Speaker: Bobby Peek

Topic: “A Re-emerging of the Environmental Justice Movement in South Africa - Building on Climate and Energy Justice”

Date: Thursday, February 2nd, 2017
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Place: Room 201 International Center

Co-Sponsored by:
Environmental Studies and Policy Program, Global Urban Studies Program, and Department of Sociology

Peek grew up on the fenceline of south Durban’s Engen oil refinery, co–founded the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, and was national campaigns coordinator for the Environmental Justice Networking Forum. He has served on South Africa’s first National Environmental Advisory Committee to the South African Minister of Environment and the international executive committee of Friends of the Earth International, the world’s largest federation of grassroots organizations fighting for environmental and social justice. He advises on various national and international environmental justice strategies.

Peek has received an M.A. from University of kwaZulu-Natal and an honorary PhD from the Durban University of Technology. He is author of many articles and chapters on the environment including co-author with David Wiley and Christine Root of Organizing for the Environment in South Durban: Influences of the Transition to Democracy and Globalization; Globalization, Democratization, and the Environment in the New South Africa: Social Movements, Corporations, and the State in South Durban; and other works.

Environmental justice is about power relations and ensuring that there is equity among all peoples. From Bobby's first experience of corporate power being used against the community in which he lived in Wentworth, south Durban – just after the hard fought winning of democracy in 1994, he has been driven to seek ways of dismantling this corporate power so that South Africans can have a true democracy as the basis of environmental justice in South Africa and globally.