



INVITATION

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR SERIES

You are cordially invited to a seminar presented by *Michael Gastrow*, Chief Researcher at the HSRC's Education, Science and Skills Development research programme who will present on:

Innovation and R&D in the South African automotive sector: Globalisation, structural change, and R&D: the sectoral innovation system of the South African automotive manufacturing sector, 1995-2008.

Date: Thursday, 5 August 2010

Time: 13h00 - 15h00

Venue: Classroom 8, Wits Business School,
2 St David's Place, Parktown

Map: http://innovationsymposium.wits.ac.za/usrfiles/users/1/Maps/wits_business_school_drawn_map.jpg

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Biography

Michael Gastrow is a chief researcher at the HSRC's Education, Science, and Skills Development research programme. He holds an MA from the University of Cape Town. He has worked as an industrial development facilitator for B&M Analysts, where he benchmarked numerous firms in the automotive, textiles, and clothing sectors, and also administered industrial development clusters in these sectors.

Since joining the HSRC in 2006 he has worked on the National R&D Survey, as well as other projects in the area of science and technology policy for South African government departments, the OCED, and the European Commission. This includes working on an economic development strategy for the City of Cape Town, an integrated innovation strategy for the Premier of Limpopo, a global EU FP-7 funded project (entitled INGINEUS) examining global innovation networks, a bilateral research project looking at automotive innovation in South Africa and Argentina, an OECD territorial review of the City of Cape Town, and research papers examining the public's engagement with science in South Africa, amongst others. His publication focus is on the sectoral analysis of research and development (R&D) activity, where he has published articles addressing sectoral innovation systems and R&D in South African biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, automotives, nanotechnology, and ICT. His first novel, entitled '*The Road to Absalom*', was published in 2010.

Abstract for presentation

After 1995 South Africa's automotive industry had to adjust to market liberalisation, rapidly integrate into global supply chains, adapt to World Class levels of competitiveness, and experienced increased ownership by multinationals. The effects of these changes on R&D and innovation activities are examined here. Data from the national R&D survey are used to further explore the structure and direction of automotive R&D. It is found that R&D activity came under pressure, and is likely to decline going forward. However, there are certain niche areas in which R&D has been more resilient and is likely to continue. Current research in the area of South African automotive innovation is also discussed.

