers of English. These results show the importance of language and cultural context in shaping perceptions of Artificial Intelligence. The study was conducted with 33 participants, and the findings are not generalizable to the whole population. Practical implications—The study offers valuable insights that help researchers and professionals achieve a broader understanding of AI-human interaction across languages. Therefore, AI systems must improve linguistic proficiency and cultural fluency to be more inclusive and humanlike. Originality/value- This study explores the experiences of non-native English speakers with AI. Keywords: Media Equation Theory, Phenomenological Analysis, ChatGPT, bilingualism, inclusivity, AI.

46. STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CRISIS: EVIDENCE FROM ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1999-2023)

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This study investigates the impact of structural transformation on youth employment in Ethiopia between 1999 and 2023. Using World Bank data, the analysis applies econometric approaches, including GMM and ARDL models, to examine the effects of sectoral employment shares, foreign direct investment, GDP per capita, urbanization, and a structural transformation index on youth employment outcomes. The findings reveal that industrial employment and overall economic growth contribute positively to youth job opportunities, while agricultural dependence, urbanization, and structural transformation pressures are associated with adverse effects. The service sector exhibits mixed results, with limited capacity to absorb youth labor despite its expansion. Further interaction analysis shows that foreign direct investment supports industrial employment but has negligible or negative effects in agriculture and services. Overall,

the results highlight a disconnect between economic growth, investment inflows, and the ability of the labor market to absorb young workers. The study underscores the need for employment-centered development strategies, with a particular emphasis on labor-intensive industrialization and policies that better link investment to youth employment creation.

Keywords: structural transformation, youth employment, Sectoral Employment Shares, Foreign Direct Investment, economic development

47. YOUTH-POWERED INCLUSIVE GROWTH: AFRICA'S TRANSFORMATIVE PATH FORWARD

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Africa, home to the world's youngest population with over 60% under 25, faces both an opportunity and a challenge: a vast demographic dividend or a deepening of inequalities. Youth unemployment remains severe averaging 20% continent-wide and exceeding 30% in sub-

Saharan Africa with the majority employed informally in low-productivity sectors. SMEs are critical for inclusive growth, representing 90% of businesses, providing 60–80% of jobs, and contributing 40% of GDP. Yet, they face a financing shortfall of \$300–330 billion annually, severely constraining youth-led enterprises. At the same time, the digital economy is expanding rapidly: the internet economy could reach \$180 billion by 2025 and \$712 billion by 2050, while Africa’s digital payments market is projected at \$1.5 trillion by 2030. Fintech revenues alone may grow from \$10 billion in 2023 to \$47 billion by 2028. These trends highlight the continent’s capacity to leapfrog traditional development pathways. However, R&D investment remains critically low, at 0.2–0.5% of GDP in most countries, far below the AU’s 1% target, limiting knowledge-driven innovation. This paper proposes a three-pathway framework for youth-driven inclusive growth: 1. Bridging education–industry gaps through skills pipelines and digital inclusion. 2. Innovative blended finance to de-risk SMEs and close the \$300B gap. 3. Embedding youth in innovation ecosystems via R&D hubs and AfCFTA digital trade. By

reframing youth as architects of prosperity, Africa can transform inclusive growth from aspiration into reality, providing a replicable model for emerging economies worldwide.

48. RETHINKING PHOSPHATE INFRASTRUCTURE IN MOROCCO: TECHNOPOLITICS, EXTRACTIVISM, AND ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

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Following the 2020 global crisis, food security became a crucial focus, elevating Morocco's phosphate industry to a new level of global significance. Phosphate production is not only linked to fertilizers but also influences green energy transitions and economic growth. Since its discovery, phosphate extraction has been viewed only as a technical objective economic resource for exploitation. However, scholarship reveals its subjective ideological nature, especially within the postcolonial context of Morocco, where large-scale projects often serve the interests of colonial powers and capitalism. This research examines Morocco's phosphate

industry not only as a system of material extraction and distribution, but as an epistemological regime that shapes which forms of knowledge and ethics are deemed legitimate. Drawing critiques from technopolitics, extractivism, and epistemic violence, the study explores how phosphate infrastructure and extraction establish certain knowledge and worldviews and erase other alternatives. In response, it proposes Islamic environmental ethics, grounded in concepts like *khilāfa*, *mīzān*, and *‘adl*, as an alternative framework for rethinking the phosphate infrastructure. By reintroducing Islamic ethical thought into the academic realm, the project promotes a decolonial approach. It criticizes Morocco’s extractivist model by reviving neglected Islamic knowledge and highlighting its importance for sustainable governance. This approach adds to broader conversations on environmental justice, development ethics, and the re-politicization of infrastructure in the Global South.

Keywords: Morocco, Phosphate industry, Technopolitics, Extractivism, Postcolonialism, Islamic environmental ethics, Epistemic justice

49. PUSHED TO THE EDGE: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH
AN INCREASE IN THE PROPENSITY TO EMIGRATE FROM THE MENA REGION

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This paper examines the determinants shaping both the propensity to emigrate and the willingness to emigrate illegally across 11 MENA countries, using data from the 5th (2018–2019) and 7th (2021–2022) waves of the Arab Barometer survey. Employing a two-step probit model, the study finds that younger age, male gender, unemployment, insufficient household income, and higher educational attainment significantly increase the likelihood of emigration

intentions, while religiosity reduces them in several contexts. Social media use and perceptions of deteriorating economic, political, safety, and freedom conditions further heighten the propensity to emigrate, with safety concerns being particularly influential in shaping willingness to consider illegal migration. Education, however, demonstrates a dual effect: while it raises the propensity to emigrate, it simultaneously lowers the likelihood of illegal migration. The findings highlight the complex interplay between sociodemographic, economic, political, and cultural factors in migration decisions. Policy recommendations emphasize fostering public–private–university partnerships to create employment pathways, strengthening local labor markets, and dismantling illegal migration networks. By quantifying multi-dimensional determinants, this study contributes to migration literature and provides actionable insights for policymakers seeking to mitigate brain drain in the MENA region.

Keywords: Propensity to Emigrate, MEAN region, Willingness to emigrate illegally.

50. Driving Digital Transformation: A Wavelet Quantile Causality Approach to AI Adoption in Africa

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In light of an increasing policy focus and expanding digital uptake, this study examines the ways in which digital infrastructure (DIF), innovation (INV), education (EDN), and governance (GOV) affect the adoption of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa. It investigates the existence and variety of technological dissemination over time and between areas, using data from investments, regulatory frameworks, and educational activities. The Wavelet-Based Nonparametric Quantile Causality Test is used in the study's methodology to identify distribution-sensitive and dynamic causal links between the adoption of digital

technologies and the structural factors. The wavelet decomposition provides a thorough, time-frequency view by allowing the examination of short, medium, and long-term effects over several quantiles. The findings show that technology adoption is highly influenced by all four factors DIF, INV, EDN, and GOV with the lower and upper quantiles seeing the strongest effects. INV and DIF have a noticeable impact on the distribution tails, underscoring the problem of unequal inclusion. In underprivileged communities, EDN promotes ICT readiness, and institutional effectiveness is facilitated by GOV. Hence, policymakers should give priority to inclusive digital infrastructure, innovation financing, education access, and governance changes to quicken equal adoption of AI throughout Africa.

