



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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FOREWORD & HIGHLIGHTS

Foreword

by Thomas Pogge (Chair) and Alberto D. Cimadamore (Scientific Director)

This report presents CROP's activities for the period January - December 2015. During the reporting period CROP has carried out activities within the framework of its recently approved institutional strategy 2015-2020. The activities organised by the Secretariat during the year continued to pursue CROP's mission within the new set of thematic priorities that includes poverty eradication in the post-MDG era; social policies and welfare states; human development and sustainability science; child poverty and inequalities; and rights, institutions and global justice.

Critical and constructive approaches to poverty reduction and eradication have remained a core concern of the intellectual production of the CROP network. Increasingly, this production is focusing on thematic areas that are crucial to the achievement of the international community's shared aims as defined in the Sustainable Development Goals approved by United Nations in 2015. The provision of ideas to make a difference in the fight against poverty was the guiding purpose for all activities pursued in this period. The book series that was renewed in 2015 and embodies the results from CROP's international workshops represents one of the main instruments for disseminating these ideas.

Organisational initiatives taken during the period aimed to increase the sustainability of CROP within a continuous process of institutionalisation and integration into the scientific programmes of its parent organisations, UiB and ISSC. The period outputs show a path that will continue to be paved during the years to come, and significant progress was made in all priority areas.

The report is intentionally succinct in order to continue the practice initiated last year. We assume that our readers are busy people, yet we want to provide them with a glimpse of CROP's achievements in 2015 and imbue them with the essence of our institutional work.

CROP in numbers 2015



Highlights in 2015

- The 22 newly appointed CROP Fellows started contributing to CROP from January.
- Two new books in the CROP-Zed Books series were published – the first since 2008.
- CROP organised two scientific panels at the World Social Science Forum in Durban, South Africa, in September.
- The first intern through the Erasmus+ Training programme arrived at the CROP Secretariat in October.
- CROP's Twitter account was launched in October.
- CROP co-organised two events during the Climate Summit COP21 in Paris.
- CROP organised 12 public events in 2015, attracting more than 500 people.

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The core organisation of CROP is made up of a permanent secretariat hosted by the University of Bergen, and a Scientific Committee made up of renowned scholars in the field of poverty research.

Scientific Committee and Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting with the CROP Scientific Committee (SC) was held on 12 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa, in connection with CROP's participation at the World Social Science Forum. Six of the committee members joined the CROP Secretariat for a full day meeting, where the SC reviewed the 2014 annual report and provided input to CROP's activity plan for 2016-17. The SC accepted the resignation of Juliana Martinez Franzoni as a member of the SC and agreed to her replacement according to institutional rules.

In November 2015, Jayati Ghosh was appointed as a new member of the CROP Scientific Committee. Ghosh is Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi (India).



Scientific Committee and Secretariat during the Annual Meeting in Durban, 12 September 2015:

From left: Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs (CROP), Thomas Pogge (Yale), Alberto Cimadamore (CROP), Maria Sollohub (CROP), Dag Rune Olsen (UiB), Mathieu Denis (ISSC), David Hulme (Univ. of Manchester), Alberto Minujin (New School), and Etienne Nel (Univ. of Otago).

Varun Gauri (World Bank), Elma Montana (IAI), Juliana Martinez-Franzoni (Univ. of Costa Rica), Fatima Alvarez-Castillo (Univ. of the Philippines) and Michiel Baud (CEDLA) were unable to participate in the meeting.

Secretariat and Internship Programme

During the last quarter of 2015 the CROP Secretariat in Bergen received the first intern appointed through our recently launched Internship Programme. Interns will be appointed for periods of 2-6 months and we expect most interns to come through the EU's Erasmus+ Traineeship programme.

