

Davis Cook Bio



Davis is the Chairman, and Senior Partner, at RIIS, the largest innovation advisory firm in Africa, focused on the nexus of strategy, innovation, and development. Davis lead the mining practice at RIIS in South Africa for 10 years, and is now based in Kenya where he leads the East Africa activities of RIIS and the broader Anza group, which include Anza Capital, an early-stage VC fund, and the SA Innovation Summit, one of the largest start-up events in Africa. He is the past Chairperson for ZASpace, the industry lobby group for the South African private space sector, a Karman Fellow, and an M&G 200 Young South Africans Leader.

He has a diverse professional history, including global strategy and management consulting, public sector (SA local government), start-ups (renewable energy and FMCG) and multinational environments (including mining). Having worked across Johannesburg, London and Nairobi, he has worked with multinational companies and development-focused institutions in 35 countries. His work at RIIS has helped (or is helping to) build major innovation ecosystems in the mining, energy, and space sectors across Africa.

His academic background includes undergraduate degrees in Physics and Applied Math (UP), and Politics, Philosophy and Economics (UNISA); and graduate degrees in Development Studies (SOAS), Futures Studies (USB), and an Executive MBA from IESE