

Innovation in action lecture series

**Directorate Innovation, Technology Transfer
and Commercialisation presents:**

Date Thursday, 6 May 2021
Time 13:00-14:00 (CAT)
Platform MS Teams
RSVP innovation@unisa.ac.za



Pauline Koelbl

Founder and CEO of AfriProspect GmbH and ShEquity, Pauline is an innovation expert in developing & emerging economies, impact investor, advisor, connector and a seasoned impact-driven team leader with a galvanizing personality and over 20 years' experience in international development, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Driven by her passion for innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusivity and empowerment of youth and women, Pauline's unique international education and experience have allowed her to accumulate key skills, molding her into a leading expert and influencer on the transformation of developing countries to emerging economies. Pauline's approach to innovation and empowerment has so far been focused strongly on designing programs & policies which foster inclusive innovations leading to impact in various sectors across many countries.

Over the last 8 years, Pauline's work has concentrated on catalyzing marketable, scalable, and impactful home-grown innovations for African-led growth across the African continent as well as building strategic partnerships and innovation ecosystems that will invigorate economic growth across Africa. During her 7.5-year stint with the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) as the Managing Director and Director, Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), her leadership led to over US\$ 135 Million generated investments for supported African innovators.

In line with her passion to catalyze inclusive innovation especially in Africa, Pauline founded AfriProspect in 2020 with the sole aim of connecting African innovators with global markets and mobilizing smart money to enable impactful female-led startups to grow and scale. Additionally, Pauline is keen on unlocking the potential of African female entrepreneurs, eventually leading to African inclusive growth. Therefore, she launched ShEquity to provide smart investments for African female entrepreneurs and innovators. ShEquity is unlocking the potential of African female entrepreneurs in Africa by facilitating access to a pool of de-risked deals to investors and empowering female entrepreneurs with the operational support needed to unlock their full potential.

A double Fulbright -Scholar and Fellow-, Pauline is the co-founder of PROWAH (Professional Women of African Heritage) and is currently serving on a variety of Boards of companies/organizations connected to business, entrepreneurship and innovation in Africa including: Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) West Africa; adOpes (East-Africa & Switzerland); Brainwave Medical Group (South Africa & Ghana); Delwik Group (Pan-African & Switzerland); EurAfrican Forum (Pan-African & Europe); Flame Tree Initiative (Malawi & USA); GreenTec Capital Partners (Pan-African & Germany); and iLEAD - Innovation in Laboratory Engineered Accelerated Diagnostics- (South Africa, Mozambique and Senegal). She is also a member of ABM University Council (Botswana) and serves on the Academic, Research and Innovation Committee.

Pauline holds an Executive Education in Innovation for Economic Development from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government; a Master's Degree (MA) in Poverty and Development, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in International Studies (Honors) from the University of Arizona (UoA), USA.



Coming soon!

Nkululeko Mthembu | 10 June 2021

Hosted by: Vuyolwethu Dubese, Innovtel

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