The CROP Fellows

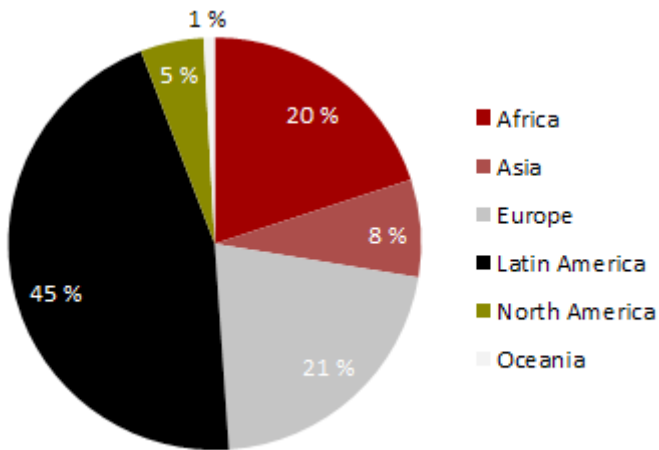
CROP Fellows are ambassadors of the CROP programme and constitute a core resource group of committed scholars and/or activists who can lend ideas and help promote the CROP network. In March 2015 CROP issued a call for workshop proposals to its new CROP Fellows. This call resulted in several workshop applications and CROP is now following up concrete proposals from CROP Fellow Anete Ivo for an event at the Catholic University of Salvador (Brazil) and from CROP Fellow Hilary Silver for an event at Harvard University (US).

CROP NETWORK

CROP network development - 2015 overview

The CROP network consists of scholars in the field of poverty research – in its widest definition. New members are included when they a) present papers at CROP events; b) submit proposals through open calls; or c) participate in CROP events and/or related activities or projects. The audience at public events or people who have signed up for the mailing list are not included.

CROP network structure by region



In the last year, 125 scholars have joined the CROP network. This is an increase of 14% and brought the new total to **1047 members by the end of 2015**.

The gender distribution of our network remained the same as the year before, with 42% of our members being female and 58% male.

Regional distribution, displayed in the graph, shows that the majority of CROP network members come from Latin American Countries (45%), followed by European (21%) and African (20%) countries. Only a minority of our members come from Asian (8%) or Northern American countries (5%) and only 1% percent of our members are from Oceania.

This data is used to plan activities and to better target audiences and institutional objectives.

