



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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# FOREWORD & HIGHLIGHTS

## Foreword

This report aims to succinctly present CROP's activities during the period January – December 2016 and reflect upon what we have achieved within the framework of our institutional strategic priorities and objectives.

The implemented work plan continued to promote critical knowledge on the causes and solutions to poverty together with our local and international partners. Our global network, CROPNet, was the main instrument used to produce and disseminate the resulting collaborative knowledge. By the end of the reported period, our network comprised 1260 members, which is more than double the number it had in 2013.

The continuing expansion and vitality of this well-established global network will most certainly be reinforced by the 4-year project with the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN, South Africa) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA, Senegal) that was granted funding by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU). This project is key for the expansion and consolidation of an epistemic community on poverty reduction and sustainable development in a priority area. We are keen to work with our partners to encourage the participation of young African researchers in the production of knowledge that reflects the interests and aspirations of the continent.

CROP's process of institutionalisation continued according to plan. At the end of 2016, a new Scientific Committee and Chair were appointed by the ISSC, and we look forward to receiving new perspectives that can be incorporated into the pursuit of CROP's mission.

We are very grateful to those who have worked hard to make CROP more effective and visible in the international scientific arena, in particular Thomas Pogge, who contributed generously to the growth of CROP during his 6-year term.

## CROP in numbers 2016



## Highlights in 2016

- CROP was granted funding for a 4-year project with UKZN and CODESRIA by the Norwegian agency SIU.
- 6 books coming out of CROP workshops were published.
- The Abuja workshop on child poverty assembled a record number of stake-holders.
- The Global Challenges Working Paper Series was launched in October.
- CROP co-organised a PhD course as part of Bergen Summer Research School 2016.
- The full-day conference "On the Move", a side event to ISSC's General Assembly in Oslo, was organised in co-operation with HiOA, ISSC and the Research Council of Norway.
- CROP's expansion into social media continued with the launch of a Facebook page in April 2016.

# INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

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

## Scientific Committee and annual meeting

The CROP Scientific Committee (SC) is composed of recognised academic authorities in the field of poverty-related research and serves the purpose of advising and formulating the overall scientific goals of the programme. Its members are appointed by the International Social Science Council in agreement with the University of Bergen on the basis of academic achievements and as representatives of a variety of geographic regions and scientific disciplines. The Scientific Committee that was appointed in 2015 (ten committee members plus chair) remained in place until the end of 2016 and was chaired by Thomas Pogge, Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University. The 2016 annual meeting of the Scientific Committee was organised in December and took place online in order to allow all its members to participate.

## CROP Fellows

CROP Fellows are ambassadors of the CROP programme and constitute a core resource group of committed scholars who can lend ideas and help promote the CROP network. Twenty-two CROP Fellows are currently serving for the 2014-18 period. Following a Fellows' call for workshop proposals in 2015, two selected workshops were organised in 2016: a three-day workshop on "Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America" at the Catholic University of Salvador (UCSAL), Brazil, and a two-day international workshop on "Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication" at Harvard University, US.



## Secretariat and internship programme

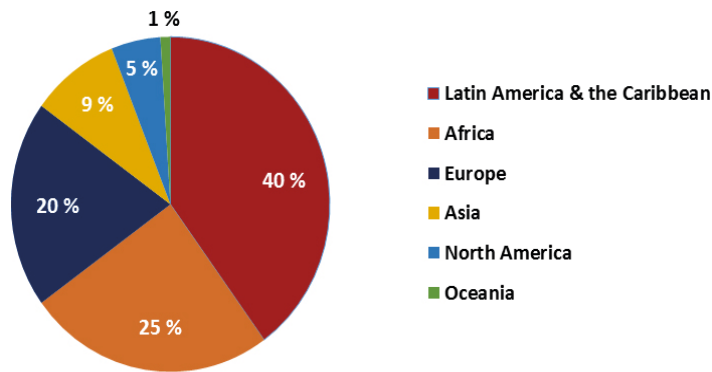
The CROP Secretariat, responsible for the effective development and implementation of the programme in consultation with the Scientific Committee, is located at the University of Bergen and consists of four permanent staff (equal to three full-time positions). The Secretariat also hosts student interns (up to two at a time) who provide assistance to the permanent staff, while obtaining invaluable experience in the field of research dissemination. In 2016, CROP hosted a total of six Erasmus+ student interns from different parts of Europe.

