

## PRESIDENTIAL PANEL



# Youth Sociology: Silences, Opportunities and Future Possibilities



The Sociology of Youth has a number of silences. Amongst these are the effects of race, class, gender, (sub)culture and geography on issues such as youth activism for climate change, the ways in which young people experience mental health challenges, and the changing nature of youth livelihoods in the face of accelerating technological innovations (or the so-called fourth industrial revolution).





The Young Anthropocene: Silence and Fire

Kate TILLECZEK, York University, Canada

Seeking Hope and Joy in Youth Climate Action: Examining Verbatim Theatre in Ethnographic Research Collaborations with Toronto Youth on the Climate Crisis

Kathleen GALLAGHER, Christine BALT, Nancy CARDWELL and Lindsay VALVE, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada

The Glass/Grass Ceiling: Young Women Graduates, Leadership and the Covid Crisis

Alude MAHALI, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

New Value Imaginaries for Young People and the Future of Work Sharlene SWARTZ, HSRC/University of Fort Hare, South Africa

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Youth
Sociology:
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## New value imaginaries for young people and/in the future of work

Sharlene Swartz | 23 February 2020



How do young people imagine their lives in the future? How is their view of work shaped by the place they occupy in hierarchies of domination perpetuated by race, class, gender and geography? What role for youth sociologists in disrupting the conventional narrative of inevitable precarity, alienation and exclusion, especially in the forthcoming/already here tech age?

How do we move beyond (STEM) skills, hierarchies of value and entrepreneurial veneration to provoke (1) **new work imaginaries**; (2) **new education imaginaries**; and (3) **new value imaginaries** that bring into focus the unsustainable relationship between profit, growth and dystopian futures.











### Why this discussion?

- 1. Youth unemployment (12-60%)
- 2. Youth views about work ("big jobs")
- 3. The changing nature of work ("precarity")
- 4. The revolution in tech (4IR is coming)
- 5. The changing nature of education
- 6. Universities v. TVETs (40%
- 7. Focus on entrepreneurship (2% succeed)
- 8. Focus on STEM skills (1 in 3)
- 9. Lessons from our current CoVid crisis



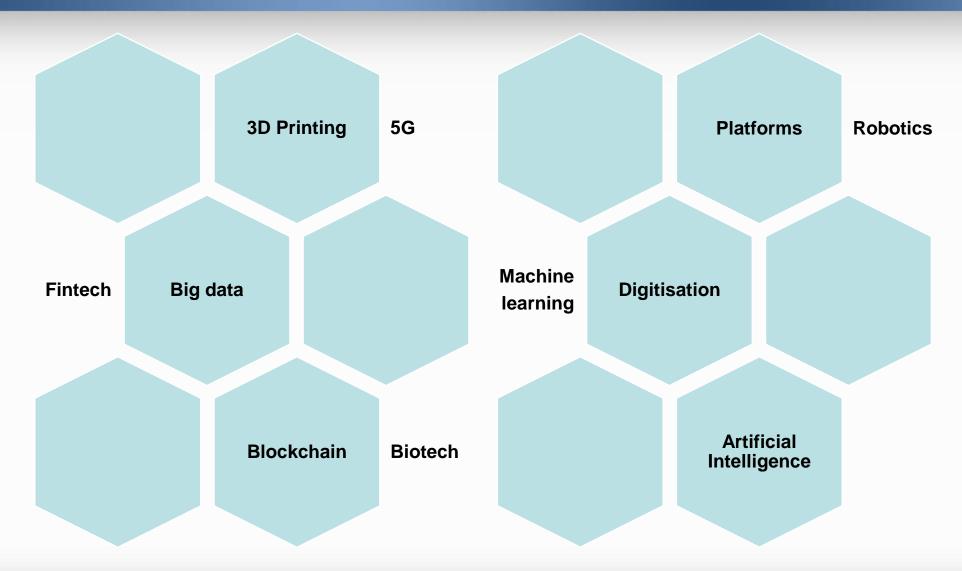








## The revolution in technology





## Inclusive Economic Development

"The new economy must be founded on fairness, empowerment, justice and equality. It must use every resource, every capability and every innovation we have in the service of people."

