

This webinar will explore recent efforts to advance democratic innovations and the challenges and opportunities for strengthening citizen engagement during government decision-making.

Dr. Fiona Anciano is an associate professor and social science researcher at the University of Western Cape and co-chair of Participedia's Democratic Accountability research cluster. She will briefly introduce Participedia—a global network and crowdsourcing platform for collating democratic innovations, with the aim to strengthen and mobilize knowledge about participatory democratic innovations throughout the world.

Further, informed by case studies of sanitation in informal settlements and informal settlement upgrading in South Africa, she will talk about the practice, and challenges, of participatory engagement in South Africa linked to local government initiatives. Her comments will be centered on the potential of citizen engagement, and the ways in which government mandated forms of participation have unintended consequences for meaningful engagement. She will also reflect on power and participation in participatory spaces.

The talk will be followed by comments by **Dr. Jacinta Nzinga**, who is Senior Social Scientist in health policy and systems research at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme.



Dr. Fiona Anciano



Dr. Jacinta Nzinga