Exploring the future of the world of work to inform skills policy

Options for alternative African futures

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Morne Mostert (PhD)
Director
Institute for Futures Research, Stellenbosch University
morne@ifr.sun.ac.za

Co-creating the atmospherics for meaningful decision-making
At School

Futuristic pictures by Jean-Marc Côté (et al)...France 1899, 1900, 1901 & 1910
Sneak Skill Lvl. 101
The Mouseion at Alexandria
Ptolemy c. 300BC (war scholar & patron of intellectual life)

A research institute with lecture halls, laboratories & guest rooms for visiting scholars.
Archimedes & Euclid: mathematics & physics.
Astronomer Aristarchus of Samos: solo-centricity.
The library (added by Ptolemy’s son), contained an unparalleled collection of scrolls thanks to a government edict mandating that foreign ships hand over scrolls for copying.
First chief of the library, Eratosthenes, measured the earth’s circumference to an accuracy within a few hundred miles.

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/raising-alexandria-151005550/#pPEMcyEr56ihGmod.9
Ge’ez scrolls – Axum (Ethiopia & Eritrea)

inscriptions on coins (c. AD 270/290) (intended for international trade) highlight the fact that Aksumites were a literate people with knowledge of both Ethiopic and Greek languages ... followed the weight standards which existed in the Roman Empire.

Aksumite Empire developed its own alphabet, the Ge'ez alphabet (which evolved from Epigraphic South Arabian during the late pre-Aksumite and proto-Aksumite period (c. 450AD)

A link between the trading systems of the Mediterranean and the Asiatic world & shows the extent of international commerce at that time.

A cosmopolitan & culturally important meeting place for Egyptian, Sudanic, Arabic & Indian travellers, with Sabeian, Jewish, Nubian, Christian, and Buddhist minorities.

51 references in the Bible to "Ethiopia"
• Rational beings possessing free will
• *Just war theory*

*Augustine of Hippo* (Annaba, Algeria)

*Painting by Justus van Gent, circa 1474*

(13 November 354 – 28 August 430)
The world’s oldest university is the University of al-Qarawiyyin, in Fes, Morocco. It was founded by a Muslim woman, Fatima al-Fihri, in 859 AD.
Al-Azhar University
Cairo
c.970AD
Berlin Conference
The hopeles continent
December 2011
December 2011

Africa rising

November 2012

The Gaza Problem / What to Eat Now / The New Wil
Africa's fragile democracies
Trump letter to African leaders says he 'deeply respects' people of continent after 's**hole' furore

President on charm offensive after African Union said it was 'frankly alarmed' by his remarks
The future in numbers:
Our demographic dividend potential

Ratio of Working Age to Dependents

Source: World Bank Medium Fertility Variant
Africa’s Competitiveness Landscape in International Comparison

Source: Global Competitiveness Index 2015-2016
North Africa (2015-2016 sample): Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia
Sub-Saharan Africa (2015-2016 sample): Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Tech Hubs

AFRICA:
314 ACTIVE TECH HUBS IN 93 CITIES IN 42 COUNTRIES

- Morocco: 21
- Senegal: 10
- Ghana: 16
- Nigeria: 23
- Tunisia: 15
- Egypt: 28
- Kenya: 27
- Uganda: 12
- South Africa: 54

28% Other Tech Hubs
12% Coworking Spaces
60% Incubators/Accelerators

Source: GSMA Sub-Sahara Africa 2017
Context

SDG

MyCo

Agenda 2063

NDP
Those who know where they come from also know where they’ve been
African USP

How is the world a-symmetrically structured in favour of Africa?
The confidence triad

- Citizenry
  - Consumer
  - Civil participation

- Investment
- Policy

- Business
- Government
16. Freedom of expression
(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes -
(a) freedom of the press and other media;
(b) freedom to receive or impart information or ideas;
(c) freedom of artistic creativity; and
(d) academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.

‘study & conclude consistent with pedagogical philosophy without fear or favour’

https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2010/12/21/defining-academic-freedom
Ace-of-base-in-space

Space: cultural distance, incl. language, religion, legal system, ease of doing business
Africa cannot wait for time to tell.

Africa must tell time.
Thanks, but my homework is a little beyond your skill set, mom.
Our role in strategic futures?

1. Which **obsolescent habits** have precipitated **current trend breaks**?
2. How do we discern the **noise-to-signal ratio**?
3. Does our generation have, and do we inspire, **futures projects**?
4. How do we overcome the risk of **akrasia** & develop humble courage?
5. What are we learning from our **skunkworks** through **Experimentation and Rapid Prototyping**?
6. Of what are we the **nimble and agile harbinger**, i.e. the shining light of things to come?
7. Where are we the **vanguard or bellwether** across sectors, i.e. what are we signaling to future generations?
8. What should we be designing as evidence of our leading anticipatory competence?
Catalysts for change?

- Government
- Labour
- Academia
- Constitutional Institutions
- Business
- Clergy
- Media
- NGO
Have a Vuja day

morne@ifr.sun.ac.za
Alternate paradigms?
Classical perceptions in transience

West?
Rule of Law  Economics  Politics  Leadership

Africa?
Leadership  Politics  Economics  Rule of Law

ORDER?

CONTROL?

Social dynamics