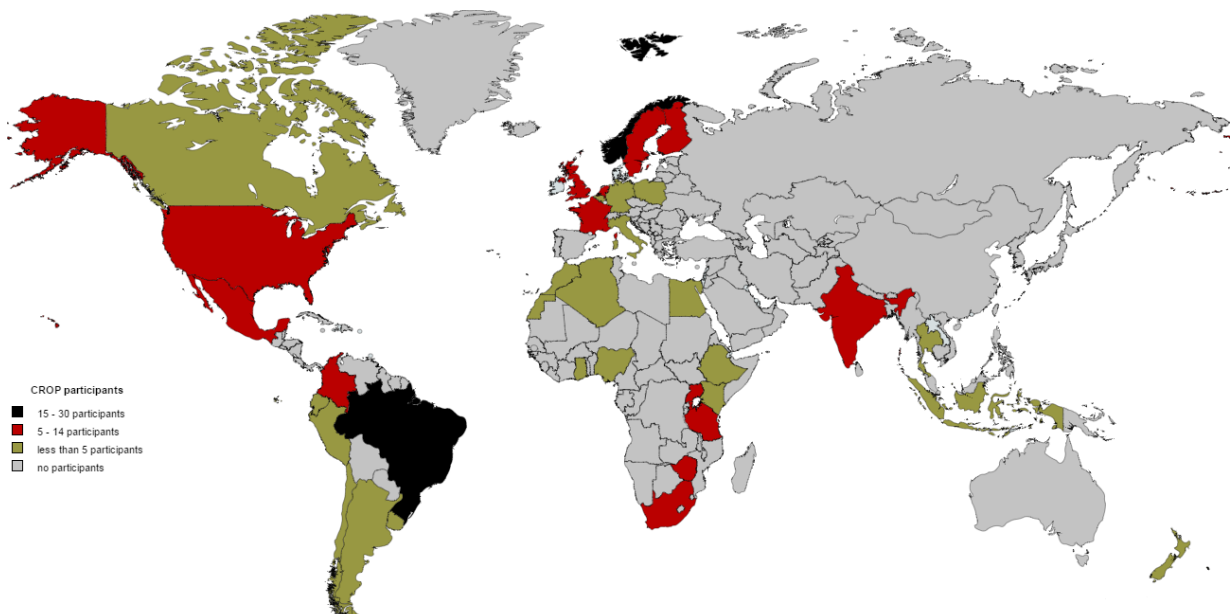
CROP network structure by gender



CROP participants in 2015

In 2015, 178 scholars participated in CROP events. 62% of them were male and 38% female. The majority came from European countries (42%), followed by Latin American (25%) and African countries (22%). 58 of them were already previous members of the CROP network, while 120 were new members.

CROP participants in 2015 by country of residence



CROP INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

“The Democratic Developmental State – Southern African and Nordic Experiences”

Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, 9-11 February 2015

Organised in collaboration with UiB Global (UiB) and the School of Government at UWC, with the support of SANORD. 13 papers were presented and discussed by the invited researchers. The route of “democratic developmental states” to overcome poverty was discussed by the researchers, representing a wide geographical spectre. As a follow-up, an editorial team was selected in order to develop a book for the CROP book series, based on the papers discussed. **18 participants.**



“Poverty, Water and Development in the South”

Workshop in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, 3-5 June 2015

Organised in collaboration with the Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP), UiB Global (UiB) and the Federal University of Latin America Integration (UNILA). A total of 20 multidisciplinary papers were presented alongside a public panel debate. The scholars highlighted how the lack or scarcity of safe water is related to poverty and conditions sustainable development. An editorial committee was appointed to follow up the process of revision of presented papers in order to publish a book. **24 participants.**

OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

Seminar on Inequality in Latin America at CMI/UiB Global in Bergen, Norway, 5 and 6 March 2015

In March, CROP was one of the partners in a seminar on inequality in Latin America called “Rethinking inequalities in Latin America: Reflections from the field”, which ended up in a panel debate that brought together several prominent scholars on Latin America.

Panel on the Media Representations of Poverty and Development in Latin America in Helsinki, Finland, 12 June 2015

CROP co-organised a panel with the title “Battle over meanings: Media representations of poverty and development in Latin America” as part of the 8th Nordic Latin American Research Network (NOLAN) Conference in Helsinki.

Contributions to the Bergen Summer Research School at UiB, Norway, 15–26 June 2015

CROP contributed to the summer school with the keynote lectures “Human Development in India - towards social inclusion” by CROP Fellow Santosh Mehrotra, as well as with a panel titled “Sustainability and Development: The Challenge of Social Change” consisting of Alberto D. Cimadamore, Gro Th. Lie, Maurice B. Mittelmark and Fungisai G. Ottemöller.

World Social Science Fellows seminar in Durban, South Africa, 9-13 September 2015

CROP was one of the partners in the ISSC’s World Social Science Fellows Seminar, alongside the Global Environmental Change Project and the Cities Alliance. The event, hosted by the University of KwaZulu Natal, gathered young scholars for a week of discussions.

Panels at the World Social Science Forum (WSSF) 2015 in Durban, South Africa, 13-16 September 2015

CROP organised two panels at the WSSF 2015. The results of these panels; “Global Justice and Poverty in the Transformation of MDGs into SDGs” and “Poverty, Social Justice and Policy in a Regional Comparative Perspective” will be published in a special issue of Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy.

Event at the Climate Conference COP21 in Paris, France, 7 December 2015

In collaboration with UNESCO and Yale University, CROP organised a two-part event at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The presentation of the Oslo Principles was followed by a book launch for the CROP book “Poverty and the MDGs: A critical look forward”.

