

2025 SARIMA Conference | WORKSHOP:



— Enabling Equitable and Effective International Research Collaborations |

An interactive workshop to explore barriers and enablers to equitable international research collaborations in different settings - Supported by The British Academy



- Tuesday, 2 September 2025
- 08h30 – 12h00
- Limited to 40 participants
- Protea Hotel Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa

— **CATEGORY:** Research Management (RM) | Innovation & Technology Transfer (I&TT)

— **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Those Working in or Facilitating International Research Collaborations, Both at Universities and Funding Organisations

— **FOCUS AREA:** Intermediate and Advanced

Overview:

- This workshop builds on a series of global workshops conducted by the British Academy in the UK, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa and Malaysia with a wide range of stakeholders (funders, researchers, research managers, network organisations and others) to better understand why there are still so many barriers to undertaking equitable international research collaboration despite many years of research and advocacy into the topic.

The workshop utilises an interactive technique that brings together a reflection on challenges encountered in international research collaboration in the context of participants' own research environments with an exploration of activities that have worked in other geographies. Based on this, participants will jointly identify opportunities and how to operationalise them in their local context.

In this session, we seek to challenge perceptions of weakness or powerlessness and encourage participants to reflect on their own role in equitable partnerships. Participants are encouraged to develop viable actions that they can utilise in their local environment or institution and to learn how to develop these workshops at their own institutions.

The workshop will enhance understanding of different research environment and how to navigate seemingly incompatible systems. It will reflect on existing resources and consider how better uptake, knowledge sharing, policy adjustments, or use of technological developments could accelerate progress towards equitable partnerships. It will raise awareness of existing resources that aid international research collaborations.

Speaker - Facilitator:

- Dr Silke Blohm
Director, 4Sciences Group Ltd, UK

Dr Blohm is deeply committed to advancing best practices in research management and capacity building on a global scale. With extensive experience leading workshops worldwide, she is a regular speaker at international conferences. Most recently, she has led a series of workshops on equitable partnerships in Global South countries, fostering collaboration and sustainable research initiatives.