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UKZN CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND OSISA

*Call for Applications: **Winter School***

***Rethinking Sustainability, Development and Economic Justice***

**in Durban, South Africa, 15-27 July 2013**

The Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Built Environment and Development Studies and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) will host a winter school for activists from the Southern Africa Development Community in Durban between 15-27<sup>th</sup> July under the theme – *Rethinking Sustainability, Development and Economic Justice*.

The course will bring together leading development activists with the relevant scholarly interests and/or strategic responsibilities from across the region for a unique experience. The course will look at the international context, African development policies, the case for economic policy reform both at the macroeconomic and sector levels and specific advocacy cases – as well as locally applied work. The course will stretch the participants, challenging them with a range of modules including political economy, political ecology, gender justice, popular mobilisation, social media and community organising.

### ***What and Why?***

More than 20 years after the first Rio Summit in 1992 and a decade since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, there has been little progress in terms of improving global governance and boosting sustainable economic development. Indeed, the world is facing an unprecedented list of economic, social and environmental crises. The world and particularly southern Africa must urgently address the combined effects of human-induced climate change, persistent global financial crises, deep structural unemployment, and increasing inequality.

But there is a lack of consensus about the best way forward. While the 2013 G8 and G20 Summits are focussing on demands for greater financial regulation and a clampdown on tax avoidance, the BRICS countries are planning a new development bank that will, in part, fund extractive-oriented African infrastructure. The Rio+20 Summit in 2012 began a process that many

hope will lead to global agreement on a set of Sustainable Development Goals to replace the MDGs post-2015, but powerful forces are opposed to ideas such as the Green Economy and Payment for Ecosystem Services. World carbon markets are collapsing in some regions (Europe) and soaring in others (Australia, China and California), while the Clean Development Mechanism's impact in Africa has received widespread criticism.

Activists too are using a range of tools and approaches to try to tackle these interlinked crises, including local mutual aid and 'commons' strategies, rights-based advocacy, 'Occupy' and other anti-austerity and pro-democracy campaigns at national, regional and global levels. Meanwhile, national governments are torn between policies to boost economic growth now and longer-term programmes that will produce sustainable socio-economic development.

### ***What works and what doesn't?***

CCS and OSISA's Economic Justice Programme will bring together international specialists and regional experts allied with progressive institutions across the Global South to help participants rethink sustainability, development and economic justice in southern Africa. But they will not be there to lecture. The course has been designed to avoid top-down pedagogy, and instead adopts a much more interactive approach in which Southern African activists are respected for their knowledge and skills, and guided towards developing a broader understanding of the issues – from a local, regional and global perspective – and a more effective activists and advocacy approach. The objectives of the course are to hone critical thinking skills, deepen knowledge of the subject matter, and enhance participants' ability to use all available tools for advocacy from social media to mobile messaging to mass organising.

### ***Who should apply?***

Prospective participants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- Possess a Bachelor's degree or similar undergraduate-level degree;
- At least 3 or more years work experience in social and economic justice, resource governance, climate justice, debt, trade, development aid effectiveness, women's empowerment, public health, agriculture or sustainable economic development;
- Employed in fields related to development and socio-economic justice;
- Middle management ranking or higher;
- Proficiency in English (although partial Portuguese/French translation will be provided);
- Letter of commitment from employer; and
- Citizenship of a SADC country.

### ***Criteria for acceptance***

- diversity (women, youth, race, class, other);
- connection to democratic community, labour, environment, social-advocacy organisations;
- evidence of research, popular-educational, journalistic, organising, campaigning capacity;
- evidence of performing well at university;
- intra-regional diversity; and a
- balance across interests of political economy and political ecology.

### ***Costs and Sponsorships***

OSISA is the main sponsor of this course and will sponsor:

1. Full workshop costs, including all reading material, Bed and Breakfast over the 10 days, teas and lunch on workshop days. Participants are expected to (either with support from their organisations/selves or by fundraising):
  - a. Make their own way to the venue (both air and ground);
  - b. Allow for daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of USD 30.00 per day to cover evening meals and other incidentals;
  - c. Have adequate personal and health insurance as the organisers cannot take liabilities in this regard.
2. A limited number of full scholarships will be made available for participants who are not in a position to raise the necessary airfares pending a full needs assessment.

### ***Deadline for applications is 17:00 on June 10<sup>th</sup>***

To apply, please send a 500 word motivational letter and CV to Helen Poonen ([poonenh@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:poonenh@ukzn.ac.za)) by 17:00 (SA time) on Monday, 10 June. All applicants will be notified of their status by 17 June.