# CROP NETWORK

## CROP network development - 2016 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 thus not included.

## CROP network structure by region



With the addition of 212 new members, CROP's network reached a total of 1260 scholars by the end of 2016.

The gender distribution of our network remained the same as in 2015, with 42% female and 58% male members.

The regional distribution of the CROP network, as displayed in the graph on the left, shows that the region with the most members is Latin America and the Caribbean (40%), followed by Africa (25%) and Europe (20%). Only a minority of our members come from Asia (9%), North America (5%) or Oceania (1%).

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

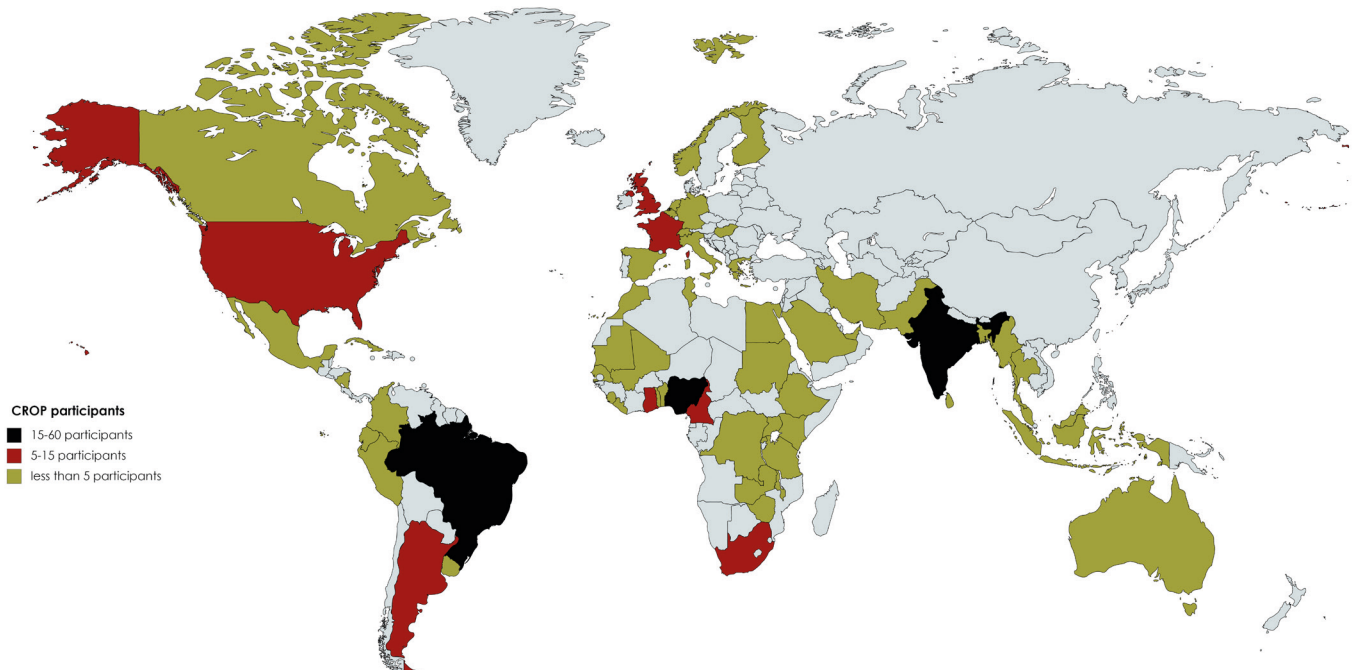
## CROP network structure by gender



## CROP participants in 2016

In 2016, 261 scholars submitted proposals for or participated in workshops or courses organised by CROP, a 47% increase compared to 2015. Due to our thematic focus in 2016, the largest share of participants came from Africa (44%), followed by Latin America (18%), Asia (18%), Europe (15%) and North America (5%).

