



# groundWork Environmental Justice School

## First Class 2014 BUILDING ACTIVISM

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### 20 July Sunday evening: Welcome

16.00 – 18.00 Opening session

Introductions and aims of course

### 21 July Monday, 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.

### 18.45 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.



## 22 July Tuesday, Day 2: Why is the world this way? 1

(Anne Harley and Jeanne Prinsloo)

### 8.20 Housekeeping

### 8.30 Power in society

This session introduces power and asks “How does power work in society”. It sets out to provide the ideas or concepts to enable us to reflect on power and to analyse it. It is important to recognise that nature does not produce the waste and 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 forms and workings of power.

### 14.00 History of ‘development’

This session focuses on the history of capitalist expansion. You will produce a timeline of this broad history. The purpose is to critique notions of development and recognise the contestations of power too.

### 18.45 MOVIE: *The History Book* (Episodes 1-6) (120 minutes)

*The History Book* is an animated history of capitalism presented from the position of the poor. The commentator is a rat and it begins with feudalism, the development of merchant traders, early capitalism, the effects of the slave trade on both Africa and the West, the industrial revolution, resistance of workers and repression by the capitalist class.



## 23 July Wednesday, Day 3: Why is the world this way? 2

(Anne Harley and Jeanne Prinsloo)

### 8.20 - 14.00 Continuation and consolidation of 'development' history and power relations

The rest of the afternoon is for paired work and for you to undertake **two** tasks.

1. In pairs, read through your notes and reflect on own organisation and its context. Think about power in terms of global, national and local power. Think about your organisation in relation to power *over*, power *within*, power *to*, power *with*.
  - o Come up with three things that you hadn't realised before.
  - o How does your organisation understand development, do you think? Make your own notes.
2. 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.

### 18.45 MOVIE: *Made in Dagenham* (113 minutes)

*Made in Dagenham* is a feel-good film based on the Ford women car workers' strike of 1968, in which female staff sewing seat covers for Cortinas and Zephyrs went on strike for the same wage as the men. This commanded headlines, galvanised the political debate, and indirectly led to the Equal Pay Act of 1970.



## 24 July Thursday, Day 4: How did South Africa get to this point?

8.20 | 10.30 | 11.00 – 12.30

(David Hallows)

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.

### TRANSITION

## Afternoon session 3 & 4: Waste and building campaigns

13.15 – 14.45: groundWork activist programmes and campaigns

(Bobby Peek)

Leading on from the previous days, we will look at a broad overview of groundWork's programmes and campaigns. Why is Environmental Justice their focus? Why waste? There are victories!

15.00 – 16.15: Thinking about you and change

(Jeanne Prinsloo)

This session will begin the process of thinking about the change and some of the aspects you should think about.

**Evening task:** In your journal spend time with the following questions which you will come back to with Bobby on Monday.

- A vision: Where do you / your community want to be?
- What is your dream for it and by when?

18.45 **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/>



## 25 July Friday, Day 5: Rights and regulation

(Melissa Fourie)

The purpose of this session is for you to understand how 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, as well as the key environmental statutes, what key rules they impose, and what remedies they provide to activists.

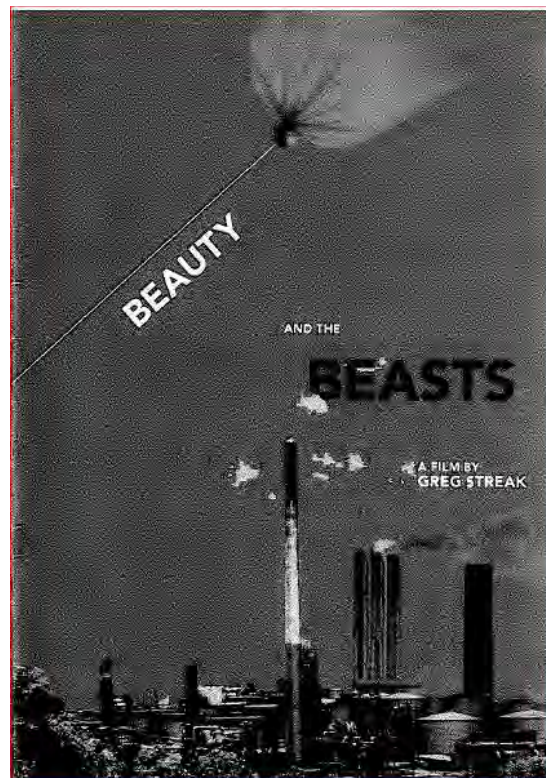
### 15.00 – 16.15 Activism session: Building activism for Environmental Justice 1

(Bobby Peek)

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’.

#### 18.45 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.



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## Days 6-10:

# The gigantic waste creation machine

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 part of the school will work 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). The next four and a half days will focus on environmental justice struggles and the responses and resistance to various forms of externalisation, enclosure and exclusion.**

## 26 July Saturday, Day 6: Waste: Energy and air

(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.

(Rico Euripidou and groundWork support staff)

### Stop at 1pm

#### 18.45 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.



## 27 July Sunday: Free Day | Outing

(Musa Chamane)

Details to be announced

## 8 July Monday, Day 7: Waste: 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.

## 15.00 – 16.15 Activism session: Building activism for Environmental Justice 2

(Bobby Peek)

Reflecting on your vision and advocacy.

### 16.15 –17:15: Meeting with mentors

### 18.45 MOVIE: *Erin Brockovich*

(126 minutes)

An unemployed single mother, Erin Brockovich-Ellis, becomes a legal assistant and environmental activist. Despite the lack of a formal education in the law, she was instrumental in building a case against the Pacific Gas and Electric Company of California, accused of polluting a city's water supply, in 1993.



## 29 July Tuesday, Day 8: Waste: Land and Food

These sessions will address the emerging global issues surrounding land and agricultural issues today; land access and inequalities; food sovereignty issues and global food systems, and seed issues today.

### 8.20 – 10.30 Land issues

(David Ntseng)

### 11.00 – 12.30 | 1.15 – 14.45 Food sovereignty

(Elizabeth Mpofu)

### 15.00 – 16.15 Messaging for change 1

(Megan Lewis)

These sessions will look at how we use messaging as a tool as activists in our campaigning, internally and externally.

**Evening task:** Case study to read for tomorrow morning.

### 18.45 MOVIES: Two shorter ones for discussion tomorrow morning

#### Movie 1: *Full Circle*

(24 minutes)

A thought-provoking documentary about the women of Pune, India working with the recycling co-operative SWaCH. 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>



#### Move 2: *We, SWaCH*

(13 minutes)

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

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





## 30 July Wednesday, Day 9: Waste: People and justice 1

08:30 – 14:15 Solid waste

(Melanie Samson and Musa Chamane)

On Saturday night we watched *The Story of Stuff*, which explained why our capitalist economy produces so much trash. Today we will focus 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**.

## 15:00 – 16:15 Messaging for change 2

(Megan Lewis)

### 18.45 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



## **31 July Thursday, Day 10: Climate and energy justice, and project preparation**

### **8:20 – 10:30 Climate and Energy Justice Campaign**

(Bobby Peek)

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.

### **11:00 – 12:30 Campaigns and Project Development**

(Mentors)

### **13:15 – 14:45 Media for change 3 / Messaging for Project Development**

(Megan Lewis)

### **15:00 – 16:00 Campaigns and Project Development**

(Mentors)

## **1 August Friday, Day 11: Waste: People and justice 2**

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

### **16.00 Closing session with Desmond D'Sa, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner 2014**

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.

## **Final dinner**

## **2 August Saturday, Day 12: Travel home safely!**