

# Centre for Civil Society report on 2007 activities

In a context of dramatic increases in 'Gatherings Act' incidents reported by the SA police (10 000 per year in 2005-07, up from 5800 in 2004-05) and worsening inequality, our guiding CCS objective is of even more relevance: *the advance of socio-economic and environmental justice through developing critical knowledge about, for and in dialogue with civil society.*

Our research work benefits from *praxis*-based production of knowledge, in which we learn how power relations are challenged by civil society organisations – in the streets, the courts, the media, negotiating fora, theatres and cultural clubs, sportsfields and other sites - thus generating new information about systems and organisational strengths and weaknesses. We then feed back research into the society through both arms-length and participatory analysis, in the forms of books and articles, films and DVDs, tours and lectures.

**CCS community.** There are approximately 40 people in the immediate CCS family (not counting those who make brief visits). During 2007, CCS employed 15 staff and associates, including four community scholars.<sup>1</sup> More than a dozen volunteer visiting scholars joined us from Brown, Columbia, Ibaden Technical, Kings College, Leeds, McGill, New York, Oxford, Rhodes, Sarah Lawrence and York universities, and from civil society groups Kenyan Debt Relief Network, Pambazuka and the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development.<sup>2</sup> Seven post-graduate students were affiliated to CCS, one of whom submitted his PhD thesis.<sup>3</sup>

**Areas and methods of work.** CCS spent 2007 pursuing work in six project/issue areas - economic justice; environmental justice; global and African integration; social movements; social giving; and culture – using six methods for getting work out to scholars and the general public: 1) the monthly Harold Wolpe lecture, seminar series, courses, post-graduate student supervision and conferences and workshops; 2) the website <http://www.ukzn.ac.za/ccs>; 3) outreach activities in eThekweni, KZN Province, nationally and internationally (including high-profile conferencing, regular media interviews and guest lectures at leading universities); 4) the CCS Resource Centre; 5) the CCS *Wired* double-DVD set; and 6) publications. The latter included the fortnightly 'Eye on Civil Society' column in Durban's *Mercury* newspaper, and nearly 60 books, journals, articles and chapters.

## Peer-reviewed research publications by CCS staff, 2004-07

| Year | Books/journals | Accredited articles | Book chapters | Total |
|------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2004 | 2              | 13                  | 13            | 28    |
| 2005 | 8              | 21                  | 21            | 50    |
| 2006 | 10             | 16                  | 16            | 42    |
| 2007 | 8              | 18                  | 32            | 58    |

<sup>1</sup> Baruti Amisi, Patrick Bond, Sufian Bukurura, John Devenish, Lungile Keswa, Dudu Khumalo, Oliver Meth, Ntokozi Mthembu, Orlean Naidoo, Molefi Ndlovu, Annsilla Nyar, Sanya Osha, Helen Poonen, Amy Ramsamy and Phindile Xuma. (Bond's three-year term as director expired in October 2007 but he will stay on until a replacement is identified.) Honorary professors include Dennis Brutus, Alan Fowler and Adam Habib, while Ashwin Desai remains a nominated honorary researcher awaiting confirmation.

<sup>2</sup> Mandisa Mbali, Sizwe Phakathi, Shannon Walsh, Amanda Alexander, Llewellyn Leonard, Sokari Ekine, Grace Kwinjeh, Kathleen Millar, Rob Compton, Kiama Kaara, Femi Aborisade, Hopewell Gumbo, Booker Magure, Melanie Samson, Giuliano Martiniello and Vincent del Signore.

<sup>3</sup> Horman Chitonge, Rehana Dada, Shereen Essof, Richard Kamidza, Prishani Naidoo, Trevor Ngwane and Simphiwe Nojiyeza

**Publications.** For example, four books and journals produced by CCS in 2007 consolidated a great deal of material on political economy which we expect to help revitalise the field, and also to engage intellectuals across the world who are concerned about new forms of superexploitation and primitive accumulation – and social resistance. These studies were inspired by traditions of ‘race-class debates’ in our region, including Guy Mhone’s theory of ‘enclave economies’, Harold Wolpe’s ‘articulation of modes of production’, Jose Negrao’s rural economic analysis, and Rosa Luxemburg’s analysis of imperialism in Southern Africa. Supportive funders included the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. In addition, the CCS climate change work sponsored by the SA-Netherlands Programme for Research in Development culminated in a book *Climate Change, Carbon Trading and Civil Society*. The Social Giving project produced *Giving and Solidarity*. Another CCS-copublished book, *A Political Programme for the World Social Forum?* was issued at the WSF in Nairobi along with our sister institute CACIM from New Delhi. Most of CCS’s book-length publications are available free, online, at our website.

