

**LIRNEasia @ five:  
research --> policy --> knowledge-based economies**

***Speaker bio: Alison Gillwald, PhD***

**Gillwald, Alison, PhD**, is an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town where she convenes executive training in ICT policy and regulation for the Management of Infrastructure Reform and Regulation (MIR) programme. She is the executive director of Research ICT Africa (RIA), an independent think-tank, hosting a twenty-country research network in Africa, which aims to fill the ICT policy and regulatory research vacuum that exists in the continent. Prior to that, she was director of the Witwatersrand University LINK Centre, where she established to fast track policy and regulatory training having served on the Council of the first telecommunications regulator, South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) until 1999. She was an advisor to the Independent Media Commission in 1994 for the first democratic elections held in the country following which she was responsible for establishing the Policy Department at the first broadcast regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority. She served on the African Ministers of Communications Advisory Group, chaired the National Digital Broadcasting Advisory Body, and the Steering Committee of the ITU Task Force on Gender Issues. She has served on the board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Alison is founding editor of the Southern African Journal of Information and Communication and has published in the areas of telecommunications and broadcasting policy and regulation, gender and politics more broadly.