Keywords: Digital Infrastructure, Education, Innovation, Governance, Technology Adoption

51. Advancing Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Bridging Infrastructure, Policy, and Skills Gaps

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In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence offers tremendous potential to drive sustainable development, economic growth, and social progress across Africa, but realizing this promise will depend on overcoming a range of complex, interrelated challenges. The continent's journey toward meaningful AI adoption is hampered by inadequate digital infrastructure, unreliable electricity, limited broadband access, fragmented and poor-quality data, and a lack of comprehensive data governance frameworks that safeguard privacy, security, and ethics. These

technical barriers are compounded by a significant talent shortage, high costs of AI technologies, and the absence of robust policy and regulatory environments that can provide clarity and confidence for investors, innovators, and the public. Without deliberate efforts to ensure inclusivity, there is also the risk that AI could exacerbate existing socioeconomic inequalities and widen the digital divide between urban and rural areas or rich and poor populations. Moreover, public skepticism and low trust in AI, driven by misinformation and fears of job displacement, present further hurdles to its acceptance and integration. Yet, amid these challenges, encouraging signs of progress are emerging. Local initiatives and regional efforts are laying the groundwork for AI capacity-building, policy development, and practical applications tailored to Africa's unique needs, from agriculture and healthcare to financial inclusion. To truly unlock AI's transformative potential, coordinated action will be essential—combining investments in infrastructure, education, and research with the creation of inclusive regulatory frameworks and support for homegrown innovation. Only through such holistic and

collaborative approaches can Africa harness AI as a force for equitable growth and sustainable development.

Keywords: AI, challenges, Africa, large language models, efficiency

52. The Impact of Informal Competition on Registered Firms in Rwanda: A Machine Learning Approach

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This study investigates the effect of informal competition on the productivity performance of registered firms in Rwanda, leveraging the 2023 World Bank Enterprise Survey data and an interpretable machine learning technique—TreeSHAP. While prior research has primarily focused on macro-level determinants or qualitative case studies, this paper offers a firm-level, data-driven contribution to the literature by identifying the structural and governance-related factors that condition the productivity of formal firms in the presence of informal rivals.

53. Empowering Africa Through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies for Sustainable Growth

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Asian School of Business

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies has been transforming the economy, social and industrial sphere of Africa by promoting innovations and sustainable development. The paper examines the implementation of AI powered solutions, digitization technologies and other emerging technologies in areas or sectors like agriculture, healthcare, education and finance. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative research methods; the secondary data statistical research method was combined with the secondary data case study method and case studies that were conducted in major economies of Africa. It is shown that the adoption of AI can boost productivity, financial inclusion, and digital entrepreneurship and thus

play a pivotal role in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nevertheless, the lack of infrastructure, digital skills and governance in terms of data are still significant challenges. The paper establishes an elaborate framework with an emphasis on policy changes, capacity-building, and investment in technology ecosystem. Findings highlight that a crafted employment of AI and digital technologies could fast-track the shift toward an innovation-driven and inclusive economy in Africa.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Digital Technologies, Sustainable Growth, Innovation, Africa

54. AFRIKA ÜLKELERİNDE YEŞİL BÜYÜME VE AI GÖSTERGESİNİN ETKİSİ: FMOLS VE WAVELET ANALİZİ YAKLAŞIMI (1996-2024)

Emin Ahmet Kaplan

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Bu çalışma, 1996-2024 döneminde dokuz Afrika ülkesinde (Mısır, Güney Afrika, Nijerya, Gana, Kamerun, Kenya, Senegal, Mauritius ve Uganda) yeşil büyüme ile AI göstergesi arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektedir. AI göstergesi olarak, ülkelerin AI alanındaki bilimsel yayın sayıları kullanılmıştır. Modelde, yeşil büyüme bağımlı değişken olarak alınırken, reel GSYH, yenilenebilir enerji tüketimi, doğal kaynak gelirleri ve hükümet etkinliği kontrol değişkenleri olarak dahil edilmiştir. Tüm değişkenlerin logaritmaları alınarak FMOLS yöntemiyle panel eşbütünleşme analizi gerçekleştirilmiştir. Ayrıca, dalgacık (wavelet) spektrumu ve dalgacık eş-kohorens analizi ile değişkenler arasındaki zaman-frekans ilişkileri incelenmiştir. Bulgular, AI göstergesinin yeşil büyüme üzerinde pozitif ve anlamlı etkisi olduğunu göstermektedir. Yenilenebilir enerji tüketimi ve hükümet etkinliği de yeşil büyümeyi destekleyen önemli faktörler olarak ortaya çıkmıştır. Bu sonuçlar, Afrika ülkelerinde sürdürülebilir kalkınma

politikalarının AI ve yenilenebilir enerji yatırımlarıyla güçlendirilmesi gerektiğine işaret etmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yeşil Büyüme, Afrika Ülkeleri, Yapay Zeka, Panel Veri Analizi, Dalgacık Spektrum Analizi

55. Gine'de Vergi Politikalarının Ekonomik Büyüme Üzerindeki Etkisinin Analizi

Laye Sekou BERETE

yunu

Yunus Emre BİROL

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Bu çalışma, 2015 yılının ilk çeyreğinden 2023 yılının ilk çeyreğine kadar olan dönemi kapsayan üç aylık makroekonomik verilere uygulanan zaman serisi yaklaşımıyla, mali politikaların Gine'nin ekonomik büyümesi üzerindeki etkisini analiz etmektedir. Amaç, mali araçların reel GSYİH büyüme oranı üzerindeki kısa ve uzun vadeli etkilerini ortaya koymaktır. Bu amaçla,

karışık düzenli $[I(0)$ ve $I(1)]$ entegre serileri işleme ve farklı dinamikleri yakalama kabiliyeti nedeniyle bir ARDL (Oto-regresif Dağıtılmış Gecikme) modeli kullanılmıştır. Ko-entegrasyon testlerinin sonuçları (Sınır testi), maliye politikası ile büyüme arasında bir ko-entegrasyon ilişkisi olduğunu doğrulamaktadır. Uzun vadede, madencilik sektörü dışındaki vergi gelirleri büyüme üzerinde olumlu ve önemli bir etkiye sahiptir. Madencilik gelirleri ise olumlu olmakla birlikte, önemli bir etki göstermemektedir. Bu durum Gine'nin boksit ihracatındaki önemine rağmen, bu gelirlerin reel ekonomiye aktarılması konusunda soru işaretleri yaratmaktadır. Öte yandan, cari kamu harcamaları ve yatırım harcamaları büyüme üzerinde olumsuz ve önemli bir etkiye sahiptir, bu da kamu kaynaklarının tahsisinde muhtemel bir verimsizliği ortaya koymaktadır. Ancak kısa vadedeki etkiler daha heterojen görünse de, büyümenin bütçe ayarlamalarına duyarlı olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Bu sonuçlar, Gine'nin sürdürülebilir büyümeyi desteklemek için madencilik sektörü vergi gelirlerinin mobilizasyonunu

güçlendirmesi ve kamu harcamalarını üretken yatırımlara yönlendirmesi gerektiğini göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Gine, Vergi Politikaları, Ekonomik Büyüme

