Dr. Smith will discuss the recent global rise of locally-based initiatives defending and demanding basic human rights. As globalized capitalism has intensified pressures on workers and communities, the contradiction between economic growth and the basic needs and survival of more and more people has become more visible, even among more privileged groups. Dr. Smith will report on different locally based, translocal initiatives to implement human rights norms in municipalities around the world, and examine some of the global-local flows of ideas, practices, and insights that are emerging from this work.

Jackie Smith is professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh and editor of the Journal of World-Systems Research. She is a leading scholar of transnational social movements and her most recent books include Social Movements and World-System Transformation (co-edited with Michael Goodhart, Patrick Manning, and John Markoff), Social Movements in the World-System: The Politics of Crisis and Transformation (with Dawn Wiest) and Global Democracy and the World Social Forums (with multiple collaborators). Smith’s work on the World Social Forum process has led her to examine how global analyses and models of action are “translated” to local settings. Her participant-observation research has included work with Pittsburgh’s Human Rights City Alliance.

All are welcome.