



# groundWork Environmental Justice School

## Class of 2015 BUILDING ACTIVISM

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### 12 October      Monday evening: Welcome

16.00 – 18.00    Opening session

Introductions and aims of course

### 13 October      Tuesday, Day 1: Seeing our world

(Jeanne Prinsloo and groundWork)

8.30 – 12.30    Opening session

Creating guidelines for the course

Presentations (paired) prepared by participants

### 13.15 – 16.15    Environmental justice – global and triangular ordering

(Jeanne Prinsloo)

This session uses a case study that draws attention to mechanisms of capitalism, namely externalisation, enclosure and exclusion.

### EVENING MOVIE: *Home*

(120 minutes)

*Home* is a 2009 documentary by Yann Arthus-Bertrand. The film is almost entirely composed of aerial shots of various places on Earth. It shows the diversity of life on Earth and how humanity is threatening the ecological balance of the planet.



## 14 October Wednesday, Day 2: Why is the world this way? 1

(Anne Harley and Jeanne Prinsloo)

### Power in society

To answer the question, “Why is the world the way it is?” we turn to power and ask another question: “How does power work in society?”. The day sets out to provide the ideas to help us to reflect on power and to analyse it. It is important to recognise that it is not nature that produces waste but that the global environmental crisis and its injustices are produced by humans. The PEST analysis activity and Star Power Game will help you understand different kinds of power.

### EVENING MOVIE: *The History Book* (Episodes 1-3) (50 minutes)

*The History Book* is an animated history of capitalism presented from the position of the poor. The commentator is a rat and these three episodes begin with feudalism, then the development of merchant traders, and early capitalism.



## 15 October Thursday, Day 3: Why is the world this way? 2

### History of ‘development’ and power continued

The sessions focus on the history of capitalist expansion. You will produce a timeline of this history. You will be introduced to theories about development and the purpose of doing this is to be able to be critical of notions of development and to see how and where power is contested.

### EVENING MOVIE: *The History Book* (Episodes 4-6) (50 minutes)

Episode 4, Bloody Schemes, starts in 1562 with the beginning of the slave trade.  
Episode 5, Triumphal Symphony looks at the rise of industrialisation in the late 1700s and how it impacted on the poor workers.  
Episode 6, Makeshift solution, deals with how harshly resistance to capital has been dealt with, the rise of monopoly capital and its impact on poor workers including in Africa.



### A written task.

Please reflect on the first three days of the school. Day 1 focussed on “A look at your world”. Days 2 and 3 looked at “Why is the world this way?”. Some of these ideas are complicated. Your task is to think about what you have learnt and identify those things you found interesting and important. Write one or two pages about what you have learnt in the first 3 days so you can tell your organisation at this point.

Please give us a copy of this tomorrow morning and we will keep a copy for ourselves as feedback and we’ll get it to your organisation too.

## World Food Day!

### 16 October, Friday Day 4: How did South Africa get to this point?

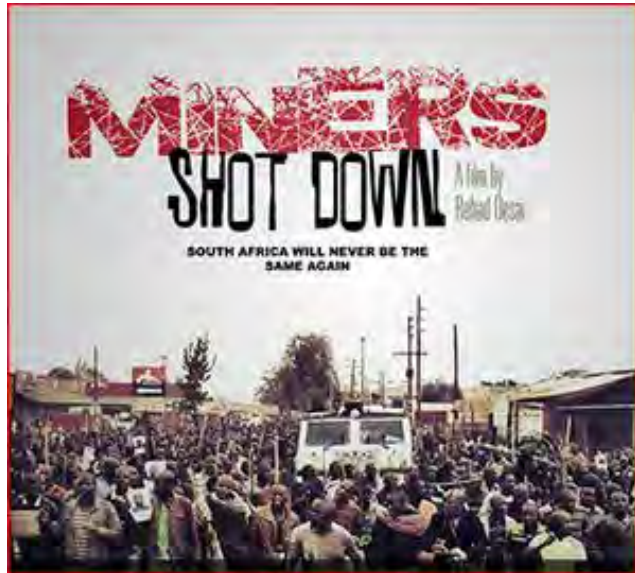
(David Hallowes)

The purpose of this session is to develop and deepen understandings of environmental justice by becoming familiar with the history of capitalist expansion in South Africa. You will be adding to the timeline built up

#### **EVENING MOVIE: *Miners Shot Down*** (85 minutes)

*Miners Shot Down* charts the seven days leading up to bloodshed, much of it in real-time. The film uncovers disturbing new footage showing a line of police, with armoured vehicles in the background, firing live ammunition on a crowd of miners who are moving in a huddle towards the police line — challenging the police narrative that they acted in self-defence. A damning indictment of the collaboration between Lonmin management, mine security and the police that led to the bloodshed at Marikana.

