

PUBLIC SEMINAR

Date: 28 August 2018

Venue: UWC, School of Public Health

Women and the Struggle for Land & Natural Resources

The University of the Western Cape is at the forefront of questioning the future direction for land reform, property and tenure rights in South Africa. How can we overcome centuries of land dispossession and discriminatory tenure systems? How can land and fishing rights be redistributed in an equitable way? Who should benefit? How can these reforms prioritise women's rights, access and interests, and how are women working together and struggling for an emancipatory future?

The event will address three questions:

1. How far have we come in securing women's access and rights to the land and sea?
2. What are the struggles now and what is the strategic vision for the future?
3. Is there scope for solidarity among women struggling for land and fishing rights – in cities, on farms, in communal areas, and coastal communities?

Focus areas	Topic	Presenters
Women in the cities	Women at the forefront of urban struggles for land and housing	Mandisa Shandu, Ndifuna Ukwazi
Women on the farms	Women's struggles for livelihoods and resistance to evictions	Carmen Louw, Women on Farms Project
Women in communal areas	Contesting patriarchal custom, traditional authorities and investors	Constance Mogale, Alliance for Rural Democracy
Women's inheritance	Contesting women's rights under African and Muslim customary law	Seehaam Samaai, Women's Legal Centre
Women in fishing communities	Women struggling for the land and the sea in fishing communities	(Documentary) Sarah Niemand and the women of Buffeljagsbaai

Synopsis of documentary: 22 mins

The documentary portrays the life and struggles of Sarah Niemand and the women of Buffeljagsbaai. It shows their deep and spiritual connections to nature as they make sense of their tenure insecurity in their ancestral land and the challenges of sustaining their livelihoods. The documentary contextualises the complexities of criminal livelihoods linked to 'perlemoen' (abalone) poaching in the marginalised coastal community of Buffeljagsbaai - where women on a daily basis are faced with difficult choices between feeding their families and/or garnering quick cash from poachers and risk imprisonment.

Chair / Moderator: Prof Ruth Hall, PLAAS, EMS, UWC