THE BERTHA CENTRE

SOCIAL INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

BERTHA FOUNDATION
Graduate School of BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

BERTHA CENTRE
UCT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
ABOUT

THE BERTHA CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS A SPECIALISED UNIT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN’S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (GSB).

Established in 2011 in partnership with the Bertha Foundation, a family foundation that works with inspiring leaders who are catalysts for social and economic change and human rights, the Centre has become a leading academic centre in Africa.

In collaboration with the GSB, the Centre has integrated social innovation into the business school curriculum, established a wide community of practitioners and awarded over R7 million in scholarships to students from across Africa. At the GSB, the Centre works closely with academic faculty, the MTN Solution Space, and the Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development.

OUR VISION
WE ENVISION A MORE INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND MORE JUST SOCIETY DRIVEN BY SOCIAL INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

OUR MISSION
TO BUILD CAPACITY AND PIONEER PRACTICES IN AFRICA - WITH PARTNERS, PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS - TO ADVANCE THE DISCOURSE AND SYSTEMIC IMPACT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION.
RESEARCHING FOR ACTION

WE ARE BUILDING AN EVIDENCE BASE THAT DEMONSTRATES THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN AFRICA AND DISSEMINATING ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS.

We build an evidence base of African-centred social innovation and systems entrepreneurship, generating actionable insights for practitioners and students, and publishing them as case studies, research and media articles and curriculum. We work to advance individuals, institutions and systems. We do this through offering funding such as our scholarships and social venture test or start-up capital. Our faculty and team members teach curricula created to advance social innovators, social and system entrepreneurs with a focus on addressing Africa’s social challenges and inequality in direct and in systemic ways.

DOWNLOAD OUR ONLINE PUBLICATIONS AND GUIDES:

+ African Investing for Impact Barometer
+ Education Innovators Review
+ Health Innovators Review
+ Innovative Finance in Africa Review
+ Guide to Impact Bond Investing
+ Guide to Innovative Finance in Africa
+ Guide to Legal Forms for Social Enterprises in South Africa
+ Social Franchising Accelerator Insights Guide & case studies
+ Switching on finance for off-grid energy
+ Beyond Organizational Scale: How Social Entrepreneurs Create Systems Change

OUR PUBLICATIONS
EDUCATING FOR IMPACT

We educate students on GSB Programmes including the MBA, EMBA, MCom in Development Finance and the MPhil in Inclusive Innovation. We also teach Executive Education courses and Massive Open Online Courses. Our Social Innovation Lab (SIL) is a pioneering addition to the GSB's core MBA programme that seeks to support and equip purpose-driven people who are looking to drive social impact in emerging markets.
COURSES & CURRICULUM

GSB PROGRAMMES
+ MBA (Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship & Social Innovation Lab)
+ EMBA
+ Master of Commerce in Development Finance (MCom)
+ Master of Philosophy specialising in Inclusive Innovation (MPhil)

GSB EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COURSES
+ Impact Investing in Africa
+ Leading Innovative Partnerships in Extended Education
+ Social Entrepreneurship & Systems Change

BERTHA CENTRE SHORT COURSES
+ Impact Measurement
+ Outcomes-Based Contracting

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE
+ Becoming a changemaker: Introduction to Social Innovation (MOOC)
+ Innovative Finance: Hacking finance to change the world (MOOC)
CONVENING FOR RESULTS

We have connected over 7000 students, citizens, practitioners and knowledge generators across different sectors, providing a space and structure for them to exchange ideas through conferences, webinars, workshops, hackathons, business planning competitions, etc. We collaborate with African systems innovators and entrepreneurs working in disadvantaged communities, and make them visible, and build and support this network of changemakers to be more systemic and impactful.
The Bertha Centre provides government, private investors, donors and NPOs with advice and support on impact investing, creating pathways to funding and growing social enterprises through workshops, labs, seed funding, mentorship, etc. We advance outcomes-based models in the public sector to improve the effectiveness of service delivery, and advise government on policy interventions to advance social innovation and entrepreneurship.

We are open to discussing new and exciting collaborations and partnerships as some of our key projects have included The World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, South African National Treasury and Western Cape Government, to name but a few.
The Bertha Centre offers scholarships to UCT GSB applicants who would like to complete either the UCT GSB MBA or MPhil in Inclusive Innovation. These scholarships are open to innovators, entrepreneurs, out-of-the-box thinkers, system-entrepreneurs, changemakers, social activists and cross-disciplinary candidates from any field, provided they are actively involved in the exploration of social, environmental and/or economic justice using innovative approaches.
FAST FACTS

- Created over 250+ new case studies and vignettes
- Uncovered & documented 300+ innovative models and solutions in finance, education, health & other social fields
- Convened 7000+ citizens and practitioners in support of our mission
- Benchmarking in the top 5 globally for social impact in a 2017 Bridgespan Group report
- Awarded over R7-million in Bertha scholarships to African students
- Presented with UCT’s Social Responsiveness Award in 2015
- Awarded Social Innovation Leadership Award in African Leadership Awards 2016
- Conducted 300+ executive education and short courses

CONNECT WITH US

- Attend our events.
- Apply for a Bertha Centre scholarship.
- Sign up online for our monthly newsletter.
- Participate in our courses, curriculum and workshops.
- Download our online publications and guides.

ENGAGE WITH US:

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