

Fintech Regulation

12 April 2022

14:00 to 15:15 (SAST)



Attention by the South African competition authority -- a well-resourced organization relative to its continental peers -- as well as other economic regulators to the field of fintech comes at an opportune moment for informing African policy development. For instance, responding in part to the very weak paper-based state registration (and derived forms of electronic surveillance) on the continent, governments are using biometric technologies to re-issue existing documents, regulate the state bureaucracy, track artisanal miners, authenticate SIM card owners, attach individuals to bank accounts, and issue new voter credentials and identity cards to tens of millions of people. Alongside such campaigns to adopt biometrics, we also see the expansion of digital communications and the spread, along those networks, of digital money forms and digital credit, including new forms of lending that manage at the same time to be both profitable and wildly popular. These trends and the emergence of these new forms of financial products and activities both present an opportunity for reinterpreting and pose significant problems for traditional concepts well-understood and accommodated within the fintech field including those of privacy and data protection but also for other concepts including those underlying the collection of taxes and customs duties.

Guest Speakers including:

Alex Beyleveld, Mandela Institute, University of the Witwatersrand

Fola Adeleke, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand

Rachel Odhiambo, Strathmore University

Discussant:

Keith Breckenridge, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER), University of the Witwatersrand

Moderator:

Jonathan Klaaren, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand

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