Highlights of accredited, peer-reviewed journal articles produced by CCS staff include studies of civil society strategies in relation to microcredit in health policy and to African economics in two issues of the *International Journal of Health Services*; of Zimbabwe’s ‘Long Economic Crisis’ in *Safundi*; of carbon trading in *Agenda* and *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; of water and dams in *Agenda*, *Alternatives Sud*, *Global Social Policy and Law*, *Social Justice and Global Development*; of global political economy, geopolitics and civil society strategy in *Development Dialogue*, *WeltTrends* and *Societies without Borders*; of the developmental state debate in *Politikon and Africanus*; of ‘fourth world’ women workers in *Agenda*; and of family philanthropy for *Giving*.

Chapters in academic books covered Johannesburg inequality and social resistance; water and health policies in Southern Africa; civil society and the World Bank; decommodification strategies; volatile global financial markets; African resource extraction; Norway’s role in global governance; global reform frustrations; anti-privatisation water politics; Soweto electricity; South African political ecology; NGO-donor relationships; community politics; and primitive accumulation.

#### **The Harold Wolpe Lecture Series, 2007**

- Fatima Meer, UKZN: ‘Activism for Democracy’, 22 February
- Ngūgī wa Thiong’o, University of California/Irvine: ‘Regaining our Tongues: The Challenges of Writing in Indigenous Languages’, 23 March
- Miloon Kothari, UN Special Rapporteur on Housing: ‘Making Real the Right to Housing’, 19 April
- Jane Duncan, Freedom of Expression Institute: ‘The Rise of the Disciplinary University’, 17 May
- world premiere of the documentary *Mbeki Unauthorised* with filmmaker Ben Cashdan; and Third World politics with Walden Bello, Focus on the Global South; Miranda Moema, Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas; and Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi, Freedom of Expression Institute, 28 June
- Horace Campbell, Syracuse University: ‘Pan-Africanism and the 21st Century African Revolution’, 12 July
- Grace Kwinjeh, Save Zimbabwe Coalition: ‘Zimbabwe’s Crisis, Civil Society’s Responsibility’, 23 August
- Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Member of Parliament and former Deputy Health Minister: ‘Traditions of Social Activism’, 13 September
- Dennis Brutus, UKZN: ‘Karl Marx at UKZN’, 25 October
- Mondli Hlatshwayo, Social Movements Indaba; Des D’Sa, S.Durban Community and Environmental Alliance; and Orlean Naidoo, Westcliff Flat Dwellers: ‘The State of SA’s Social Movements’, 22 November

**Public events.** With respect to major public events (offered at no charge and in most cases with isiZulu translation), CCS was active not only in Durban but also across the continent and the world. The number of activities hosted by CCS in 2007 exceeded 100, including Harold Wolpe Lectures, reality tours of stressed Durban communities, seminars and conferences. CCS is grateful to all of those who gave their time voluntarily, to share ideas and activism.

