

EDITORIAL:

## Climate Change, Entrepreneurship, Local Development in BRICS Nations During and After COVID-19

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### Editorial Note

The BRICS encompasses nations with increasing relevance for the world in various dimensions that includes but not limited to the fact that it carries 40 percent of the world population at 3,24 billion people and contributes about US\$ 23,4 trillion to the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). BRICS has opted to operate and make maximum contribution and influence globally through its three pillars of: political and security cooperation, financial and economic cooperation, and cultural and people to people cooperation. Through the work that BRICS champions in these pillars, it is making unparalleled global influence in the spheres of economic, political, social, demographic, and environmental architecture. The primary objective of this special journal issue is to consolidate a wide range of viewpoints and scholarly investigations pertaining to the interplay between climate change, entrepreneurship, local development within the BRICS nations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, both during and after its occurrence. Policymakers, government agencies, and international organizations heavily depend on robust research findings to formulate and implement policies and programs that are effective in achieving their intended objectives. Research conducted in these specific domains, therefore, has the potential to yield evidence-based recommendations that can effectively reinforce economic growth, promote sustainable development, and foster social progress within the BRICS nations.

The papers that are presented in this special issue are derived from the BRICS Postgraduate Forum, which took place at the University of Campinas in Brazil in September 2022. The main objective of the forum was to foster interdisciplinary research among the BRICS nations encompassing both national and cross-national (BRICS) perspectives. Submitted papers presented both qualitative and quantitative data trends with the objective of producing comprehensive understandings in these pivotal fields of research. The adherence to these imperatives is of utmost importance for ensuring the sustainability of the BRICS formation and its ability to exert influence within the Global South and on a global scale. Moreover, these papers provide insights into the long-term viability of the individual economies of the BRICS nations. A comprehensive collection of topics shares valuable insights and contribute to the understanding of key developments in the BRICS nations. The collection of topics in this special issue are presented as follows:

**Cele, Tshikovhi and Netswera** examined how the informal business sector was affected during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in South Africa through a systematic review. The authors concluded that the informal sector is one of the most vulnerable sectors that lack access to appropriate risk management structures and in which most people live hand to mouth. Similarly, **Langry and Rena's** article assess the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on the informal sector in South Africa. The authors point out that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed many economies' unpreparedness. There lacks necessary policy framework to protect informal traders from the daunting impacts of a pandemic or related global catastrophe. Thus, asserting that COVID-19 has negatively affected the informal sector mainly through supply chain as well as marketing.

**Gengan's** research focused on Innovative entrepreneurship through creative outputs for emerging filmmakers in South Africa. The article describes emerging film creative leadership in terms of an Entrepreneurial Conceptual Framework that includes a functional relationship equation. The relationship between the four key dimensions (soft skills, innovation, film project management, and iterative content generation) and the four key competencies (high-

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quality content, influence, education, and entertainment) and their ultimate effect on entrepreneurial and creative leadership in the filmmaking landscape was explored.

**Ntobaki and Buthelezi** explored the marketing of brands through social media using a quantitative research approach. Their paper investigated the effects of social media brand engagement on South African consumers' purchase intentions and advocates that social media is an immensely powerful communication tool that can be used to shape consumers' purchasing goals.

**Roopnarian, Singh and Rathilal** explored the role of Quality in a world of intelligent and automated systems. The research shows the evolution of Quality from inspection to Quality as discovery and proposes a roadmap and model for an Intelligent Quality Ecosystem for Organisations. The authors propose a road map that integrates Quality with machine learning, processes using programmable logic controllers and adaptive feedback loops, introducing robotic and automated conveyance, automated collection of information with cloud storage and block-chain technology. This paper was complimented by **Jembere, Moodley and Kiliswa** who conducted a cross-cultural investigation on the acceptance of Professional Service Robots. The authors adopted a Service Robot Acceptance Model (SRAM) and suggested that acceptance of professional service robots is dependent on cultural factors and the types of service sectors.

**Nguyen's** research determines socio-demographic factors and knowledge of consumers on wildlife animals to the pattern of wildlife consumption in Laos. The outcomes of her research indicated a significant relationship between consumers' place of birth and education and consumption of wildlife. This study also points out that consumers with less education use more wildlife products for traditional rituals than their highly educated counterparts. Nguyen suggests that the government needs to use strategies specific to each consumer group to fully influence and reduce their consumption of wildlife animals.

**Emelianenko** shed light on the concept of Ubuntu and the formation of the South African foreign policy since the 90s of the 20th centuries. The author asserts that the support of the state agenda on the concept of Ubuntu, as well as obtaining membership in the BRICS is an attempt to build a particular status in the African continent and globally. Her work investigates the sequence of inclusion of the concept of Ubuntu and its consolidation in the context of state policy papers in both foreign and domestic political practices.

**Zondi, Qwatekana and Dube** address the management of solid waste in South African rural communities using a mixed method approach. A specific focus was put on the relationship between rural socioeconomic conditions, solid waste generation and management. The authors suggest that waste management is not implemented in all rural areas of South Africa despite socioeconomic improvement and increased consumption patterns in these communities.

Lastly, the editors of this special issue Ndivhuho Tshikovhi (*Durban University of Technology, South Africa*), Fulufhelo Netswera (*Durban University of Technology, South Africa*) and Bruno De Conti (*University of Campinas, Brazil*) take this opportunity to express their utmost appreciation to the peer reviewers who have contributed to the evaluation process of this special issue. These topics have far-reaching implications for the prospective trajectory of the BRICS nations, both in terms of their individual development and their collective influence as a bloc. Readers can acquire a more profound comprehension of the intricacies and interplay of forces within the BRICS nations. Finally, this work is based on a BRICS research project supported by the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS). Happy reading!