



January 2024

## ARUA NISANSA Research Forum 2024

*13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March*

*Graduate School of Business, Cape Town, South Africa*

### Facilitated thematic hubs

*2:30pm – 4:00pm*

#### **Hub 1: The role of universities (HEIs) to foster social innovation and sustainability transformation – places, processes and pathways**

*Rooftop*

Lead: Simone Strambach, University of Marburg

Facilitator: Ruth Beukman

#### **The role of Universities (HEIs) to foster social innovation and sustainability transformation – Different Places, Processes and Pathways**

Combining economic development with social justice and environmental sustainability is one of the most significant challenges in climate change pathways. Universities (HEIs) have a critical and unique role in providing students and other learners within their sphere of influence with the knowledge, skills and mindsets to address the SDGs through their current or future roles. However, taking over this role requires broad structural and cultural changes in teaching and research and building new cross-cutting networks with stakeholders in their surrounding ecosystem. Moreover, following the UNESCO-promoted 'Whole institutional Approach' implies changing the management and operating system and building a sustainable campus.

This Hub aimed to provide an open space to bring in experiences from universities/HEIs in different places and environments and their approaches to reconfiguring themselves to achieve the SDGs. We intend to share ideas, strategies, and concepts fostering these challenging processes as well as discuss the main barriers facing university actors on these pathways. We will start by introducing impulse experiences and open the forum to learn more about projects and case studies from the participants.