



Prof Ronit Frenkel

The University of Johannesburg acquired *The Thinker* in April 2019 from Dr Essop Pahad. Over the last decade, *The Thinker* has gained a reputation as a journal that explores Pan-African issues across fields and times. Ronit Frenkel, as the incoming editor, plans on maintaining the pan-African scope of the journal while increasing its coverage into fields such as books, art, literature and popular cultures. *The Thinker* is a 'hybrid' journal, publishing both journalistic pieces with more academic articles and contributors can now opt to have their submissions peer reviewed. We welcome Africa-centred articles from diverse perspectives, in order to enrich both knowledge of the continent and of issues impacting the continent.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION - All contributing analysts write in their personal capacity

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Lisa Otto is a senior researcher with the NRF-SARChI Chair in African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg and is joint editor in chief of the journal *African Security Review*. She holds a PhD in Political Studies from the University of Johannesburg and a MA in International Peace and Security from King's College London. She has specialised in African issues, particularly those related to conflict and security as well as foreign affairs and diplomacy. Her research interests have largely revolved around non-traditional threats to security, where she has developed specific expertise in Maritime Security.

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Robyn Williams is a PhD candidate with the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg and is a researcher at the DSI/NRF SaRChI Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development. She holds a MA in Politics from the University of Johannesburg, titled the implications of the fourth industrial revolution on the theory and practice of diplomacy. Her research explores the implications of new and advancing technologies, prompted by the 4IR, on diplomacy and international relations at large. Other research interests include African development through advanced technologies and collaborative efforts and South African diplomacy. Robyn's doctoral studies explores the possibilities of South African diplomacy in the context of 4IR.

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