



GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY SERIES ENVIRONMENT, POWER AND JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Students of southern Africa already understand that environmental divisions along class, race and gender lines originate in the economy, the state, and social norms. Building on and extending established narratives of historical environmental injustice in southern Africa, the lectures in this series discuss local experiences of unhealthy environments and inadequate resources to explore environmental disparities on a wide range of topics. They also seek to uncover alternative visions of justice.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE

TERM I

KA-SKUKUZA: THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK IN THE POLITICAL CALCULUS OF THE LOWVELD

Jacob S.T. Dlamini, History, Princeton University
Franklin Lew Forum, Allard Hall, 1822 East Mall
Monday, September 16, 2019, 5:00 pm

This talk examines the many ways in which communities have mobilized the Kruger National Park as both backdrop and political instrument in their struggles over resources and representation in the South African lowveld. Drawing on the work of Nancy Jacobs and Jane Carruthers, Jacob Dlamini re-orientates discussion of the Park (and park policy more generally) away from sterile debates about whether or not blacks are visiting these places and whether they are doing so in sufficient numbers. He argues that the development of a deeper and richer understanding of the relationship between black South Africans and the Kruger Park must begin outside the park or, as Carruthers puts it in her history of Kruger Park, "beyond the fence." The people of the lowveld do not need to venture into the Park in order to make it work for them. They only have to protest outside its gates, as they have been doing for more than half a century, to make the Park perform for their benefit.

ANOTHER EXPERIMENT AT EDENDALE (MSUNDUZI): ENVISIONING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN A SECONDARY SOUTH AFRICAN CITY THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Marc Epprecht, Global Development Studies, Queen's University
Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

This talk presents a community-based initiative to re-imagine urban space in Greater Edendale, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The initiative hinges on inter-generational historical research—young people interviewing old on how they lived in a peri-urban community with minimal municipal services and low levels of consumption, and how they regarded attempts by the apartheid state to develop the area. The project is a small component of a wider movement to build more sustainable and just forms of urban form than the dominant, dysfunctional model of economic growth allows, by strengthening claims to belonging and citizenship that support the right to the city. A brief overview of how environmental injustice was structured into the physical space now known as Greater Edendale over its history since the late 19th century will be provided, followed by the proposed transformation of Greater Edendale to a healthy place to live in the period from the start of democratic governance (1994 to present). Finally, a more radical approach to urban re-development will be offered, showing how inter-generational oral history work might contribute to that approach.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner.
For information on making dinner reservations, see www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner

BIO-HEGEMONY VERSUS BIO-JUSTICE: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

Matthew Schnurr, International Development Studies, Dalhousie University
Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 5:00 pm

Agricultural biotechnology is one of the most polarizing issues in African agricultural development. Over the past twenty years, hundreds of millions of dollars have been directed to deploying new agricultural biotechnologies as tools that can enhance yields and livelihoods for poor farmers as part of a uniquely African Green Revolution. Proponents trumpet biotech's capacity to alleviate poverty and hunger. Detractors see it as a multifaceted threat to local ecologies and local autonomy. This talk examines the paths of resistance that have been carved to oppose the entry of agricultural biotechnology into Africa. Uncovering the trajectory of multi-directional knowledge-sharing, strategic alliances and coordinated campaigns reveals the existence of a uniquely African resistance, one that blends external funds and support but mobilizes these in ways that harmonize with the particular circumstances of their respective domestic landscapes.

LOCUSTS AND POWER: ENVIRONMENTAL PHENOMENA, COLONIAL INJUSTICES AND VERNACULAR DISCOURSE IN EARLY COLONIAL ZIMBABWE, 1895-1935 STUDIES

Admire Mseba, Black Studies and History, University of Missouri-Columbia
Monday, December 2, 2019, 5:00 pm

This talk will take the opportunity to think with locusts and droughts about vernacular discourses of power and colonial injustices. Indigenous inhabitants of early colonial Zimbabwe explained the appearance of locust swarms and droughts by reference to the actions of youth, farming men and women, chiefs, spirit mediums, European traders and colonial officials. Finding expression in the pronouncements of religious figures such as spirit mediums and messengers of the Mwari shrine, such discourses produced swift and repressive responses from the colonial state. These, Admire Mseba argues, reveal colonial officials' anxieties about African attitudes towards their power. In addition, vernacular discourse vested power in local behaviour, not just in the colonial government. Power was understood to derive from cosmology and was often articulated through locally intelligible ideas of social transgression, gender and generation. The vernacular discourses about the appearance of locust swarms and the occurrences of droughts provide insights into how power was conceived among Africans as they came to terms with life under conditions of colonialism.