PUBLIC EVENTS

	Title	Venue	No. of People
11.02.2015	Rethinking Democratic Developmental States in our Global World	Cape Town, South Africa	50
06.03.2015	Rethinking Latin American Inequalities	Bergen Resource Centre	35
03.06.2015	Black Diamond: The Jewel in the ANC State Machinery	Bergen Resource Centre	15
03.06.2015	Poverty, Water and Sustainable Development in the South	UNILA, Brazil	42
19.06.2015	Human Development in India - Towards Social Inclusion	Bergen Summer Research School, UiB	70
24.06.2015	Sustainability and Development: The Challenge of Social Change	Bergen Summer Research School, UiB	70
14.09.2015	Poverty, Social justice and Policy in a Regional Comparative Perspective	WSSF, Durban, South Africa	104
14.09.2015	Global Justice and Poverty in the Transformation of MDGs into SDGs	WSSF, Durban, South Africa	51
15.10.2015	Water, Poverty and Development Goals	Bergen Resource Centre	15
07.12.2015	Quest for Global Sustainability	Le Bourget, Paris	52
07.12.2015	Quest for Global Sustainability	UNESCO Headquarters	10
10.12.2015	Democratic Developmental States in a Comparative Perspective	Bergen Resource Centre	15

VISITING RESEARCHERS

Associate Professor Hilde Ibsen

from the Department of Environmental and Life Sciences at Karlstad University, Sweden, was a guest researcher at CROP in June 2015. She works in the field of modern South African history and her recent focus has been on the rise of the new black middle class - the "Black Diamonds". Ibsen also gave a public lecture at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development.



Professor Santosh Mehrotra from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, was also a guest researcher at CROP in June 2015. He is a CROP Fellow and a human development economist, whose research has had the most influence in the areas of labour, skill development, child poverty, and the economics of education. He gave a keynote lecture at the Bergen Summer Research School, with the title "Human Development in India - Towards Social Inclusion".



Teresita Cruz-del Rosario

from the National University of Singapore was a visiting researcher at CROP in December 2015. She spent her time in Bergen conducting research on the evolution of developmental states into welfare states, as well as studying the Nordic Welfare State. Del Rosario also gave a lecture at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development and is one of the editors of a forthcoming CROP publication.



COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

CROP was established to produce knowledge aimed at lifting people out of poverty. In order to achieve this goal, CROP is involved in the production of new knowledge and the dissemination of research produced within its network. In this process CROP uses a wide range of communication channels, ranging from printed books and briefs to social media.

Status of the project "Visualising Poverty Research"

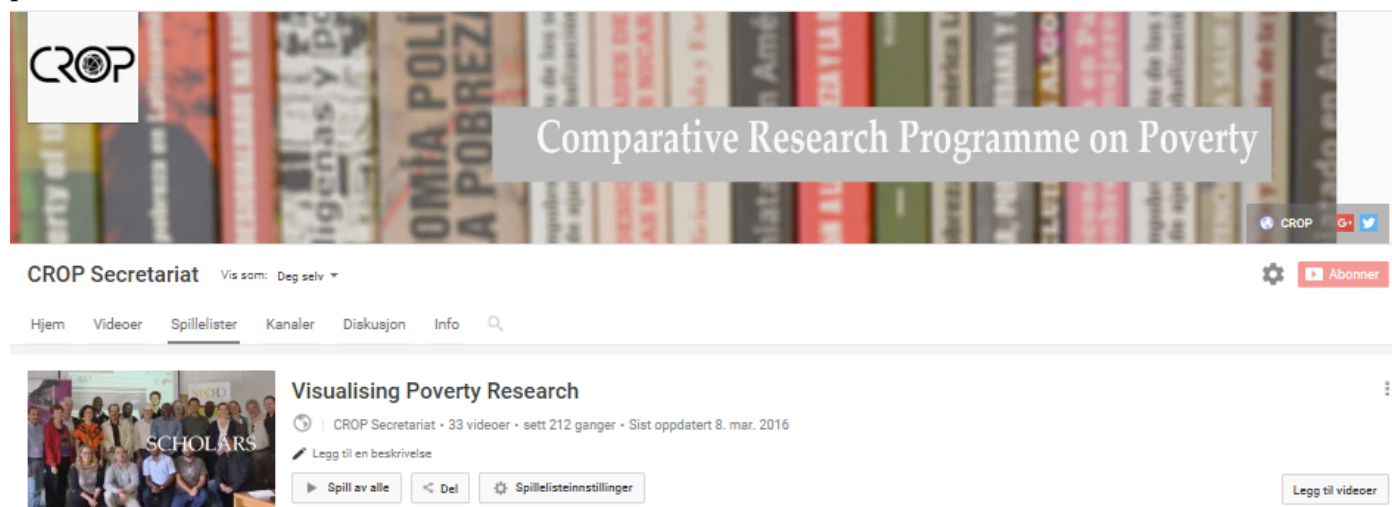
Visualising Poverty Research is a YouTube project, launched by CROP in September 2014. It seeks to disseminate poverty research to a wider audience by publishing short interviews with researchers from CROP's network on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat).



