Knowledge institutions in Africa are growing rapidly and the demand for higher education and for qualified researchers and teachers is exploding. There are also many changes: for example the growth of private knowledge and training institutions, with a very diverse background and (partly foreign) funding structures. Africa’s scholars are collaborating with international colleagues, partly European and North American, but ever more with Asian and Latin American linkages, and also increasingly connecting to other African colleagues in Africa and in the diaspora.

The aims of this conference are to sketch out the knowledge landscape in contemporary Africa, to bring together the state-of-the-art research on knowledge production and communication in Africa, and to connect researchers with policy makers and managers of knowledge institutions from across Africa and Europe.

These are the three main questions:

-There are great changes in the African knowledge landscape: is Africa preparing itself for leapfrogging to innovations?

-What will the nascent multi-polar world of the 21st Century mean for Africa’s role in knowledge and innovation?

-After 60 years of Independence, how do we finally decolonize minds and change attitudes towards real co-creation?