<http://www.minersshotdown.co.za/>



#### **TRANSITION**

The next days of the school mark a shift from looking at our world and understanding how we got to this point (the big picture). For the rest of the school there will be three important strands which you will deal with.

1. **Building Activism for Environmental Justice** will work through issues of resistance and activism by getting you to analyse your own positions and plans. It will include case studies and skills for activists and will guide you with your project.
2. **The Gigantic Waste Creating Machine (WASTE)** will develop deeper knowledge about how capitalism produces environmental injustice by wasting our air, our water, our land, our food and how this impacts on people and the environment.
3. **Rights and environmental regulation** will address the rights enshrined in the Constitution and some of the important regulations and acts that are supposed to regulate environmental degradation.

## 17 October, Saturday Day 5

### Building activism for Environmental Justice 1

(Bobby Peek) (HALF DAY)

8.30 – 12.30

Reflecting on your vision and your advocacy.

Today the focus turns to activism and you as an activist in your own space and your own organisation. This is the first of the activist sessions and the others will continue next week and especially in week three.

**EVENING MOVIE:** *The power of community.*  
*How Cuba survived Peak Oil* (53 minutes) is an American documentary film that explores economic collapse and eventual recovery of Cuba following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Following the dramatic steps taken by both the Cuban government and citizens, its major themes include urban agriculture, energy dependence, and sustainability. The film was directed by Faith Morgan, and was released in 2006 by The Community Solution



25 October

Sunday: Free Day | Outing to the Midlands

Details to be announced



# The gigantic waste creation machine: WASTE

Capitalism is not only a 'gigantic accumulation machine' (Kovel 2002: 59), it is also a gigantic waste creation machine. Its logic is to turn more and more raw materials and energy into sellable commodities into accumulated profit into investments which expand the system as a whole. Its restless need for never-ending accumulation and expansion means it must keep on consuming resources and creating ever-growing wastes. Behind the product on the shop shelf lies the 'value chain' of production that is shadowed by a vast chain of waste and destruction. This shadow leaves a deep toxic stain that spreads through the air, water and land across the face of the earth and across time into a poisoned future (groundWork Report 2007).

This section works from the idea of "WASTE" and will deal with different environmental focuses: air, water, land (food security) and waste disposal. Fundamental to all these themes is the idea of Zero Waste (no waste in nature). These sessions will focus on environmental justice struggles and the responses and resistance to various forms of externalisation, enclosure and exclusion. These sessions will focus on environmental justice struggles relating to

- Waste: water and industrialisation
- Waste: people and justice (solid waste)
- Waste: energy and air
- Waste: land and food
- Waste: environmental health
- Climate change and energy

## 19 October Monday, Day 6: Waste 1: Industrialisation and water

(Victor Munnik)

The focus of the day is on water issues and challenges in South Africa. You will deal with a brief history of water in South Africa and policy related to water, and draw of the three 3e's to examine case studies of Steel Valley and Carolina acid mine drainage from coal.

**EVENING MOVIES: *A river changes course*** (2013, 83 mins).

The film tells of three families living in contemporary Cambodia as they face tough choices forced by development while struggling to maintain their traditional life in a changing world. The lush jungle of northern Cambodia belies the options now facing young people born into this land of rivers, rice paddies, and tiny villages: stay and fish and farm, help their families subsist, or head to a city like Phnom Penh, where garment factories offer a sad life of toil.

### **2. *Story of bottled water*** (8 mins)

The film explores the bottled water industry's attacks on tap water and its use of seductive, environmental-themed advertising to cover up the mountains of plastic waste it produces. The film concludes with a call for viewers to make a personal commitment to avoid bottled water and support public investment in clean, available tap water for all.