During 2015, 17 new interviews were published, bringing the total to 30. Since the results for 2014 and 2015 cannot be meaningfully compared, we have listed the cumulative results up to 31 December 2015:

- Videos from this playlist have been watched by individuals from 85 different countries around the world.
- The countries with the most views are Norway, USA and UK, followed by South Africa and Argentina (accounting for 60% of the viewers).
- 9 interviews accumulated over 100 views, while another 9 accumulated more than 50 views.
- The most popular interview had 381 views by the end of December 2015.

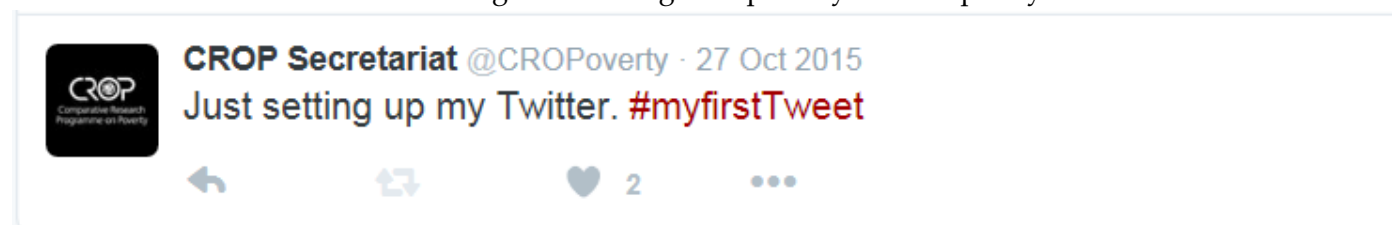
During these first 16 months, we have built up a solid base of 30 video interviews, plus an introductory video. Together these have been watched almost 3000 times. We are happy with the project results so far and will explore ways to further increase the numbers through better integration with other communication platforms.



CROP on Twitter

CROP opened a Twitter account @CROPoverty on 27 October 2015, and the number of followers has been growing steadily.

The main objective of this communication channel is to disseminate information about our publications (books and briefs), events and calls for papers, as well as to distribute relevant statistics and research findings related to global poverty and inequality.



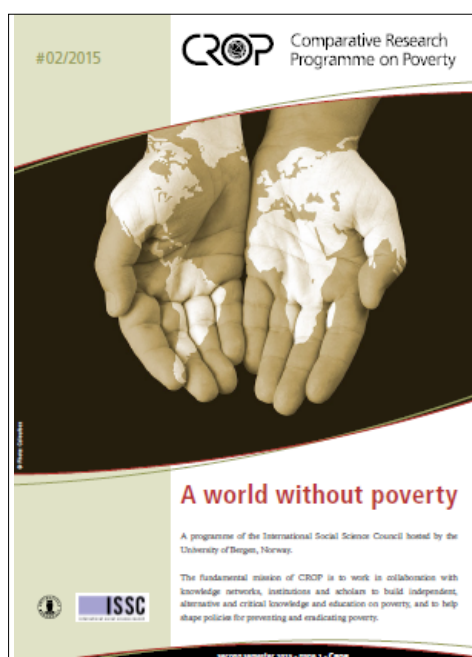
COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

Winner of CROP Prize 2015 announced



The CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize, organised in co-operation with Zed Books, London, is awarded annually to outstanding contributions to research on global poverty eradication or prevention. From 2015 the Prize is awarded on the basis of book proposals rather than full manuscripts, as this increases the number of potential contributions.

