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Achieving Water Security in the 4IR: Possibilities for South Africa

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The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is dawning on South Africa. There are debates on whether it is going to bring about positive change or the opposite – an increase in social problems, social strife, poverty and inequality. South Africa is the 30th driest country globally. Against the backdrop of climate change and increased variability in rainfall patterns globally as a result of global warming, there has been a sharp decline in rainfall in Southern Africa. Water scarcity in South Africa has been compounded by human-induced factors. This paper interrogates the technologies that come with the 4IR and how they can be employed to improve water management, access and provision in South Africa. I argue that if these 4IR technologies are embraced and employed, we stand a better chance at achieving water security.

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