> Cyril Ramaphosa President of South Africa, 21 April 2020



#### HSRC Lessons from the CoVid Crisis

- 1. The difference between essential work & pointless(?) work
- 2. The role of the state in people's lives and livelihoods
- 3. Some jobs/economic activities are not coming back post-CoVid
- 4. Inequality will destroy us all
- We don't need as much planet, climate, consumption
- 6. Localized production is critical
- 7. Informal trading is the lifeblood for many











## What are the big ideas?

- 1. Re-characterise jobs into a range of colour-coded (refracted) economies/sectors in order to
  - See where new jobs are emerging
  - Where jobs are likely to disappear
  - To give work new forms of esteem
- 2. Use a range a continua to characterise kinds of jobs
- 3. Differentiate between jobs, livelihoods, careers, work, employment, with a focus on change over time
- 4. Map out the implications for schools, TVETS, universities, young people, and those who support them









#### CLASSIFYING THE ECONOMY

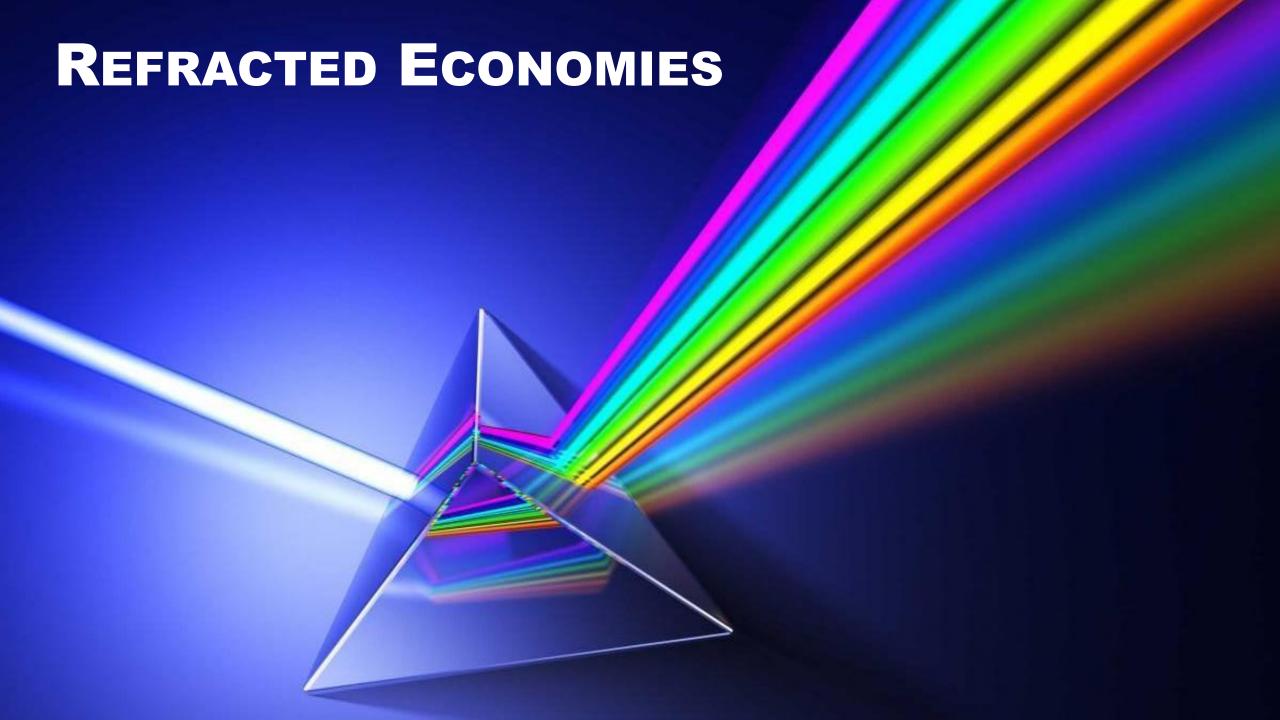
1° Extraction

2° Production/Manufacturing

3° Services

## SOCIOLOGICAL STAPLE

FISHER (1935, 1939, 1946) CLARK (1940) FOURASTIÉ, JEAN (1949)



#### Re-Classifying/colour-coding work by purpose (1)

Orange: To provide creative, cultural and leisure products and services

Blue: To utilise water resources for economic growth

• **Green:** To enable the clean energy resources, to conserve the environment

 Yellow: To provide and conserve public goods, education, human rights and community support

• Lavender: To provide care and help

Bronze:

To produce and supply raw materials (food and minerals) and related manufactured products (agriculture and mining)

