

CURRICULUM VITAE: ALISON NORAH GILLWALD

Education

PhD, Witwatersrand University 2009. Title: Wireless: A decade of telecommunications reform in South Africa. Supervisor: Prof Robin Mansell, London School of Economics and Politics.

MA, University of Natal, Durban (SA) 1994. Title: Towards a Democratic Media Policy for South Africa

Certificate in Economics and Public Finance, UNISA (University of South Africa) 1988.

Honours in African Political Studies, University of Transkei (SA) 1982

B Journalism, Rhodes University, Grahamstown (SA) 1979

Employment

2013 - Adjunct professor, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town. Responsible for convening the African Digital Economy and Society doctoral program: supervision of PhD students and collaborating internationally and continentally to undertake applied research on digital policy and data governance.

2010 – 2026 *Executive Director of Research ICT Africa*, a digital policy think tank based in Cape Town and responsible for developing and directing an African-wide ICT policy and regulatory research network with the purpose of developing on the continent the data. Principal investigator for: [The African Just AI Project](#), [D4D Africa](#) and the [African After Access Survey](#). 2009 - Bridging hosting institution: The Edge Institute, Johannesburg.

2009 -2013 - *Adjunct professor: University of Cape Town, Graduate School of Business, Management of Infrastructure Regulation (MIR)*, responsible for PhD supervision. and convening executive and professional development training for regulators, policymakers, parliamentarians and the ICT industry.

2006 – 2009 *Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and Development Management, University of the Witwatersrand, SA.*

2003 – 2009 – *LINK Research Director*, responsible for establishment of the Pan African policy research network.

1999 – 2003 *Founding director of the LINK Centre*, Graduate School of Public Development Management, University of Witwatersrand, responsible for establishing and developing a centre to create policy and regulatory capacity in telecommunications, broadcasting and information communication technology through training, research and consultancy in the southern African region. Served on the School Management Committee.

1997 *Councillor, South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA)*. Appointed to the founding Council of SATRA by President Mandela on the recommendation of Parliament, following a public nomination process.

1994 Independent Broadcasting Authority: Policy Department Head - Founding head of department, specifically responsible for co-ordination of the Triple Inquiry Report on the protection and viability of public broadcasting, cross-media control and local content for Parliament.

Selected technical assistance and consulting experience

2026 – Principal investigator: African Development Bank, Digital Public Infrastructure for Africa: geopolitical and political economy analysis; mapping and cases; financially grounded implementation roadmap and self-assessment tools. (Co-Develop commissioned).

2025 – Knowledge partner to South African G20 Presidency for Digital Economy Working Group and High- Level Task Force on AI, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development. (IDRC supported).

2024 Principal Investigator (RIA): Data Governance Training for Africa Handbook, Training of Trainers manual for the domestication of the AU Data Policy Framework in Africa. (GIZ commissioned)

2024 – Technical assistance to AUDA-NEPAD to The Gambia, Zambia and Somalia on the development of the National Data Policy (GIZ commissioned).

2023- Led RIA technical assistance team for AU Data Policy Framework Implementation Plan Capacity Self-Assessment Tool & Monitoring and Evaluation Tool and training of Regional Economic Communities on Framework and Tool. (GIZ Commissioned).

2022- Led RIA technical assistance to the African Union for the development of Data Policy Framework <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42078-doc-AU-DATA-POLICY-FRAMEWORK-ENG1.pdf> (GIZ Commissioned.)

2019 – RIA lead on African Development Bank: Opportunities and Risks of Fourth Industrial Revolution in Africa.
<https://4irpotential.africa/%20SOUTH%20AFRICA'S%20READINESS%20FOR%20THE%20FOURTH%20INDUSTRIAL%20REVOLUTION.pdf>

2018 – Advisor African Union & European Union: Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)

2017 – ITU Expert to Ministry of Communications: Uganda Digital Readiness Assessment.

2016 – Lead, RIA, World Bank Broadband and Gender Gap Analysis for Zambia.

2015 –Lead Consultant, ICT Sector Performance Review of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. African Development Bank commissioned.

2013 – Led Ministerial expert group to draft the national broadband plan, SA Connect, South African Government.

2013 – Prepared Economic Infrastructure (telecommunications), for SA National Development Plan and Diagnostic.

Office, awards, directorships, service

2026 – National AI Policy Independent Review Panel 2025 (Ministry of Communications and Digital Technology).

2026 – International Telecommunications Union Secretary General Academic Advisory Body on Enhanced Technologies.

2026 – French Presidency G7 – T7 AI for Middle Powers.

2025 – Co-chair of Think 20 Digital Transformation Task Force, SA G20 Presidency.