56. MEKANSAL PANEL EKONOMETRİK ANALİZ İLE AFRIKA'DA SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR VE KAPSAYICI BÜYÜME DİNAMİKLERİ: YAPAY ZEKA, HAVA KİRLİLİĞİ VE MOBİL ABONELİKLERİN ROLÜ

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Bu çalışma, 1996-2024 döneminde dokuz Afrika ülkesinde ekonomik büyüme oranları üzerindeki mekansal yayılma etkilerini mekansal panel veri modelleri kullanarak incelemektedir. Bağımlı değişken olarak Gayri Safi Yurtiçi Hasıla büyüme oranının logaritması ($\ln gdp$) alınmış, açıklayıcı değişkenler arasında yapay zeka bilimsel yayınları ($\ln ai$), yıllık ortalama PM2.5 hava kirliliği maruziyeti ($\ln airp$) ve mobil hücresel abonelik sayısı ($\ln mcs$) yer almaktadır. Global Moran's I testi ile mekansal bağımlılığın varlığı doğrulanmış ve mekansal yayılma etkisinin istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Klasik En Küçük Kareler (OLS), Mekansal Lag (SAR) ve Mekansal Hata (SEM) modellerinin karşılaştırılması sonucunda, SAR modelinin bölgedeki ekonomik büyüme oranlarının mekansal dinamiklerini en iyi şekilde açıkladığı belirlenmiştir. Elde edilen bulgular, Afrika'da sürdürülebilir kalkınma politikalarının mekansal etkileşimler dikkate alınarak şekillendirilmesinin önemini vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mekansal Yayılma, Ekonomik Büyüme, Afrika, Yapay Zeka, Hava Kirliliği

57. 2000 SONRASI DÖNEMDE TÜRKİYE-AFRIKA İLİŞKİLERİNİ ETKİLEYEN DİNAMİKLER

Abdurrahim Sıradağ

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Türkiye-Afrika ilişkilerinin tarihi 16. yüzyıla dayanmasına rağmen modern Türkiye tarihinde Afrika kıtası yeterli ilgiyi görememiştir. Türkiye'nin geleneksel batı-odaklı dış politikası Türkiye'nin çok boyutlu ve çok yönlü bir dış politika geliştirmesinin önünde önemli bir engel olmuştur. 2000 sonrası dünya politikasında yükselen küresel ve bölgesel aktörlerin çok boyutlu ve çok yönlü dış politikası Afrika'nın dünya politikasındaki stratejik yerini ve önemini de

önemli ölçüde değiştirmiştir. Bu bağlamda jeopolitik olarak önemli bir stratejik noktada bulunan Türkiye'nin 2000 sonrası dış politikası da Türkiye-Afrika ilişkilerinin değişmesine neden olmuştur. Afrika kıtası AK Parti hükümetlerinin stratejik ilgi alanı olmuş ve kıtadaki bölgesel örgütlerle ve kıta ülkeleri ile çok yönlü ve çok boyutlu bir stratejik ilişki kurulması için önemli adımlar atılmıştır. Örneğin, 2003 yılında 5,4 milyar dolar olan Türkiye'nin kıta ile toplan ticareti 2024 yılında 35 milyar doları aşmıştır. Bu çalışma 2000 sonrası değişen dünya politikasında Türkiye-Afrika ilişkilerini hangi boyutta etkilediğini ve AK Parti hükümetlerinin kıta ile stratejik ilişkilerini tartışacaktır.

58. BATI AFRİKA EKONOMİK VE PARASAL BİRLİK ÜLKELERİNDE İSLAMI FINANSAL KURULUŞLARIN FAALİYETLERİ VE İSLAMI FINANSAL ARAÇLARIN KULLANIMI
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İslami finans araçlarının (özellikle Sukuk) UEMOA ülkelerinde altyapı yatırımları, enerji projeleri ve tarımsal kalkınma üzerinde olumlu etkiler oluşturduğu son yıllarda ifade edilmektedir. Ancak yasal çerçeve eksiklikleri, uzman yetersizliği ve farkındalık azlığı sektörün gelişimini sınırlamaktadır. Politika önerileri, bölgesel mevzuat uyumu, kapasite geliştirme ve kamu-özel ortaklıklarının güçlendirilmesi yönündedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Batı Afrika, UEMOA, İslami Finans

59. Doğal Ekonomiye: Yeşil ve Mavi Ekonominin Sürdürülebilir Büyümedeki Rolü

Esra Soyu Yıldırım

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Küresel ölçekte sürdürülebilir büyüme, sadece ekonomik performansın artırılmasını değil aynı zamanda doğal kaynakların etkin kullanımını ve ekolojik dengenin korunmasını da gerektirmektedir. Diğer bir ifadeyle sürdürülebilir büyümede ekonomi, toplum ve çevre boyutlarının birlikte ele alınması önem arz etmektedir. Bu bağlamda “yeşil ekonomi” ve “mavi ekonomi” kavramları son yıllarda akademik literatürün odak noktası olmuştur. Yeşil ekonomi, yenilenebilir enerji, karbon emisyonlarının azaltılması ve enerji verimliliği gibi çevresel performansı artırıcı unsurları kapsarken; mavi ekonomi, deniz ve okyanus kaynaklarının sürdürülebilir kullanımı, balıkçılık ve deniz taşımacılığı faaliyetleri ile ekonomik kalkınmaya katkı sağlamaktadır. Ancak literatür genellikle yeşil ve mavi ekonomi kavramlarını birbirinden bağımsız konular olarak ele almıştır. Oysa, yeşil ve mavi dönüşümler birbirinden bağımsız değildir. Örneğin yeşil ekonominin insan refahı ve sosyal eşitliğin sağlanmasının yanı sıra

evresel riskleri ve ekolojik kısıtlıkları nemli lde azaltma hedefi, mavi ekonominin de benimsediėi hedefler arasındadır.

Dolayısıyla bu alıřma, yeřil ve mavi ekonomi gstergelerinin srdrlebilir byme zerindeki etkilerini btncl bir erevede ve ekonometrik olarak incelemeyi amalamaktadır. Yeřil ve mavi ekonomilerin srdrlebilir bymedeki rol, yalnızca evresel hedeflerin gerekleřtirilmesi aısından deėil, rekabetilik, dıř ticaret dayanıklılıėı ve sosyal refahın srdrlebilirliėi aısından da emlidir. Bu alıřma, yeřil ve mavi ekonomi deėiřkenlerini birlikte modelleyerek literatrdeki bořluėa yanıt vermektedir. Ayrıca bulgulara gre politika ıkarımı da yapılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: evre, Yeřil ekonomi, Mavi ekonomi, Srdrlebilir byme.

