**2021 EMBA Global Network Week**

**Course description/aims- Classes held between 9am-3pm SAST.**

Africa is becoming an increasingly important region on the global stage. By 2035, the number of Africans of working age is projected to be larger than the combined working population in all other regions—combined. The continent holds some of the most important biomes on the planet, abundant opportunity for solar and hydropower, and enormous swaths of arable land. Moreover, as African countries develop many of them will continue to post some of the highest economic growth rates in the world.

Yet the continent’s future remains unclear. Some researchers and policymakers suggest that as Africa grows, increased trade, income, consumer purchases, and innovation might spur economic development and enormous opportunity. Others are more pessimistic, cautioning that poverty, unemployment, and rising levels of inequality might not only create a regional demographic crisis, but contribute to migration issues and environmental problems around the world.

Business leaders are likely to play a significant role in helping to chart the continent’s path. Companies and social enterprises will have opportunities to create new products, generate employment, and earn profits in the continent’s growing markets—potentially creating new approaches that can ‘leapfrog’ existing development and business models. The private sector will also have opportunities to influence policymakers and develop innovative approaches to the serious challenges of development.

This course is designed to introduce EMBA students to some of the risks and opportunities currently facing business leaders and policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), as well as to provide concepts that will continue to be useful to anyone doing business on the continent in the future. We will explore the two largest economies in SSA—Nigeria and South Africa—in depth before looking briefly at seven other countries. Although each country on the continent has a unique business environment, we will use this sample to begin to develop skills and identify patterns that will be useful to anyone looking to do business almost anywhere in Africa (and beyond).

The course is suitable for any students who are interested in Africa, including those with experience on the continent as well as those looking for an introduction to it. Although the course will assume some existing knowledge of macroeconomics, it will provide brief reviews of key economic concepts with a focus on application. It will also provide a short introduction to key issues of political economy.