<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/>



## 20 October Tuesday, Day 7: Waste: People and justice

08:20 – 14:15 Solid waste

(Melanie Samson)

### MORNING MOVIE: *The Story of Stuff*

(21 minutes)

*The Story of Stuff* is a short animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods. The documentary is critical of excessive consumerism and promotes sustainability.



First you will watch *The Story of Stuff*, which explains why our capitalist economy produces so much trash. The focus then will be on the three Es and waste management. We will look at how capitalists make money when municipalities **externalize** waste collection. We will explore how people who are **excluded** from employment in the capitalist economy create a living for themselves by working as waste pickers. And we will look at how capitalists then try to profit from this by **enclosing** the waste commons created by waste pickers. Finally, we will look at how waste pickers around the world are mobilizing to reverse the three Es and fight for **environmental justice**.

## Building activism 2: SAWPA - a case study

15.00 – 14.15 Solid waste

(Musa Chamane)

This session presents a case study that looks at importance of organising on the ground and discusses the journey relating to the organising and formation of the movements.

### EVENING MOVIE: *Bhopal express* (100 minutes)

Set against the gas tragedy in Bhopal, India in 1984, this human drama examines the irresponsible methods of large corporations and the effects of their actions on common people. Poison gas clouds from the Union Carbide factory enveloped over 20 square km killing over 8,000 people and causing multi-systemic injuries to over 500,000 residents.



**Full Circle** (24 minutes). A thought-provoking documentary about the women of Pune, India working with the recycling co-operative. Watch how their work impacts their lives and the environment around them. Through organizing, these women have improved their livelihoods and the chances their children have for a better future. At the same time, they are significantly reducing green house gases and are being recognized internationally for the work they do.

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/3942/Full-Circle>

### Movie 2: *We, SWaCH*

(13 minutes)

About the activities of the SWaCH Cooperative in Pimpri Chinchwad, Maharashtra, India.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMvU5bOHpTU>



## 21 October      Wednesday, Day 8: Rights and regulation 1

(Robby Mokgalaka)

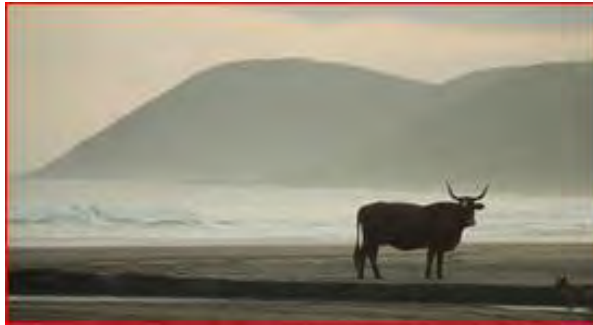
The law can be a useful tool to EJ activists. You need to think about what the opportunities are and how to exploit them, but also what risks the law poses for activists. The session will look at the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

### 12.30 Toxic tour

**EVENING MOVIE: *Shore break*** (2014, 90 minutes) (Brilliant!)

Two cousins from a close-knit rural community have opposing plans to develop their homeland on South Africa's Wild Coast, a traditional Pondo lifestyle and through eco-tourism or a change to a busy mining town, mining titanium.

Meanwhile, their Pondo King and Queen are dethroned by Government after speaking out against the developments. The Royals must take on Government who have replaced the King with his pro-mining nephew.



## 22 October      Thursday, Day 9: Rights and regulation 2

(Robyn Hugo and CER)

8.30 – 12.30

This morning and tomorrow we will continue to think about law and activism and focus moves to certain key environmental statutes, what key rules they impose, and what remedies they provide to activists.

### 1.45 – 16.15 Gender Justice

(Dineo Ndlanzi)

Gender equality is enshrined in the Constitutional equality clause. This session aims to get you thinking about unequal gendered power relations

**EVENING MOVIE: *InterSEXions* episode**

**12**, The hit drama series supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and South African Department of Trade and Industry has one several awards. This episode is interesting for its look at 'traditional' and 'modern' marriages.