60. Dijital Ynetim Doėal Kaynak Srdrlebilirliėini Nasıl Etkilemektedir: BRICS-T lkelerinden Kanıtlar

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Bu çalışma, BRICS-T ülkelerinde (2003-2021) e-devlet gelişiminin doğal kaynak sürdürülebilirliği üzerindeki etkisini, kantil regresyon analizi kullanarak incelemektedir. Kontrol değişken olarak ticari açıklık, finansal gelişme ve teknolojik gelişme değişkenleri kullanılmaktadır. Bulgular, dijital yönetişimin doğal kaynak rantlarına olan bağımlılığı azaltmada önemli bir rol oynamaktadır. Bu etki daha yüksek kantillerde güçlenmektedir; bu da, halihazırda yüksek kaynak bağımlılığı olan ülkelerde dijital yönetişimin daha da büyük bir azaltıcı etkiye sahip olduğu anlamına gelir. Ticari açıklık ise kaynak rantının temel itici gücü olmaya devam ettiğini göstermektedir. Teknolojik gelişme ve finansal gelişme önemli bir etki göstermiyor ve şaşırtıcı bir şekilde, ne patent başvuruları ne de finans sektörünün gelişmesi kaynak sürdürülebilirliği üzerinde ölçülebilir bir etkiye sahip değil. Bu çalışma, dijital hükümet gelişiminin, doğal kaynak sürdürülebilirliğine olan ekonomik bağımlılığı azaltarak doğal

kaynakların sürdürülebilirliğini desteklediğine dair ampirik kanıtlar sunmaktadır. BRICS-T ülkeleri için e-yönetim reformlarının hızlandırılması, daha yeşil büyümeye giden stratejik bir yol olabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Dijital hükümet, Doğal kaynakların sürdürülebilirliği, BRICS-T ülkeleri

61. EAC VE ECOWAS: Afrika’da Bölgesel Entegrasyon

Süleyman Dal

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Doğu Afrika Topluluğu (EAC) ile Batı Afrika Devletleri Ekonomik Topluluğu (ECOWAS)’ın karşılaştırılmasına odaklanan bu çalışma; bu iki organizasyonun tarihsel süreçlerinde kritik noktalar nelerdir sorusuna cevap aramaktadır. Betimsel analiz yöntemi kullanılan çalışmada; Afrika Birliği’nin (AfB), EAC ile ECOWAS’ın çalışmaları merkeze alınarak literatür taramasına yer verilmiştir. EAC ile ECOWAS; -arzu edilen hedeflere tam olarak ulaşılmasa da-, ekonomik büyümeyi teşvik etme, ticareti kolaylaştırma, yaşam standartlarını yükseltme,

altyapıyı geliştirme ve en önemlisi bölgesel iş birliğini güçlendirme konularında etkiliyken; akademik çalışmalarda yeterince kendine yer bulamamıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Entegrasyon, EAC, Afrika, ECOWAS, Bölge.

62. Kapsayıcı Büyümenin Finansman Kaynakları: Katılım Finans Sistemi

Erdal Arslan

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Ülkemizde, Bankalar Kanununa göre bankalar; mevduat bankası, kalkınma ve yatırım bankası (KYB) ile katılım bankası olarak sınıflandırılmaktadır. Bu banka gruplarından, mevduat bankaları ile KYB’ler faizli bankacılık sistemine göre çalışırken sadece katılım bankaları faizsiz sistem ile çalışmaktadır. Bankacılık sektöründe, aktif büyüklüğe göre, 2024 yılında mevduat bankalarının payı %85,7, KYB’lerin payı %5,8 ve katılım bankalarının payı ise %8,5 olmuştur.

Buna göre bankacılık sektörünün %91,5'i faizli sisteme göre fon toplayıp bu fonu yine faizli sisteme göre kullanırken, sadece %8,5'i faizsiz sisteme göre fon toplayıp fon kullanmaktadır. Bu duruma göre, “Kapsayıcı Büyümenin Finansman Kaynakları”nın yaklaşık %92'si faizli sistem üzerinden olmak zorunluluğu ortaya çıkmaktadır. İşte burada “Kapsayıcı Büyümenin Finansman Kaynakları” açısından “Kapsayıcı Büyüme İçin Ekonomik Dönüşüm” finansal sistemde dönüşümü gündeme getirmektedir. Finansal sistemde dönüşüm, faizsiz finans sisteminin ekonomideki ağırlığının artması ile gerçekleşebilecek ve kapsayıcı büyüme için faizsiz finansman kaynaklarını ortaya çıkaracaktır. Faizsiz finans sistemi veya “Katılım Finans Sistemi; Katılım Finans Kurumları, Katılım Sermaye Piyasaları ve Katılım Sigortacılığından oluşmaktadır”. Katılım finans sisteminde; “risk paylaşımı, varlığa dayalı sistem olması ve ahlaki vurgu” temel çerçeveyi oluşturmaktadır. Katılım finans sistemi için; “yeni finansal mimarinin inşası, yeni (faizsiz) finansal model önerisi ve (özellikle faizli) küresel finansal araçlara alternatif (faizsiz) finansal araçlar geliştirmek önem arz etmektedir. Katılım

finansal sistemin kurulabilmesi için; “hukuki, idari ve kurumsal altyapın”ın oluşturulması zorunludur.

63. Güney Afrika Yaşama Seçimlerinin Çok Yönlü Analizi 1994-2024: Parti Sistemi, Efektif Parti Sayısı, Orantılılık, Katılım ve Kadın Temsilci Oranları

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Bu çalışmada Güney Afrika’nın 1994-2024 arasında gerçekleşen yedi yasama meclisi seçimi, parti sistemi, efektif parti sayısı, orantılı sandalye dağılımı, katılım ve kadın temsilci oranları açısından karşılaştırmalı bir analize tabi tutulacaktır. Bu doğrultuda ülkede, hâkim partinin güç kaybıyla birlikte parti sistemi çok partili sisteme doğru yön değiştirmekte ve efektif parti sayıları yükselmektedir. Orantılı sandalye dağılımında dünyanın en iyi örneği olarak sahnede yer almakta ve kadın temsilci oranlarında oldukça başarılı seviyelerde bulunmaktadır. Öte

yandan siyasete olan güven kaybıyla birlikte katılım oranları ciddi düzeyde azalmakta ve siyasi kültürün seçimsel demokrasiye uygunluğu konusunda tereddütler doğurmaktadır. Güney Afrika seçim kurumları ve uygulamaları, karşılaştırmalı seçim sistemleri konusunda çalışan akademisyenler için incelemeye değer oldukça güzel bir laboratuvar olarak karşımızda durmaktadır. Ülkenin sömürge düzeninden kurtulup demokrasiye geçişinin ardından seçim kurumunun işleyişinin zaman içindeki seyrine yönelik analiz ve değerlendirmeler, diğer demokrasiye geçiş sürecindeki ülkeler için de yol gösterici olacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Seçimler, Güney Afrika, Orantılılık, Katılım, Temsil

