**Call for Proposals:**

**Project Partner:** UNU-WIDER

**Overview:**

We invite innovative proposals from early career researchers, particularly from the Global South, to advance our understanding of how artificial intelligence (AI) is shaping labour markets in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This call focuses on rigorous empirical research that explores the impacts of AI on job-seekers, firms, workforce dynamics, and employment structures.

**Key Themes:**

Proposals should address one or more of the following broad themes in the context of one or more LMICs:

1. **AI and labour market matching:**
* Investigate how AI is transforming job search mechanisms and hiring practices.
* Assess the potential of AI in improving employer-employee matching, particularly through recruitment and job-seeking tools.
* Examine the role of AI in facilitating the transition from education to employment.
1. **AI and firm-level labour market dynamics:**
* Explore the impact of AI adoption on firm productivity, efficiency, and workforce size.
* Assess the effects of AI on labour retention, formal versus informal employment, and worker skill development.
* Investigate how AI-driven automation influences business performance, including sales growth and employment structures.
1. **AI, job quality, and inequality:**
* Examine how AI adoption affects job quality, job satisfaction, and opportunities for learning and career advancement.
* Investigate potential adverse effects of AI, such as job displacement or rising inequality due to skill-based technological change.
* Consider how AI influences informal and self-employed workers.

**Methodological and Analytical Approaches:**

Submissions should be grounded in rigorous empirical methods, particularly randomized controlled trials (RCTs) or quasi-experimental designs where feasible.

**Processes and Work Methods:**

Once applicants submit their expression of interest, we will review them and provide feedback to selected researchers. Promising proposals will receive detailed multi-round feedback to strengthen their feasibility and impact, increasing the likelihood of securing research funding.

**Team:**

Research area leads: Kunal Sen, Sam Jones, Jesse Lastunen

Coordination: Tram Nguyen

Communications: Timothy Shipp, Annett Victorero

**Engagement and Outputs:**

All project activities, publications, events, and opportunities for collaboration will be made available through UNU-WIDER’s research initiatives.