DEVELOPMENT Studies lecturer and human rights activist Professor Janet Cherry will present her professorial inaugural lecture at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) today.

The lecture - “Social structure and human agency in the age of climate change” – is being hosted at the Business School at Second Avenue at 5.30pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Prof Cherry, who has been at NMMU since 1998, is also a trainer for the Centre for Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) based in Belgrade, Serbia and has been involved in research for, among others, the Human Sciences Research Council (Democracy and Governance Programme), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the International Centre on Human Rights Policy.

Her main areas of research are human rights, democratic participation, social history, gender and development.

Prof Cherry holds a PhD in Politics from Rhodes University.

Prof Cherry faced constant repression and harassment from the security police and right wing elements during apartheid and spent more than a year in detention in the 1980s without having been charged for any offence.

In recognition of her work as a young activist, Prof Cherry was one of the first recipients of the Reebok Human Rights Awards in 1988.