64. Afrika'da Yeşil Büyüme ve Kapsayıcı Kalkınma: Ticaret Açıklığı, Yenilenebilir Enerji ve Çevre Politikalarının Rolü

Nil Sirel Öztürk

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Bu çalışma, Afrika'nın geliřmekte olan ekonomilerinde kiři bařına dűřen gelir dűzeyini belirleyen faktörleri analiz ederek, sürdürülebilir ve kapsayıcı büyüme dinamiklerini ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır. 2000–2021 dönemini kapsayan panel veri seti; Kenya, Tanzania, Güney Afrika, Mısır, Fas, Senegal, Uganda ve Angola'dan oluşan sekiz ülkeyi içermektedir. Bağımlı deęiřken olarak kiři bařına dűřen gelir alınmıř; karbon yoğunluęu, ticaret açıklıęı, doğrudan yabancı yatırım giriřleri, yenilenebilir enerji kullanımı ve kentleşme oranı açıklayıcı deęiřkenler olarak modele dahil edilmiřtir. Panelin heterojen ve yatay kesit bağımlılıęı içeren yapısı nedeniyle AMG ve CCEMG yöntemleri uygulanmıř, sonuçların saęlaması için System GMM tahminleri ve Dumitrescu-Hurlin Granger nedensellik testleri gerçekleştirilmiřtir. Elde edilen bulgular, karbon yoğunluęunun büyümeyi destekledięini; buna karřılık yenilenebilir enerji kullanımının büyüme üzerinde negatif etkide bulunduęunu göstermektedir. Ticaret ve sermaye giriřlerinin etkisi zayıf ve istikrarsızdır. Kentleşme bazı ülkelerde pozitif etkili olsa da genellenebilir deęildir. Bu sonuçlar, kısa vadeli büyüme ile çevresel sürdürülebilirlik arasında

bir ikilem olduğunu ve yeşil büyümenin kurumsal kapasiteyle desteklenmesi gerektiğini ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sürdürülebilir büyüme, karbon yoğunluğu, yenilenebilir enerji, dışa açıklık

65. Afrika’da Sömürgecilik ve Dini Yaşam: Ekonomik Yapı Üzerinden bir Değerlendirme

Maşite Uğurlu

Konya, Türkiye

Melek Kanat

Konya, Türkiye

Bu çalışma, Afrika kıtasının sömürgecilik süreciyle şekillenen ekonomik yapısını ve bu yapının dini yaşantı üzerindeki etkilerini ele almaktadır. 19. yüzyılın sonlarından itibaren İngiltere, Fransa, Almanya, Belçika ve İspanya gibi büyük güçlerin Afrika topraklarını paylaşarak kıtanın

doğal kaynaklarını sistematik biçimde sömürgeleştirdiği görülmektedir. Sömürgecilik faaliyetleri, Afrika'nın ekonomik bağımsızlığını ortadan kaldırmış, yeraltı zenginlikleri Batılı devletlerin çıkarlarına tahsis edilmiş ve kıta, yoksulluk, iç savaş, siyasi istikrarsızlık gibi yapısal sorunlarla baş başa bırakılmıştır. Bu çerçevede, Afrika'ya yardım adı altında uygulanan uluslararası ekonomi politikaları, yeni sömürgecilik biçimlerine evrilmiş; bağımlılık ilişkilerini derinleştirerek kıtanın kendi potansiyelini gerçekleştirmesini engellemiştir. Afrika toplumları, temel insani ihtiyaçlarını karşılayamayacak düzeyde bir yoksullukla karşı karşıya kalmış; açlık, susuzluk, sağlık ve güvenlik gibi yaşamsal sorunlar, dini ve ahlaki yönelimlerin ötelenmesine neden olmuştur. Eğitim, sağlık ve adalet gibi alanlarda yaşanan eşitsizlikler, toplumsal bütünleşmeyi zedelemiş ve uzun vadeli kalkınma planlarının oluşturulmasını imkânsız kılmıştır. Ayrıca Batılı ülkelerin kıtanın genç ve dinamik nüfusunu ucuz iş gücü olarak değerlendirmesi, demografik potansiyelin bir avantajdan çok kontrol edilmesi gereken bir unsur olarak görülmesine yol açmıştır. Bu durum, Afrika toplumlarının siyasi, ekonomik ve kültürel

alanlarda bağımsız hareket edememesine neden olmuş; farklı baskı odaklarının kıta üzerindeki etkisi, Afrikalı halkların kendi kaderlerini tayin etme iradesini zayıflatmıştır. Sonuç olarak bu bildiri, Afrika'daki ekonomik sömürünün yalnızca maddi değil; aynı zamanda dini, kültürel ve sosyal alanlarda da ciddi tahribatlar oluşturduğunu savunmakta; kıtanın özgün yapısının yeniden inşası için çok boyutlu ve adil bir yaklaşımın gerekliliğini vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sömürgecilik, Afrika, din, ekonomik bağımlılık, eşitsizlik

66. Tarihi Süreç İçinde Etiyopya, Sudan, ve Mısır: Sürdürülebilirlik ve Anahtarı Su ve Ekonomisi

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TARİHİ SÜREÇ İÇİNDE ETİYOPYA SUDAN VE MİSİR: SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK VE
KALKINMANIN ANAHTARI SU VE EKONOMİSİ

Sahra altı Afrika'nın kalbi ya da merkezi Etiyopya, Sudan ve Mısır üçlüsünden geçmektedir. Bu bölge sanayi, ziraat ve ticarete birbirlerine rekabet etmekle beraber aynı zamanda birbirlerini tamamlayıcı konumdadırlar. Özellikle bu bölge çok eski çağlardan beri Nil nehri ve sularının kaynağı olmuştur. Bu kaynak ise savaş ya da barışın aynı zamanda kalkınmanın anahtarı olma özelliğini yüklenmiştir. Bölgenin suya dayalı ekonomisi üç ülke içinde büyük önem taşımaktadır. Özellikle Nil nehrinin kaynağı olan Etiyopya suyu daha fazla değerlendirmek için yatırımlar yapmıştır. Etiyopya kalkınma ve sürdürülebilirliğin anahtarı olarak Nil nehrine stratejik yatırımlar yapmıştır. Bu yatırımların etkilerinin ülke içinde bir gelişme yapması beklenmektedir. Ancak Sudan ve Mısır ekonomisini nasıl etkileyeceği henüz bilinmemektedir. Dolayısıyla yakın gelecekte Nil ve suları iktisadi bir gerçek olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Etiyopya'nın kurduğu Rönesans barajı (Milenyum, Nahda, Gerd) Nil havzasındaki dengeleri değiştirebilecektir. Afrika'nın en büyük barajı ve 4 milyar dolardan fazla maliyete sahip olacak bu baraj Afrika ekonomisine yön verecek ve ülkelerin zenginlik ve

fakirlik sıralamasını deęiřtirecektir. Kalkınma hamlelerini Sudan ve Etiyopya'ya gre daha nce bařlatan Mısır, Etiyopya iinde suların tutulması sonucu tarım ve ticarete nemli derece hasıla ve gelir kaybına uğrayabilecektir. Sudan ise dięer iki devlete gre daha zayıf ve yaptırım gc daha az bir lke konumundadır.

2025 ortasıyla beraber yaklaşık 135 milyon nfusu olan Etiyopya su ve su ncelikli kalkınma modelini benimsemiřtir. GSMH ve byme oranı devamlı artan lkenin Nil suları ve Rnesans barajının etkisiyle dahada artması beklenmektedir. Ancak iklim deęiřiklięi nedeniyle Nil sularında bir azalma olursa Etiyopya, Sudan ve Mısır her  lkenin de olumsuz etkileneceęi muhakkaktır. Afrika'nın en kalabalık  lkesi arasında yer alan Etiyopya ve Mısır Nil nehrine baęımlılıkları geleceklerini belirleyecektir.