2024 – Coordinator of Brazil T20 Digital Transformation subtrack 1 Digital Inclusion.

2024 – Co-lead with Prof Juan David Gutiérrez (Universidad de los Andes) Algorithmic Transparency in the Public Sector (Responsible AI and Data Governance Working Groups joint project) <https://gpai.ai/projects/responsible-ai/algorithmic-transparency-in-the-public-sector/>

2022 – Co-lead with Prof Dewey Murdick, Georgetown University, Advancing Research and Practice in Data Justice project of GPAI, Data Governance Working Group. <https://gpai.ai/projects/data-governance/data-justice/>

2021- Expert nomination (UNESCO) to Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Data Governance Working Group

2019 – Deputy Chairperson, Giganet, only dedicated international academic policy conference on Internet Governance

2015 – 2020 Board of the South African Tertiary Education Networks (TENET).

2014 – International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) President's Expert Panel on Multistakeholderism

2013 - Deputy Chairperson, SA National Broadband Advisory Council.

2011 – 2013 Avusa Board member

2008 - Reappointed to the Board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

2004 – Appointed to the Board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Select publications, policy papers and reports

Gillwald, A (July 2026) Framing paper for Club de Madrid Dialogue on Governance of Global Public Goods in a Fragmented World: Digital Public Goods and Infrastructure. <https://lnkd.in/eyDJwScX>

Gillwald, A., and Fuller, J. (2026). Digital Transformation and the Limits of the G20: Lessons from the Emerging Economy G20 Presidencies. <https://sl1nk.com/zjpepr8>

Gillwald A, Harishanker J & Malik P (2024) Roadmap for building a trusted and enabling governance framework for equitable, inclusive and just Digital Public Infrastructures https://www.cebri.org/media/documentos/arquivos/T20_Communique_Roadmaps.pdf

Gillwald A (2023) An Agenda for Rerouting Geopolitics in (eds) Padovani C, Hintz A, Goggin G, Losifidis P and Wavre V, Global Communications and Governance at the Cross Roads, Palgrave series Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research.

GPAI (2022) [Data Justice Policy Brief: Putting Data Justice into Practice](https://gpai.ai/projects/data-governance/data-justice-policy-brief-putting-data-justice-into-practice.pdf) <https://gpai.ai/projects/data-governance/data-justice-policy-brief-putting-data-justice-into-practice.pdf> (Prepared by Research ICT Africa, ed, Gillwald, A)

Gillwald A & Partridge A (2022) Gendered Nature of Digital Inequality: Evidence for Policy Considerations, UN Women Expert Group Meeting 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all

women and girls' 10-13 October 2022 https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/BP.1_Alison%20Gillwald.pdf

Gillwald, A (2022) The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Why it Cannot Deliver Digital Transformation to South Africa, Kagisano, no.13, Council on Higher Education, Pretoria. ISBN: 978-1-928533-79-5

Gillwald, A, Razzano G, Rens A, and van der Spuy, A (2020) Protecting mobile user data in contact tracing in Taylor, L, Sharma G, Martin, Jameson S (Editors) in Data justice and COVID-19: Global Perspectives <https://research.tilburguniversity.edu/en/publications/data-justice-and-covid-19-global-perspectives-2>

Gillwald, A (2020) A new digital deal: alternative digital futures to the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution', in Mazibuko-Makena Z, and Kramer-Mabula, E, MISTRA, Mapungubwe Institute, Johannesburg.

Gillwald A (2019) Open Access in Telecommunications Reform in Making Open Development Inclusive (ed. Smith M and Seward, R) IDRC & MIT Press, Ottawa and Cambridge.

Gillwald A (2019) Keynote address, African Internet Governance Forum, African Union, N'Djamena, Chad. <https://researchictafrica.net/2019/09/11/keynote-address-at-the-african-internet-governance-forum-by-afriigf/>

Gillwald, A. & Van der Spuy, A. (2019) The governance of global digital public goods: not just a crisis for Africa. Giganet (working paper). https://www.giga-net.org/2019symposiumPapers/34_Gillwald_VanderSpuy_Global-Governance.pdf.

Gillwald, A. (2015) High-Level Opening Panel representing academia and civil society, World Summit on the Information Society +10, Geneva. <https://researchictafrica.net/2019/04/09/wsis-2019-harnessing-opportunities-mitigating-risk/>

Cloete, C and Gillwald A (2014) Informational development in South Africa in Castells, M and Hinamen P, Reconceptualizing Development in the Global Information Age, Oxford University Press, London.

Gillwald, A. (2017) Beyond Access: Addressing Digital Inequality in Africa, GCIG Paper No. 48 Series: [Internet Governance](#)