### Matters of life and death

Made by Church Land Programme, it is the movie you will be discussing in tomorrow's session on Land.

### Task for tonight

What have you heard about a large corporation called Monsanto. Bring any thoughts, questions or comments regarding to the session tomorrow.

## 23 October Friday, Day 10: Rights and regulation 3

8.30 – 12.30 The focus on environmental activism and regulations continues.

### Afternoon session: Waste: Land and Food

1.45 – 16.15

(David Ntseng)

This session will address the issues that result from the three Es that relate to land issues today and you will reflect on the documentary you viewed last night, *A matter of life and death*.

**EVENING MOVIES:** *Crumbs – Toppling the bread cartel* is the David versus Goliath story of Imraahn Mukaddam, the lone bread distributor who blew the whistle on price collusion within the South African bread industry. Together with fellow activists and a tiny legal team, Imraahn is pitted against the bread companies' army of attorneys. While the mighty bread companies side-step the filmmakers, he champions the cause of the disenfranchised in a Constitutional Court bid to launch the first ever class action lawsuit in South African history.



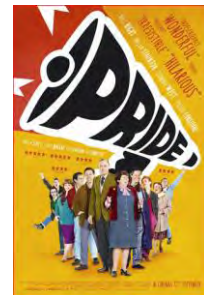
## 24 October Saturday Day 11 Food – the industrialised system

8.30 -12.30 (HALF DAY)

(Karen Read) This session will develop your ideas around the industrialised food system, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and alternatives.

### EVENING MOVIES

*Pride* (2014, 2 hours) is inspired by an extraordinary true story. It's the UK summer of 1984, Margaret Thatcher is in power and the National Union of Mineworkers is on strike, prompting a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists to raise money to support the strikers' families. Initially rebuffed by the Union, the group identifies a tiny mining village in Wales and sets off to make their donation in person. As the strike drags on, the two groups discover that standing together makes for the strongest union of all.



You need to watch *The Bliss of Ignorance* (2014, 30 minutes) over the weekend, before the Monday morning session because Rico will expect you have seen it.

*The Bliss of Ignorance* is an award winning production for [Friends of the Earth](#) and [Groundwork](#). looking at the impact of South Africa's coal-fired power stations on air pollution, public health and the wider climate change debate. pollution, public health and the wider climate change debate.



25 October

Sunday: Free Day | Outing to Durban

Details to be announced



## 26 October      Monday Day 12: Waste: Air

8.30 -12.30

(Rico Euripidou)

Now you will learn about how waste in air disproportionately affects the poor and least able to act against it as a result of the three E's. It is your activism can actually make a difference on the ground.

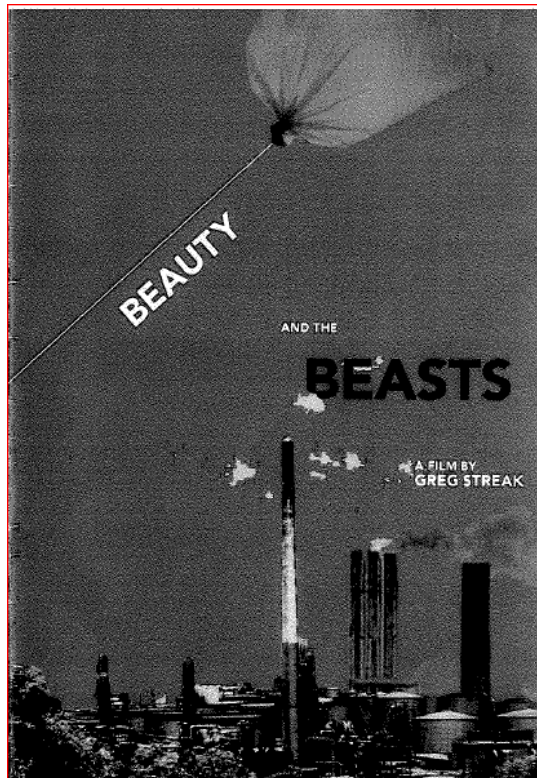
### Building activism 3

#### 13.30 – 16.15 and meeting with mentors

This session will talk about developing activist strategies and campaigns and look at the stages you as an activist should build in to your process.