Nil nehri suları bir anlařma olarak ilk defa 1929 yılında İngiltere ve Mısır arasında yapılmıřtır. Daha sonra farklı dnemlerde yeni anlařmalar yapılmıřtır. Ancak 20. yzyıla beraber Etiyopya'nın geliřip zenginleřmesi su ekonomisini bařka bir boyuta tařımıřtır.

Asıl tehlike Nil sularına diğer komşu ülkelerinde baraj inşa ederek suyun akışının azalması ya da tamamen kesilmesidir. Bölge ülkelerin refahı için suya bağımlılığın azaltılması ve yeni teknolojilerin geliştirilmesi önem arz etmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Su, Baraj, Afrika, Ekonomi, Kalkınma

67. COVID-19 Salgınının Tetikleyici Krizlerin İnşaat Sektörü ve Konut Satışları Üzerindeki Etkisi:
Türkiye Örneği

Murat Celal Çınar

Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli Üniversitesi, Türkiye

Covid-19 pandemisi, tüm dünyada olduğu gibi Türkiye’de de halk sağlığını koruma amacıyla bir dizi önlemin hayata geçirilmesini gerektirmiştir. Sağlık açısından kaçınılmaz olan bu tedbirler, birçok sektörde ekonomik zorlukların ortaya çıkmasına neden olmuştur. Bu çalışmada, Türkiye’de inşaat sektörü ve konut piyasası üzerinde Covid-19’un oluşturduğu etkilerin incelenmesi amaçlanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Covid-19, Salgın, Karantina, Ekonomi

68. Digital Finance and Poverty in Fragile States: Evidence from Somalia's Mobile Money Diffusion.

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Abstract

Financial inclusion is increasingly recognized as a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in reducing poverty (SDG 1), ensuring food security (SDG 2), and promoting reduced inequalities (SDG 10). In fragile states such as Somalia, where decades of conflict and institutional weakness constrain formal financial systems, digital financial services have emerged as a critical alternative. This study investigates the determinants of household wealth in Somalia using nationally representative data from the Somali Demographic and Health Survey (SDHS), comprising 26,180 households after cleaning.

Wealth is measured via the standardized Wealth Index, with explanatory variables capturing demographic, socioeconomic, and infrastructural conditions—including household size, education, property ownership, electricity access, and mobile money use. Ordered logit and probit models are employed to assess these relationships. The results demonstrate that access to mobile money significantly enhances household wealth, alongside educational attainment, electricity supply, and secure home ownership. Spatial disparities are observed, with northern and eastern regions outperforming the conflict-affected south, while rural and nomadic households remain structurally disadvantaged. These findings highlight the transformative role of mobile money in advancing financial inclusion, while also emphasizing the need for complementary investments in infrastructure and education to ensure equitable development. Policy efforts should prioritize expanding digital financial services, bridging urban–rural divides, and addressing geographic inequalities to accelerate progress toward SDG 1, SDG 2, and SDG 10 in Somalia.

Keywords: FinTech, Financial Technology, Mobile Money, Poverty, Wealth index, Somali Demographic and Health Survey, Financial Inclusion.

69. The Relationship between Trade Volume and Political Relations: Example of Türkiye and Africa

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The relation between political relations and mutual trade, is one of the most critical topics for policy makers. It would not be surprising to see that developing relations between countries, enables development of international trade. According to our assumption, developing political relations enable to increase in trade volume. As signing agreements, involving military cooperation, having reciprocal visits entails national companies to trade with new partners, as well as attracts interests of investors. In that context, Türkiye's international relations with

Ethiopia will be examined and its effects on the trade volume will be investigated. As doing these investigations, available data will be offered to the readers, to clarify our assumption. The findings reveals that, developing political relations have an impact to increase trade volume between countries.

Keywords: international relations, international trade, military cooperation, mediation role, trade volume

70. Examining the Impact of Fiscal, Monetary, and Trade Policy on Environmental Quality in Nigeria

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This study examines the impact of fiscal, monetary, and trade policies on environmental quality in Nigeria over the period 1990 to 2025. As a resource-dependent economy, Nigeria's macroeconomic policies have often prioritized growth and stabilization with limited attention to their environmental consequences. However, with growing environmental degradation, energy-related emissions, and Nigeria's commitment to sustainable development, understanding the relationship between macroeconomic policy instruments and environmental quality has become increasingly critical. The study aims to assess how government spending, monetary expansion or contraction, and trade openness have influenced environmental quality. A quantitative time series econometric technique will be employed, key tools will include Augmented Dickey-Fuller tests, Johansen cointegration, Vector Error Correction Models (VECM), and Granger causality tests will be used to estimate both short- and long-run relationships between the variables. The expected findings will provide insight into how macroeconomic policy frameworks can be reoriented to align economic management with

environmental sustainability. The study will contribute to the policy discourse by offering recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into fiscal, monetary policy design, and trade policy formulation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Fiscal policy, Monetary policy, Trade policy, Environmental quality, Nigeria.

71. AI and the Sustainability of Indigenous Nigerian Languages,

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The study explores the opportunities and challenges that Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers in the preservation and sustainability of Nigerian indigenous languages. In recent years AI has emerged as a valuable tool that drives human activities, particularly in providing innovative approach to problem solving. Research shows that indigenous Nigerian languages are

endangered and face the risk of extinction if nothing urgent is done. The application of AI enabled technology helps to create and preserve language resources and provide remote language learning networks that create real time and user friendly experiences. There are, however, limitations in the Nigerian environment as there are paucity of indigenous language data and digital skill know-how. It is believed that by examining the interface between AI and language, the present study hopes to contribute to the research effort that prioritizes the preservation and sustainability of indigenous Nigerian languages

72. Artificial Intelligence for Academic Administration: Issues towards teaching, training and Research,

Patricia Nkem Asoya

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the landscape of tertiary education universally as it has been identified as possessing great potentials for changing and enhancing work processes. Its role transcending academic functions from traditional processes to more modern and automated operations is assured to enrich teaching efficiency, training and research activities. It is against this backdrop that this study explored the significance of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching, training and research for improved efficiency and performance. The paper anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) with special focus on how humans perceive and adopt new technologies. The descriptive survey research design was adopted with data generated from secondary sources. Findings from the study revealed that AI-driven technologies have significant impact on teaching methodologies, academic staff development and research revolutionization in tertiary institutions. However, key challenges such as limited infrastructural availability and ethical concerns amongst others were identified as factors limiting AI integration in academic administration. Drawing from the findings of the

research, the study concluded by proffering strategic recommendations such as curriculum redesign and infrastructural investment for enhanced adoption of AI in academic settings towards attaining holistic educational advancement. rde Artificial Intelligence, Technology, Research

73. Exploring AI-Driven Transformation in Communication and Institutional Management for 21st Century Polytechnics

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This study examines the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in reshaping communication and institutional management within 21st century polytechnics. As global education systems evolve, polytechnics face increasing demands for efficiency, innovation and responsiveness to societal and industrial needs. While substantial literature discusses AI in

higher education generally, there is a lack of literature that captures a holistic view of the transformative role of AI in communication and institutional management. It is against this background that this study examines how AI technologies are revolutionizing administrative processes, enhancing decision-making and streamlining internal and external communication. It also investigates the implications of AI for staff development, student engagement and institutional governance. A mixed-methods research design, which combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, will be adopted in this study. Ultimately, the study will contribute to understanding the transformative impact of AI in reorganizing communication and institutional management for inclusive growth.