The winner of the 2015 Prize is Dr. Andrew M. Fischer, Associate Professor from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Erasmus University of Rotterdam, The Netherlands. His winning submission, "Poverty as Ideology: Rescuing Social Justice from Global Development Agendas and the Poverty Industry", will be published as part of the CROP-Zed Books series, International Studies in Poverty Research.



CROP Newsletter

The CROP Newsletter is distributed as an interactive pdf file twice a year (at the end of each semester) to the recipients of the regular CROP mailing list. It is sent to more than 1360 recipients every semester.

Although still called a newsletter, this publication is gradually changing to combine institutional news with short articles and reports on poverty-related issues.

The CROP Website

The CROP website www.crop.org is still CROP's main communication channel. In addition to news and announcements from CROP and its extended network, the website also includes electronic versions of CROP publications (books, briefs, newsletters, etc.).

From 1 January to 31 December 2015, the traffic on the website produced the following statistics:

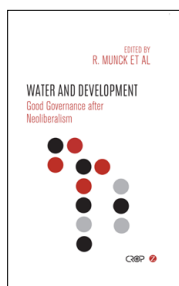
- 23'240 visits to the website (6.4% fewer than in 2014), with a total of 93'338 page views. This gives an average of 4.02 pages per session (up from 3.8 in 2014).
- We had 18'559 unique users (6.3% fewer than in 2014), which means that 78.7% of the users were new visitors.
- The average session duration increased by 10% to 2:23 minutes.
- Our users came from 179 different countries. US, Norway, India and UK were by far the largest (accounting for 40.7%), but 6 countries had more than 500 unique users and another 30 had more than 100.

Country	Sessions	% Sessions
United States	3816	16,4 %
Norway	2078	8,9 %
India	1887	8,1 %
United Kingdom	1671	7,2 %
Germany	877	3,8 %
Canada	562	2,4 %
South Africa	558	2,4 %
Brazil	506	2,2 %
Australia	466	2,0 %
Kenya	454	2,0 %

PUBLICATIONS

CROP Books

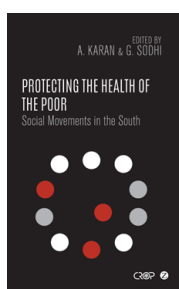
Two books from the CROP book series have been published this year by Zed Books, London:



Water and Development. Good Governance after Neoliberalism.

September 2015

The book, edited by Ronaldo Munck, Narathius Asingwire, Honor Fagan and Consolata Kabonesa, was launched at the World Social Science Forum in Durban, South Africa. It examines a range of issues, from governance to solar distillation, from gender to water pumps, using a range of research methods, from participant observation to GIS and SPSS data analysis.



Protecting the Health of the Poor. Social Movements in the South.

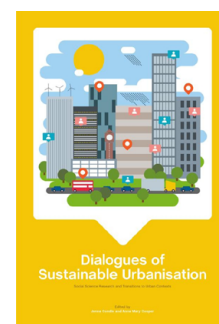
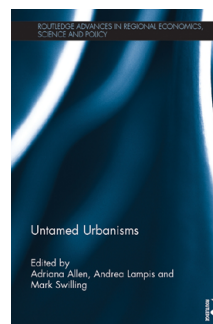
December 2015

The book, edited by Abraar Karan, Geeta Sodhi, emerged from a workshop of the same title held in New Delhi in 2011. Drawing on in-depth empirical research spanning Asia, Latin America and Africa, this collection offers an overview of the legal, political and social factors behind poor performance countries in the Global South in enforcing the right for health.

