

## **Alison Gillwald – Bio 2018**

### **ALISON GILLWALD- SHORT BIO**

Alison Gillwald (PhD) is the Executive Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA) an African digital policy and regulatory think-tank that works across 20 African countries. As adjunct-professor at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Development, Policy and Practice she supervises doctoral students undertaking transdisciplinary research in digital governance, policy and regulation. A former regulator she was appointed to the founding Council of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) in 1997, having headed the policy department at the first broadcasting regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority established in 1994. She has also served as chairperson of the South African National Digital Migration Advisory Body; on the board of the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcasting Corporation; and as deputy-chairperson of the National Broadband Advisory Council. She prepared the telecommunications component of the economic infrastructures component of the National Development Plan and was seconded to the Department of Communication to lead the drafting the SA Broadband Plan: SA Connect. She also served on the first ITU Gender Task force and on the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) President's Strategy Panel on Multistakeholder Innovation. She has provided technical assistance to policy makers, regulators through RIA and multilateral agencies such as the ITU, the World Bank, the African Development Bank. She had provided expert assistance to the South African Presidency, the Competition Commission and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and undertaken capacity building across Africa and in Asia and Latin America. A political economist, Alison is published in the areas ICT policy and regulation, gender and development.