74. Geospatial Network Analysis of Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility Experiences in Africa

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Abstract

Infrastructure networks and ease of mobility constitute fundamental pillars of modern economic systems, facilitating trade flows, labor movement, and knowledge transfer that drive growth and development. The quality and extent of transportation infrastructure determine transaction costs, market access, and the ability of economies to integrate into global value chains. Contemporary economic performance requires robust connectivity, leaving regions with inadequate infrastructure at a disadvantage in attracting investment and fostering trade. Despite the African continent's vast territorial expanse, diverse political systems, vibrant young populations, and abundant natural resources, infrastructure deficits remain a persistent constraint on economic integration and development.

This study examines Africa's physical infrastructure connectivity through network analysis that maps the continent's highway, railway, and air transportation networks, complemented by

Afrobarometer survey data that captures citizens' experiences and perceptions of cross-border movement.

The findings show that a substantial proportion of survey participants report significant obstacles in cross-border travel. Corruption, road quality, internet access restrictions, and income levels emerge as primary factors that contribute to these mobility challenges. The network analysis demonstrates considerable variation in infrastructure density and quality across different regions, with notable disparities in connectivity infrastructure.

The study concludes that meaningful regional integration requires substantial infrastructure investment and the removal of mobility barriers, which constitute fundamental prerequisites for African economic integration and sustainable development. These findings provide empirical foundations for policy interventions aimed at enhancing intra-African trade and mobility.

75. Crash Risk Contagion Across BRICS and Turkey: Insights from Nonlinear and ML Models

William Bwando

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Emerging markets increased financial integration has enhanced the propagation of systemic risks across borders, mainly crash risks. This paper addresses the crash risk transmission across the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and Turkey. Observing their potential roles as transmitters or receivers of risk during calm and turbulent times, the research utilizes nonlinear econometric techniques, and machine-learning methods to study the dynamic relations in crash risk transmission, measured via Down-to-Up Volatility (DUVOL) and Negative Conditional Skewness (NCSKEW). Nonlinear interrelationships were detected, being highly pronounced during turbulent regimes. Granger causality tests and Generalized Additive Models (GAM) uncovered asymmetric spillovers, where India and China appeared to be the most potent transmitters of crash risk while Turkey and South Africa were the most susceptible

receivers. Markov Regime-Switching VAR-type models also confirmed regime-dependent behavior, with the crisis periods strengthening cross-market contagion due to investor panic, shortage of liquidity, and the rise of shocks caused by geopolitical issues. Through XGBoost feature importance analysis, China and Russia were pinpointed as key transmitters of crash risk to other markets, governed mostly by trade linkages and commodity dependencies. The paper outlines the recommendations for diversified portfolios, improved regulatory coordination structure, and the development of early warning systems to counter systemic risk build-up in emerging markets.

Keywords: Crash risk, BRICS, Turkey, financial contagion, nonlinear dynamics, machine learning, regime-switching models

76. Patterns in Economic History”: Economic Triggers in the Post-Covid Era and the U.S. Yield Curve?

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The yield spread is known to have a good predictive ability of economic activity. In about the Fall of 2023, a Deutsche Bank comparative study revealed that in the U.S., four of the macro triggers that were most commonly associated with recession became imminent. Using monthly data from January 2020 to September 2023, we attempted to study this system of variables relative to the yield curve. Among other things, we found that the counter-cyclical monetary policy model, which states that the yield curve moves in the direction of monetary policy, was relatively more pronounced, which was characteristic of the immediate post-COVID monetary policy path. However, this was short-lived, as the yield spread responded negatively only in the first three months and normalized thereafter. If a “technical recession” is referred to as an overall decline in economic activity for two to three quarters, contrary to the Deutsche Bank research, we subsequently inferred that an imminent recession was less likely.

Key Words: Yield curve, U.S., Recession, Deutsche Bank, Macro Triggers

JEL: C32, E43, G12, N12

77. Three New Measures of Microfinance Intensity for Cross-Country Studies

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Microfinance, and the research on its impact, has grown significantly over the last few decades (Pattnaik et al., 2024). Studies that take a macroeconomic approach to studying microfinance rely on measures such as the Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP)/population to determine loans per

person or GLP/GDP. But these measures standardise microfinance loans with respect to variables representing either the whole country or the overall economy. It may give a good idea of the penetration of microfinance in the economy, but not its intensity. We endeavour to avoid this problem by proposing 3 new measures of microfinance intensity for cross-country investigations: Gross Loan Portfolio per poor person (GLP/poor), Active Borrowers as a proportion of the poor population (borrowers/poor), and Microcredit as a percentage of total private sector credit (GLP/credit). The first two measures we propose give the intensity of the microfinance lending among only the poor. Our third measure standardises microfinance on the basis of overall credit in the market, which automatically takes into account the financial development of a country. Our results show that the measures proposed here are highly correlated with three established measures in the literature, are more precise than older measures, and provide greater variation in data. This allows researchers draw a clearer picture

of the relationship of microfinance intensity in a country with other economic and social indicators.

Keywords: Microcredit, Microfinance, Measures, Microfinance Intensity, Microfinance Institutions, Banks.

78. Using Sustainability to Heal the Wounds of Fatalities in Mining: An Economic and Social Perspective

Hannah Kemevor

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Mining fatalities have a significant impact on workers, their families, and local communities, leading to economic and social hardships that can persist long after the event. This presentation examines the role of sustainability in alleviating the economic and social consequences of mining fatalities. We will explore how sustainable practices in mining can foster economic

growth, emphasize social responsibility, and aid community development. In particular, we will underscore the significance of effective waste management strategies that not only minimize environmental harm but also generate job opportunities through land rehabilitation, waste-to-resource technologies, and community involvement. Through case studies and examples of best practices, we will highlight strategies that mining companies can implement to support workers, their families, and local communities affected by fatalities while advancing sustainable development and environmental protection. The presentation will also address the importance of engaging stakeholders in promoting sustainable mining practices. By sharing knowledge and experiences, we aim to raise awareness about the critical role of sustainability in the mining sector and encourage the industry to adopt sustainable practices that prioritize social and economic responsibility.

Key takeaways:

- The significance of sustainability in mitigating the economic and social effects of mining fatalities.
- Strategies for assisting workers, their families, and local communities impacted by fatalities.
- Best practices for sustainable mining that emphasize social and economic responsibility.
- The role of effective waste management in minimizing environmental damage and creating job opportunities.
- The importance of stakeholder engagement in advancing sustainable mining practices.