**EVENING MOVIE:** *Beauty and the beasts* (78 minutes)

*Beauty and the Beasts* is a documentary film by South African visual artist Greg Streak. The film is about the high levels of pollution in the south Durban Basin. This full feature documentary won a Special Mention Jury Award at the Durban International Film Festival in 2006. The film is without copyright and can be downloaded and distributed for free. There are six parts to this film.



## 27 October Tuesday Day 13 People's environments and health

8.30 – 10.30

(Rico Euripidou)

This session looks at what is meant by environmental health and how a poor environment affects people's health.

### Building activism 4: Messaging for activism

11.00 – 16.15

(Megan Lewis)

These messaging sessions focus on the importance of developing strategic messaging for activist campaigns and continue tomorrow morning

**EVENING MOVIES:** *Cursed by Coal: Mining the Navajo Nation* (14 minutes); *Zapatista* (1998, 55 minutes)

There's a resource curse on the Navajo Nation. The 27,000-square-mile reservation straddling parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah has an extremely high abundance of many energy resources — particularly coal. That coal is what's burned to provide much of the Southwest with electricity, and it creates jobs for the Navajo. But the mining and burning have also caused environmental degradation, serious health issues, and displacement.



Jan. 1 1994: The Day the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went in effect. A few minutes after midnight in Southeastern Mexico, several thousand Indian soldiers take over half the state of Chiapas, declaring a war against global corporate power and for humanity. They call themselves the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). *Zapatista* is the definitive look at the uprising in Chiapas. It is the story of the Mayan peasant uprising, armed with sticks and their word against a first world military. It is the story of a global movement that has fought 175,000 federal troops to a standstill and transformed Mexican culture and international political cultural forever (from back of DVD box).



## 28 October Wednesday Day 14

### Building activism 4: Media messaging continued

8.30 – 9.45

(Megan Lewis)

To build activism one has to be able to understand campaigning. It is about 'building power with information and getting your message out to the public to convince them of your concern and position'.

### Climate and energy justice

10.00 – 12.30

(Bobby Peek and David Hallows)

This session will consider the injustices this campaign is dealing with, how groundWork work on the ground is responding to the needs of people, how they mobilise and deploy their technical resources (community tools), and consider their victories.

### Building activism 5:

13.15 – 16.15

(Bobby Peek)

You will carry on with exploring the stages of activist planning.

### EVENING MOVIE: *Inconvenient Truth*

(126 minutes)

*An Inconvenient Truth* is a 2006 Academy Award winning documentary film directed by Davis Guggenheim about former United States Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate citizens about global warming



## 29 October Thursday Day 15: Building activism 6

8.30 – 4.15

(Bobby Peek and all groundWork Mentors)

### Campaigns and Project Development

**EVENING MOVIE:** *We feed the world*

In *We Feed The World*, Austrian filmmaker Erwin Wagenhofer traces the origins of the food we eat. His journey takes him to France, Spain, Romania, Switzerland, Brazil and back to Austria. It is a film about food and globalisation, fishermen and farmers, long-distance lorry drivers and high-powered corporate executives, the flow of goods and cash flow—a film about scarcity amid plenty. With its unforgettable images, the film provides insight into the production of our food and answers the question what world hunger has to do with us.

Interviewed are not only fishermen, farmers, agronomists, biologists and the UN's Jean Ziegler, but also the director of production at Pioneer, the world's largest seed company, as well as Peter Brabeck, Chairman and CEO of Nestlé International, the largest food company in the world.



## 30 October Friday Day 16: We are activists!

8.30 – 15:45 Campaign planning and presentations to plenary and feedback

**17.00 Closing session with Desmond D'Sa, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner 2014, Honorary Doctorate from Durban University of Technology 2015.**

He received the award for rallying south Durban's diverse and disenfranchised communities to successfully close down the Bulbul landfill, a toxic dump site that exposed residents to dangerous chemicals and violated their constitutionally protected right to a safe and clean environment.

Both Des and Bobby have been acknowledged for their persistent work for environmental justice through these prestigious awards and honorary doctoral degrees!

### Final dinner

## 31 October Saturday Day 17

### Travel home safely!