Teal:

To plan, design and maintain infrastructure construction, technicians

• Silver:

To produce and supply of physical goods

• Gold:

To manage finance and assets

• Platinum: To innovate to ensure other work is more effective and efficient

Red:

To circumvent the law in order to make money

• Invisible: Unrecognised work

#### REFRACTED ECONOMIES

| <b>Orange (Creative, Cultural, Leis</b> | <b>isure</b> |
|---|--------------|
|---|--------------|

Blue (Water resources for economic growth)

**Green (Energy, Environmental conservation** 

Yellow (Public service, Community support)

**Lavender (Caring, Helping)** 

**Bronze (Agriculture, Extracting)** 

Silver (Production, Distribution, Consumption)

**Teal (Construction, Transport)** 

**Gold (Finance, Assets)** 

Platinum (Tech/X-tech)

**Red (Criminal)** 

Invisible (Unrecognised)



#### A RANGE OF CHARACTERISTICS ON A CONTINUUM

| SKILLED                         |                          | UNSKILLED                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ENTREPRENEURIAL (INNOVAT</b> | E)                       | BUSINESS AS USUAL (IMITATE) |
| FORMAL                          |                          | INFORMAL                    |
| KNOWLEDGE                       |                          | PHYSICAL                    |
| PRIVATE                         |                          | PUBLIC                      |
| PROFESSIONAL                    |                          | ARTISAN                     |
| INDIVIDUAL                      |                          | COLLECTIVE                  |
| PERMANENT                       |                          | GIG                         |
|                                 |                          |                             |
| SUSTAINABLE                     |                          | FINITE                      |
| LOW                             | CREATIVE                 | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | COMPLIANT                | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | RESPECTED BY COMMUNITY   | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | BENEFITS OTHERS          | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | FAIR TREATMENT           | HIGH                        |
| LOW                             | FAIR INCOME              | HIGH                        |
|                                 |                          |                             |

