

Call for Papers: “ICTs, Wellbeing and Development in Africa: Opportunities, Potentials, and Challenges”

Abstracts of 250-300 words for paper proposals are invited to be submitted for the Panel: “*ICTs, Wellbeing and Development in Africa: Opportunities, Potentials, and Challenges*” to be organized at the Finnish Anthropological Society conference: *Landscapes, Sociality and Materiality* (21-22 October 2015 in Helsinki, Finland, see <http://www.antropologinenseura.fi/en/home/>)

Submission Deadline: **15 March 2015**.

Panel Abstract:

The widespread use of the internet and mobile phones in Africa has attracted studies of information, communication and technology (ICT) and development in African countries. Great focus has been on the ICT (including mobile technology) landscape as key to better healthcare delivery services in resource-poor settings in Africa, in business, gender, sociality, education and other areas of development. This panel seeks to bring together papers on new media and development in Africa concerning health, education/learning, commerce/banking, etc. The panel aims to focus on empirical and theoretical evidence of opportunities, potentials, limitations/challenges and complexities in use of ICTs to improve health outcomes, education, micro-entrepreneurship, etc. The panel intends to promote dialogue between research and policy-making, so, papers by both academic researchers and persons working or interested in policy and practice, e.g., representatives of governments, institutions and NGOs are welcome.

Papers may focus on (but are not limited to):

- ICTs in the health sector (m-Health/e-Health) concerning HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, and recently Ebola
- m-Commerce/m-Banking; e-Commerce/e-Banking
- m-Education/m-Learning/e-Learning
- The strengths and limitations of existing theories of mobile technology and development research
- Gaps in evidence on the effectiveness of ICTs and mobiles-for-development (M4D) strategies
- NGOs and civil society practice
- Policy issues and advocacy
- ICTs and social/political dynamics
- ICTs and gender
- The processes of change that have occurred or are occurring through use of ICTs in health, education, business and other sectors of development in Africa

* Individual paper proposals comprising an abstract of 250–300 words should be submitted directly to the Convenor at perpetual.crentsil@helsinki.fi or perpetual.crentsil@yahoo.com. Please include your university affiliation and contact information when submitting the proposal.

Deadline for paper proposals: **March 15th, 2015**. Acceptance notifications will be sent by the conference organisers by March 31st, 2015.