World Social Science Fellows Publications

CROP was one of the partners in ISSC's World Social Science Fellows seminars in 2013 and 2014. Two books resulting from these seminars were published in 2015:

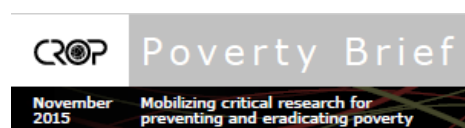
- *Untamed Urbanisms*, edited by Adriana Allen, Mark Swilling and Andrea Lampis.
- *Dialogues of Sustainable Urbanisation: Social Science Research and Transitions to Urban Contexts*, edited by Jenna Condie and Anna Cooper.



CROP Poverty Briefs

Six CROP Poverty Briefs were published in 2015:

- *The Consensual Approach to Child Poverty Measurement* by Shailen Nandy (University of Bristol, UK) & Gill Main (University of Leeds, UK).
- *The Explanatory Power of the Welfare State Development on Poverty and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean* by Gibrán Cruz-Martinez (Autonomous University of Chile, Chile).
- *A Serene Look at the Sustainable Development Goals* by Jan Vandemoortele (Independent researcher, Belgium).
- *The End of Poverty: Black women's entry to the middle class in South Africa* by Hilde Ibsen (Karlstad University, Sweden).
- *Why sub-National Level Poverty Analysis Matters: A case study of Namibia* by Ojijo Odhiambo (UNDP, Namibia).
- *Tackling Poverty in the Age of Changing Climate: The "most-likely" missing variable in climate adaptation in Bangladesh* by Saleh Ahmed (University of Arizona, USA).



PROJECTS

Sustainability Science and Human Development

During spring 2015, CROP organised a seminar series on sustainability science in co-operation with the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, building on an initiative started in 2012. During the course of three seminars, the series gathered a group of participants from the University of Bergen; professors, researchers and PhD candidates representing different faculties and research fields. The aim was to provide a transdisciplinary framework for further collaborative activities within the field of sustainability science. The seminars gave room for interesting discussions among the participants about terms and conceptualisations of sustainability science.

An important part of the sustainability science initiative has been the book “Development and Sustainability. The challenge of Social Change” coming out of a workshop held in 2012. This book, edited by Alberto Cimadamore, Maurice Mittelmark, Gro Th. Lie and Fungisai Ottemöller, went through the final stages of editing in 2015 in order to be published in April 2016.

Another concrete result of our efforts was an application submitted to the Research Council of Norway’s new INTPART programme. The application was unfortunately unsuccessful. However, CROP will continue to work on the issue of sustainability science and transdisciplinary research and will seek new activities with CROP partners both within and beyond the University of Bergen.



FINAL REMARKS

2015 was the first year of operation for the new strategic document, the “CROP Strategic Plan 2015-2020” that was approved by the CROP Scientific Committee in 2014. The activities for 2015 were subsequently planned in accordance with the directions given by this document.

Quantitative outputs have increased overall, particularly in the area of publications (books). The accumulation of original research discussed in CROP’s international workshops and other flagship events will see the light in the next few years, with a boosted book series that will contribute to consolidating CROP’s presence in the international intellectual arena.

A preliminary evaluation of the quality of the scientific outputs shows that all of them were validated by a strict peer-review process that counted on the active participation of scholars from both North and South. CROP’s Scientific Committee, the workshops’ academic committees, and the editorial boards of the CROP publications have worked consistently to secure the quality and plurality of the results of the network production.

Dissemination has been a special focus area for CROP in 2015. An increased presence in digital and social media started in 2015 and will continue thanks to the student intern programme and increasing collaboration with our parent institutions’ dissemination facilities. It is clear to us that this is the most effective way for our ideas to make an impact in a world we want to see free of poverty.

CROP's vision:
"A world without poverty"



Comparative Research
Programme on Poverty