#### NOT JUST HOW DOES TECH AFFECT JOBS...





Orange

Green

Blue

Lavender

Yellow

**Bronze** 

Silver

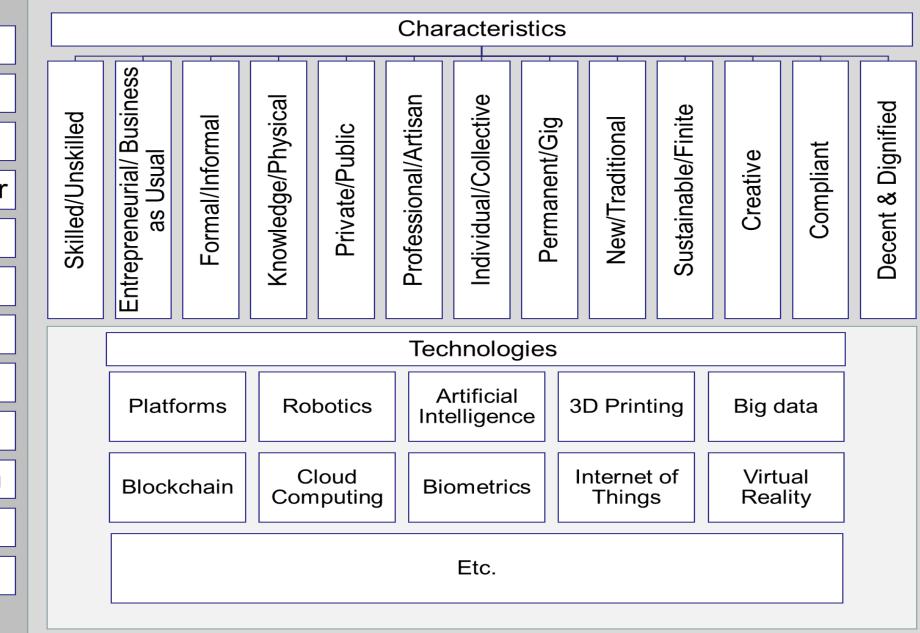
Teal

Gold

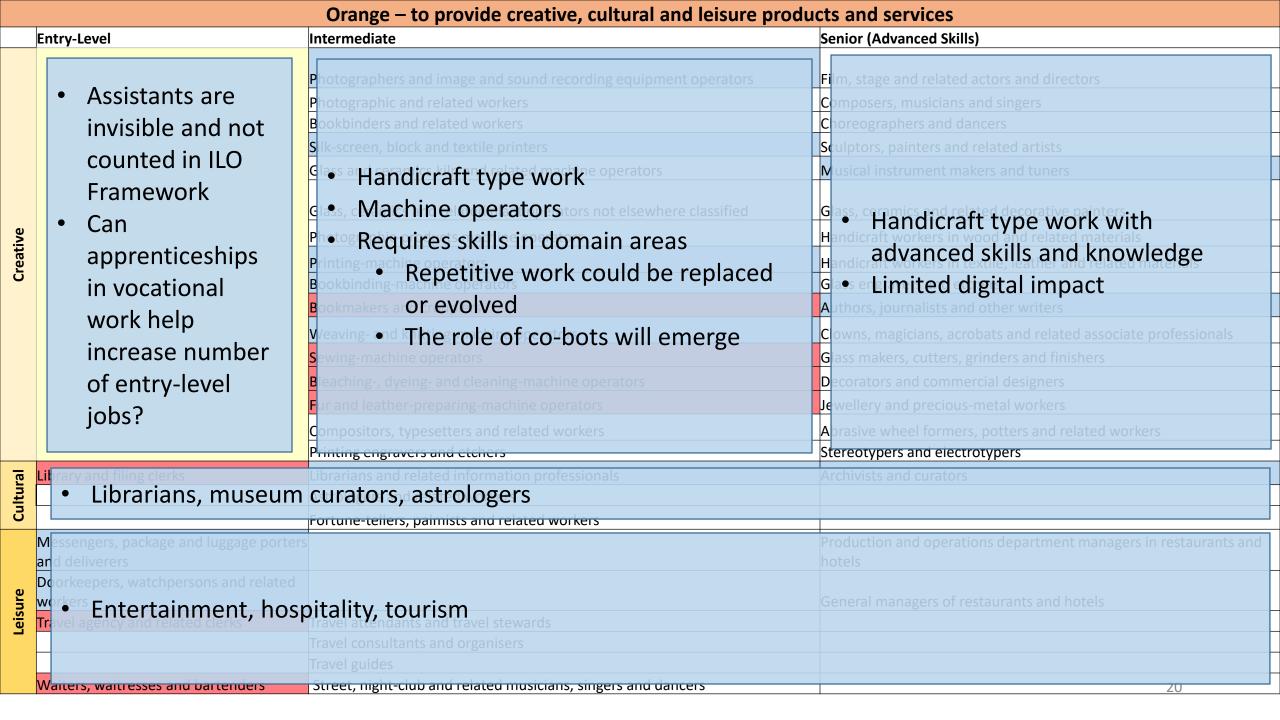
**Platinum** 

Red

Invisible



| Orange – to provide creative, cultural and leisure products and services |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Entry-Level   | Intermediate  | Senior (Advanced Skills)   |  |
|  |   | Photographers and image and sound recording equipment operators  Photographic and related workers | Film, stage and related actors and directors  Composers, musicians and singers |  |
|  |   | Bookbinders and related workers   | Choreographers and dancers   |  |
|  |   | Silk-screen, block and textile printers   | Sculptors, painters and related artists  |  |
|  |   | Glass and ceramics kiln and related machine operators   | Musical instrument makers and tuners   |  |
|  |   | Glass, ceramics and related plant operators not elsewhere classified                              | Glass, ceramics and related decorative painters                                |  |
| tive   |   | Photographic-products machine operators   | Handicraft workers in wood and related materials                               |  |
| Creative   |   | Printing-machine operators  | Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials                   |  |
| 0  |   | Bookbinding-machine operators   | Glass engravers and etchers  |  |
|  |   | Bookmakers and croupiers  | Authors, journalists and other writers   |  |
|  |   | Weaving- and knitting-machine operators   | Clowns, magicians, acrobats and related associate professionals                |  |
|  |   | Sewing-machine operators  | Glass makers, cutters, grinders and finishers                                  |  |
|  |   | Bleaching-, dyeing- and cleaning-machine operators  | Decorators and commercial designers  |  |
|  |   | Fur and leather-preparing-machine operators   | Jewellery and precious-metal workers   |  |
|  |   | Compositors, typesetters and related workers  | Abrasive wheel formers, potters and related workers                            |  |
|  |   | Printing engravers and etchers  | Stereotypers and electrotypers   |  |
| <u>ra</u>  | Library and filing clerks                                 | Librarians and related information professionals  | Archivists and curators  |  |
| Cultural   |   | Astrologers and related workers   |  |  |
| ت<br>ت   |   | Fortune-tellers, palmists and related workers   |  |  |
| Leisure  | Messengers, package and luggage porters<br>and deliverers |   | Production and operations department managers in restaurants and hotels        |  |
|  | Doorkeepers, watchpersons and related workers             |   | General managers of restaurants and hotels                                     |  |
|  | Travel agency and related clerks                          | Travel attendants and travel stewards   |  |  |
|  |   | Travel consultants and organisers   |  |  |
|  |   | Travel guides   |  |  |
|  | Waiters, waitresses and bartenders                        | Street, night-club and related musicians, singers and dancers                                     | 19   |  |