79. The Impact of South-South Cooperation on Industrial Development: An Analysis of the Turkey-Africa Economic Partnership

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This paper examines the impact of the burgeoning Turkey-Africa economic partnership on industrial development within African nations, framed within the broader context of South-South Cooperation (SSC). As emerging economies seek alternative development pathways, the Turkish model, characterized by a blend of trade, investment, and institutional support, presents a compelling case study. This research utilizes a qualitative methodology, drawing on secondary data from international organizations, government reports, and academic literature to analyze the mechanisms through which this partnership influences industrialization. The analysis focuses on three key channels: (1) trade dynamics and their effect on industrial inputs and outputs; (2) the sectoral concentration and local linkages of Turkish Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); and (3) the role of Turkish institutions like the Turkish Cooperation and

Coordination Agency (TİKA) and Turkish Airlines in creating an enabling environment. Findings indicate that the partnership has contributed positively to specific sectors, particularly construction, textiles, and agro-processing, through infrastructure development and capital injection. However, the extent of technology transfer and the creation of deep linkages with local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain uneven. The paper argues that while the Turkey-Africa partnership serves as a potent example of SSC, maximizing its contribution to sustainable and inclusive industrial development requires more deliberate policy alignment from both Turkish and African stakeholders. It concludes with policy recommendations aimed at enhancing local value addition, promoting skills transfer, and ensuring that the benefits of this cooperation are broadly distributed, thereby forging a genuine pathway to inclusive growth for emerging African countries.

Keywords: South-South Cooperation, Industrial Development, Turkey-Africa Partnership, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Inclusive Growth, Emerging Economies

80. Africa Policies of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States: A Comparative Political Economy Assessment

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Khazar University, Azerbaijan

Bu çalışmada Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı (TDT) üyesi ülkelerin, Soğuk Savaş sonrası, Afrika ülkeleriyle olan ekonomik ilişkileri karşılaştırmalı olarak ele alınacaktır. Bu analiz yapılırken politik motivasyonlar dikkate alınacak ve karşılıklı mevcut ticari hacimlerle birlikte muhtemel potansiyeller de tartışılacaktır.

TDT üyesi ülkelerinin bulunduğu Orta Asya, Hazar Havzası ve Güney Kafkasya gibi Afrika'nın birçok bölgesi de günümüzde büyük güç rekabetinin sahnesi olmaktadır. Bu itibarla TDT üyesi ülkelerin Rusya, ABD, Çin ve AB başta olmak üzere küresel güç odaklarının Afrika politikalarından etkilenmemeleri çok zordur. Dolayısıyla TDT üyelerinin Afrika politikaları ve

Afrika ülkeleriyle olan ticari ilişkileri küresel güçlerin politikalarına ne kadar eklenmiş veya ne kadar uyumlu olduklarını tespit etmek de bu çalışmanın amaçlarından. Bu durumun avantajları kadar dezavantajlarının olduğu şüphesizdir. Müstakil politikalar geliştirmek isteyen TDT üyesi ülkeler için meydan okuma olabilecek özel durumlar ayrıca çalışmada analiz edilecektir.

TDT'nin önemli bir üyesi olan Türkiye'nin Afrika ile olan tarihi ve kültürel bağları ve 2005'ten beri gittikçe ivmelenen ve kurumsallaşan Afrika açılımı politikaları TDT üyesi ülkeler için önemli bir avantaj teşkil etmektedir. Türkiye'nin Afrika açılımı ile eş zamanlı gelişen ekonomik ilişkilerinin TDT üyesi diğer ülkelere olan etkisini değerlendirmek bu bildirinin asıl hedeflerinden birisidir. TDT üyesi ülkelerin diğer birçok sahada olduğu gibi Afrika politikaları ve Afrika ile ticari ilişkilerde de koordinasyon içinde olmaları ve iş birliği yapmaları çok büyük avantajlar doğurmaktadır. Bu bağlamda normatif, kurumsal ve operasyonel iş birliği ve koordinasyon mekanizmalarının verimliliği bu çalışmada tartışılacaktır. Böylelikle olması

gereken iş birliđi ve koordinasyon mekanizmaları ile ilgili bir politika notu ve teklifler seti oluşturulmaya çalışılacaktır. Hiç şüphesiz her ülkenin üretim kapasitesi ve ürün çeşitliliđi farklıdır ve yapılan ve inşa edilmesi gereken iş birliđi mekanizmaları buna göre düzenlenmelidir. Çalışmanın sonuç kısmında bu verilere göre bir değerlendirme yapılarak öneriler seti hazırlanmaya çalışılacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı, Afrika, Ekonomi, İş Birliđi

81. Empowering a Generation: Transforming Public Service through Youth Fellowships: A Case of EPL Operational Countries in Africa

Richard Okai

Emerging Public Leaders, Ghana

Memory Chilapondwa

Emerging Public Leaders Malawi

The African Union (2017) highlights Africa's demographic dividend as a critical opportunity for accelerating development. However, realizing this potential depends on strategic investments in youth empowerment and public sector transformation. Across the continent, young people constitute a significant share of the population but often lack the pathways, resources, and platforms to meaningfully engage in governance and public service leadership.

The Emerging Public Leaders (EPL) Fellowship Program addresses this gap by recruiting, training, and placing talented, ethical, and motivated young professionals into key roles within government ministries, departments, and agencies across Liberia, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Malawi. This program aims to cultivate a new generation of agile, competent, and values-

driven public sector leaders capable of advancing institutional reforms and driving systemic change.

Using a mixed methods approach—document reviews, and institutional data—the paper examines the transformative impact of EPL's fellowship model in these five operational countries. It explores how young fellows contribute to strengthening public administration, improving policy implementation, and enhancing responsiveness to citizen needs.

The study argues that fostering youth leadership within public service not only aligns with national and continental governance agendas (including AU's Agenda 2063) but also serves as a critical strategy for unlocking Africa's demographic dividend and promoting inclusive, sustainable development. The paper concludes by proposing a framework for scaling this model across additional countries, highlighting lessons learned and best practices for integrating youth into public sector leadership pipelines.

Keywords: youth empowerment, demographic dividend, public service, leadership, governance, sustainable development, Africa, Agile public administration

82. Strengthening Public Sector Governance through Youth Leadership and Strategic Partnerships.
Evidence from Emerging Public Leaders Fellowship Program in Africa.

Richard Okai

Emerging Public Leaders, Ghana

Winnie Shella

Emerging Public Leaders

In many African countries, public institutions face several challenges including limited human resource capacity, poor coordination and outdated systems. Vulnerable groups including youth and women are underrepresented in public service space and the marginalized groups are often excluded. The Emerging Public Leaders (EPL) program seeks to address these issues by strengthening the talent pipeline into government through the recruitment and placement of

highly, skilled, ethical and motivated young leaders. Through targeted efforts to empower youth and women, EPL also directly addresses issues of representation and equity in governance.

This paper aims to gain an in-depth and contextualized understanding of how EPL's fellowship program contributes to strengthening governance through public service youth leadership and how strategic institutional partnership contributes to sustainable development. This paper uses a mixed method approach including (a) document review (b) online surveys (c) key informant interviews and (d) focus group discussions across Ghana, Liberia, and Malawi.

The paper argues that if institutions, governments and partners invest more in public service leadership development programs that prioritize youth inclusions, evidence informed decision making and long-term institutional partnerships, they can strengthen governance systems by fostering accountable, innovative, and future-ready public sectors.

Keywords: youth leadership, public service, governance, institutional capacity, strategic partnerships, sustainable development