University of Zululand, Umfolozi Casino, 2 Copper Drive, Kuleka, Empangeni, KwaZulu Natal, Empangeni, 3880

Invitation to Roundtable Discussion: June 19th 10am-noon, Jabulani Dome
Progressing Toward a Socially Just Green Economy

One of the highlights of President Cyril Ramphosa's February 7th State of the Nation (SONA) address was his politically timeous announcement of the discovery of previously unknown reserves of oil and gas just off South African shores. This news was well-received by national policy makers keen to capitalise on a new and much needed source of national revenue, as well as citizens who associate such developments with new opportunities for employment.   Perhaps ironically that evening, Cape Town, where SONA was delivered, was roasting at a temperature of 36 degrees Celsius, having only recently barely averted Day Zero, a water scarcity crisis widely acknowledged to have been caused in great part by climate change. This panel aims to bring together members of the academic, civil society, policy, and private sectors to discuss how to coordinate effective responses to the realities of climate change in South Africa, given the urgent and obvious impacts on South African citizens, and on the poor in particular. The aim of the discussion is twofold. One is to raise the profile within the academy of ongoing transdisciplinary work to promote a socially just green transformation within South Africa. The other is to generate a strategic transdisciplinary discussion on whether and how it might be possible to cooperate to generate innovative, coordinated approaches to balancing South Africa's need for economic growth, with creating opportunities for climate-friendly employment and income generation that benefit the most vulnerable segments of society.

Keywords: environmental and social justice, green economy, renewable resources, policy action, transdisciplinary collaboration

Confirmed speakers:

- Dr. Hali Healy, University of Johannesburg (Chair)

- Peliwe Jubase, Sustainable Energy Africa, Cape Town

- Desmond D'sa, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, Durban

- Phakamile Hlubi, NUMSA, Johannesburg

- Dr. George Mutasa, Dept. of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, KZN

Speaker Profiles

Dr. Hali Healy, University of Johannesburg (Chair)

Dr. Hali Healy is a lecturer at UJ in the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, who has co-authored and co-ordinated transdisciplinary work between international scholars and activists on sustainable development. On the basis of work with the EJOLT network (www.ejolt.org), Hali has published several articles and co-edited a book, *Ecological Economics from the Ground. Up* (Routledge, 2013). Her PhD (King's College London, Geography), is entitled "The Political Ecology of Transdisciplinary Research: From Co-optation to Unintended Consequences?". Hali's areas of interest are green economies, environmental justice, and the political ecology of solid waste management.

Peliwe Jubase, Sustainable Energy Africa

Peliwe has an honors degree in Ocean and Atmospheric Science and a Master's degree from the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) specialising in Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Peliwe started at SEA in 2016 in their graduate programme and is now a junior project coordinator. She has primarily been involved in SEA's climate change and energy poverty projects as she is passionate about the implementation of socio-economic development in the face of climate change. Her work involved raising awareness and building capacity for low-income households on energy efficiency, energy access and alternative energy technologies, and in training programmes aimed at alleviating energy poverty through green entrepreneurship

Desmond D'sa, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Desmond D'Sa is Coordinator of the environmental justice organisation South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA). The South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) is an environmental justice organization made up of 18 affiliate organizations and has been active since its formation in 1995. As a result of his advocacy for clean air, water and soil, and for the alleviation of environmental racism and poverty, Desmond was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for Outstanding Environmental Achievement in Africa on 28 April 2014.

Phakamile Hlubi-Majola, NUMSA

Phakamile Hlubi-Majola has been working at NUMSA as its national spokesperson since December 2016. She has been tasked with communicating the message of the union to its members and to the public in general. She is intimately involved with the NUMSA Research department in outlining a strategy to deal with Eskom and government plans to restructure the SOE. NUMSA is an important stakeholder at Eskom as one of the largest unions at the SOE. It has been at the forefront of mobilizing workers around the demand for a Just Transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy

Dr. George Mutasa, Dept. of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Dr George Mutasa is an economist with substantial experience within the public sector, academia, and the private sector. He holds a doctoral degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town. He previously worked as a Researcher at the Development Policy Research Unit, a research institute affiliated with the University of Cape Town specialising in academically credible and policy relevant research in the areas of labour markets, poverty and inequality. Dr Mutasa is currently the Director for Research & Development at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating the provision of research support to inform development of effective economic interventions as well as support the development of innovative technologies for public good in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.