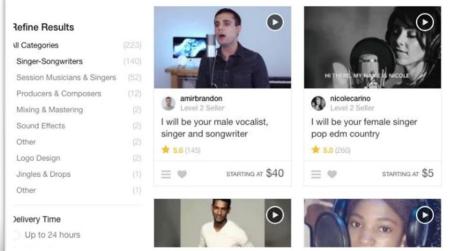


| Lavender – to provide care and help |  |  |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Entry Level                         |  | Intermediate   | Senior (Advanced Skills)  |  |  |
| elping                              | Housekeepers and related workers                                 | Philologists, translators and interpreters                     | Production and operations department managers in personal care, cleaning and related services |  |  |
|                                     | Domestic helpers and cleaners                                    |  | General managers in personal care, cleaning and related services                              |  |  |
|                                     | Helpers and cleaners in offices, hotels and other establishments | Sanitarians  |   |  |  |
|                                     | Hand-launderers and pressers                                     | Shoe cleaning and other street services elementary occupations |   |  |  |
|                                     | Vehicle, window and related cleaners                             | Cooks  |   |  |  |
|                                     | Medical assistants   | Nursing and midwifery professionals                            | Pharmacologists, pathologists and related professionals                                       |  |  |
|                                     | Dental assistants  | Nursing associate professionals                                | Medical doctors   |  |  |
|                                     | Veterinary assistants  | Medical equipment operators                                    | Dentists  |  |  |
|                                     | Pharmaceutical assistants  | Midwifery associate professionals                              | Veterinarians   |  |  |
|                                     |  | Traditional medicine practitioners                             | Pharmacists   |  |  |
| bo                                  |  | Faith healers  | Health professionals (except nursing) not elsewhere classified                                |  |  |
| aring                               |  | Social work associate professionals                            | Psychologists   |  |  |
| ပိ                                  |  | Child-care workers   | Social work professionals   |  |  |
|                                     |  | Institution-based personal care workers                        | Dieticians and nutritionists  |  |  |
|                                     |  | Home-based personal care workers                               | Optometrists and opticians  |  |  |
|                                     |  | Personal care and related workers not elsewhere classified     | Physiotherapists and related associate professionals  |  |  |
|                                     |  |  | Modern health associate professionals (except nursing) not elsewhere classified               |  |  |



## HSRC Tech Disruptions in the Orange Economy

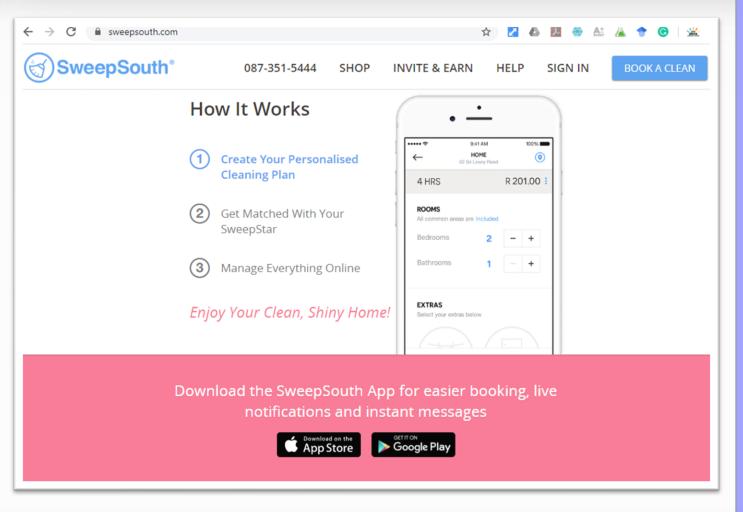




#### **Creative workers in the Gig-Economy**

- New tools give rise to new art-forms
- Photoshop new art memes
- New methods to market/sell your services
- New methods to sell your content (Apple iTunes, etc)
- CrewPencil.com supports the Cape Town Film Industry
  - Find extras and supplies for Film Industry
- New opportunities to collaborate
- Need marketing and digital skills