### **Seminar speakers, 2007**

- Corinna Genschel, German Left Party social movement liaison office
- Teivo Teivainen, University of Helsinki
- Anil Naidoo, Council of Canadians
- Patrick Bond and Horman Chitonge, CCS
- Peter Hudis, Oakton Community College
- Fany Wariyai, Jonah Gbemre, Jome Akpoduado, Michael Keania Karikpo, Comrade Che, I. Ibegwura, and Victor Chris Egbe, Environmental Rights Action of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- John S. Saul, York University
- Mandisa Mbali, Oxford University
- Mazibuko Jara, Amandla Publishing and Orlean Naidoo, CCS
- Llewellyn Leonard, University College London
- MK Eelaventhana, Sri Lankan Parliament
- Duduzile Khumalo, CCS
- Rod Burgess, Oxford Brookes University
- Ida Susser, City University of New York
- Chris Benner, Pennsylvania State University
- Maj Fiil, Food and Water Watch and Sean Flynn, American University
- Henning Melber, Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
- Shannon Walsh, McGill University and CCS
- Pat Horn and Gaby Bikombo, Streetnet
- James Ferguson, Stanford University
- Ronald Suresh Roberts, independent writer
- Rob Compton, State University of New York
- Maria Brendler, Swedish Left Party
- Kiama Kaara, Kenyan Debt Relief Network
- Melanie Samson, York University
- Kathleen Millar, Brown University
- Dennis Brutus, CCS
- Guiliiana Gemelli, University of Bologna
- Ntokozo Mthembu, CCS
- Anne Mayher, University of the Witwatersrand
- David Wiley, Michigan State University
- Baruti Amisi, CCS
- Lionel Cliffe, Leeds University
- David Manyonga, International Campaign Against Child Soldiering
- Christi van der Westhuizen, University of Cape Town
- Hwok-Aun Lee, University of Massachusetts/Amherst
- Oliver Meth, CCS and Joan Van Niekerk, Child Survival
- Zodwa Madiba and Arthur Lekalake (Operation Khanyisa Movement) and Alan Murphy, Ecopeace
- Trevor Ngwane, Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee
- Dara Kell and Christopher Nizzo, Skylight Pictures

**CCS partners.** In addition to local community organizations and NGOs, there are numerous regional and international partners CCS works with, and in 2007 we provided formal inputs to their conferences, seminars and workshops: the African Literary Association conference (Univ. of W. Virginia), the Centro Internacional Miranda series on political economy and political ecology (Caracas), Monthly Review (New York), and several leading universities: Alberta (Edmonton), Botswana, California/Berkeley, Cornell, Dartmouth, Gyeongsang, Harvard, Korea, London School of Oriental and African Studies, Nairobi, Stanford, Stellenbosch, SungKongHoe, Sydney University of Technology, and the United Nations University (Tokyo). Additional inputs were made to conferences and seminars for the Burmese liberation movement in Chiang Mai, the World Social Forum in Nairobi, the US Social Forum in Atlanta, the Accra conference on the First Governmental Efforts to Abolish the Atlantic Slave Trade, the New Zimbabwe Lecture and Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development deliberations on inflation in Harare, the Debt Audit Training workshop held by the Kenyan Debt Relief Network in Nairobi, the Brecht Forum and Left Forum (both in New York), Action Aid International in Washington and Nairobi, and in South Africa on numerous issues including climate change, energy, land, housing and water. To illustrate, CCS provided expert (volunteer) technical information about water pricing in the landmark socio-economic rights lawsuit, *Mazibuko v Johannesburg Water*, although government unsuccessfully attempted to have the CCS affidavit thrown out in a December 2007 High Court hearing (and in April 2008 the state lost the case to Soweto community activists).

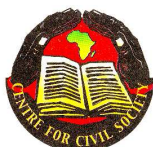
**Academic and training courses.** In addition, several courses on civil society and economic justice were also offered at CCS in 2007, in part through our host School of Development Studies, to whom we are grateful for affiliation.

#### CCS courses, 2007

On six occasions, courses were given by CCS staff, four of which were at post-graduate level:

- CCS/School for International Training/Community course (undergraduate), 'Globalisation and Development', 2-5 April and 1-5 November
- Social Policy masters course, 'Issues in South African Economics', 13 March-3 July
- CCS/SDS masters course 'Civil Society and Development' course, 4-18 July
- SDS 'Political Economy of the Welfare State' course, 30 July-27 August
- CCS/SDS and ActionAid International course, 'Economics for Development', 23-28 November (Nairobi)

**Funding.** Core funding support from Atlantic, Ford and CS Mott originally granted in 2001 is warmly acknowledged, as are our additional 2007 relationships with ActionAid, the Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust, Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, SA Foundation for Human Rights, SA-Netherlands Programme for Alternative Research in Development, and the SA National Energy Research Institute.



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