## 



#### **Location based matching platforms**

#### **Requirements**

- Worker needs a smart phone and data to access work
- Requires digital skills to operate the app
- Must be literate
- Requires a bank-account to be paid

#### **Challenges**

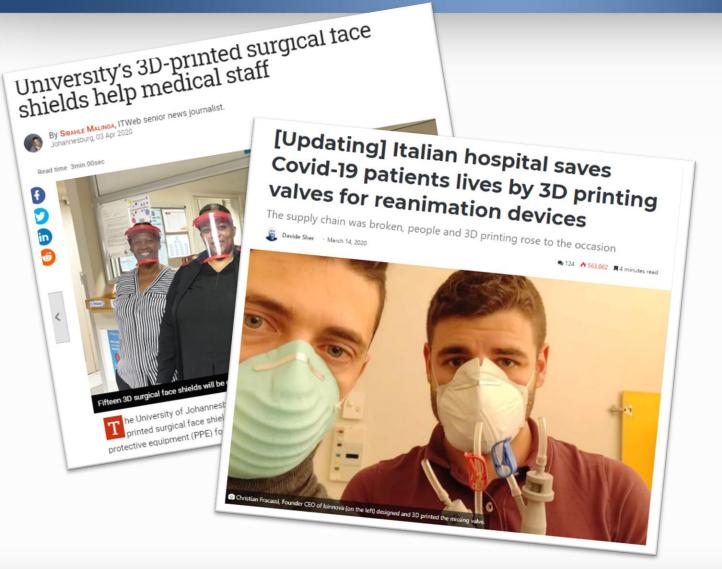
- Worker is treated as an Independent Contractor
- Not catered for in SA Labour Law
- Work is semi-formal
- Platform dictates rate of pay
- Limited visibility in how is distributed

#### **Benefits**

- Role is clearly defined
- Rate of pay is determined up front
- Increasing opportunities of finding work



## Tech disruptions in the Bronze Economy



#### **The role of 3D Printing in Supply Chains**

- South African Universities 3D Printing Surgical face shields
- Italian Hospital 3D Prints expensive Oxygen Valve
  - Patented oxygen valve cost 11000USD, and are out of stock!
  - 3D Printed valve cost 1USD

#### **Learnings**

- Traditional supply chains are failing
- Need to respond to local demands
- Is a need for reliance on localmanufacturing
- Require in-depth knowledge about the problem

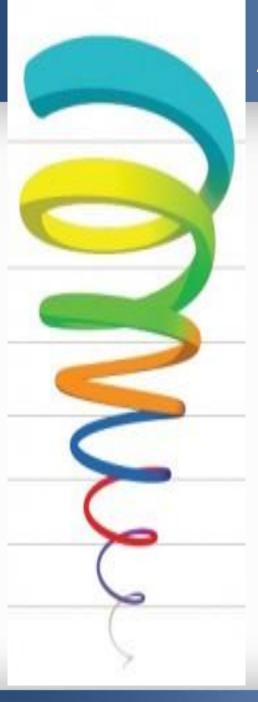


#### Jobs in the Platinum Economy



#### Non-techie work in the Tech Sector

- Helpdesk officer
  - Understand how to troubleshoot computer problems
- User Testing
  - Test the output of coding to see if it matches results
- Social Media Marketing
  - Market businesses online, exposing them to new clients
- Animation
  - Learn animation tools to build small-scale animations
- UX Design
  - Prepare designs for websites and apps for businesses to engage their clients



#### A "Refracted Economies" Research Agenda

A refracted economies framework could help us to:

- 1. Recognise new opportunities for dignified work
- 2. Embrace innovation, shed anachronistic jobs
- 3. Reimagine pathways: with multiple characteristics, and across and between refracted economies
- 4. Reconceptualise the role of TVETs
- 5. Reimagine career school career guidance
- 6. Infuse technological innovation in all work
- 7. Put entrepreneurship in its (correct) place
- 8. Stop the 4IR (moral) panic