## CROP participants in 2016 by country of residence



# CROP INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

## **“Child Poverty and Social Protection in Western and Central Africa”**

*Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, 23-25 May 2016*

Organised in collaboration with UNICEF WCARO, ILO, ECOWAS and Equity for Children. 20 scientific papers were selected for discussion. Researchers focused on the role of inequalities and social exclusion in the persistence of high levels of child poverty. An editorial committee was appointed to work on the results of the event, to be published in the CROP International Series on Poverty Studies.

**70 participants**



## **“Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America”**

*Workshop in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 22-23 September 2016*

Organised in partnership with the Catholic University of Salvador (UCSAL). 18 papers were presented and discussed by the invited researchers. The discussion dealt with the potential of initiatives to reduce poverty and promote social justice, as well as on the effects of these programmes on society as a whole. A publication in Spanish will follow. **21 participants**

## **“Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication”**

*Workshop in Cambridge, MA, United States, 17-18 November 2016*

In partnership with the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, both at Harvard University. Local specialists from Harvard and international colleagues were invited to engage in a debate on 13 academic papers that aimed at exploring the causal relationship between social exclusion and the reproduction of poverty in contemporary societies. **25 participants**

# OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

## **Conference on “Urban Inequities and Children” at The New School, New York, 28-29 April**

Alongside other institutions and organisations, CROP supported this Equity for Children conference. CROP’s Scientific Director, Alberto Cimadamore, contributed with a presentation on “Child Poverty, Equity and Sustainability in the 21st Century”.

## **Contribution to the Bergen Summer Research School at UiB, Bergen, 13-24 June 2016**

CROP contributed to the summer school with a PhD course on “Poverty, Climate Change and Water in the Context of SDGs”, led by CROP’s Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore and Noel Keenlyside, Professor at the Geophysical Institute/Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research.

## **Panel on Child Poverty and Welfare at the NorLARNet Conference in Bergen, 31 August 2016**

CROP took part in the Norwegian - Latin American Research Network’s (NorLARNet) Annual Conference by organising a panel entitled “Child Poverty and Welfare: comparative views”, which covered multiple topics, including conditions for

children in Latin America, the childcare system in Colombia and child poverty in urbanised areas.

## **Lecture at the Bergen Resource Centre for Development, 20 October 2016.**

Andy Summer, reader in International Development at King’s College London, held a lecture entitled “Ending Global Poverty: Why wait until 2030?”, jointly organised by CROP and UiB Global. At the end of the lecture, he hosted the launch of the new Working Paper Series on Global Challenges.

## **Thematic Seminar “On the Move – Global Migrations, Challenges and Responses” in Oslo, 26 October 2016**

The one-day seminar was jointly organised by the ISSC, CROP and HiOA, and sponsored by the Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian UNESCO Committee. It was held at the Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA) and addressed current global challenges posed by migration and integration. It also included discussions centred on policy responses and the role of science in addressing these issues.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>No. of People</b>
29.04.2016	Child Poverty, Equity and Sustainability in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	New School, New York	72
23.05.2016	Inequality Matters for Children	Abuja, Nigeria	102
25.05.2016	Poverty, Social Protection and Policy Co-ordination in Regional Economic Integration	Abuja, Nigeria	61
27.07.2016	<i>Lo esencial no puede ser Invisible a los Ojos: Pobreza e Infancia en América Latina</i>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	94
02.09.2016	Child Poverty and Welfare: Comparative Views	Bergen	15
21.09.2016	“New” Poverty in Middle Income Countries	HiOA, Oslo	25
23.09.2016	<i>América Latina: La Reforma Social en la Encrucijada</i>	Salvador de Bahia, Brazil	55
20.10.2016	Ending Global Poverty: Why Wait Until 2030?	Bergen Resource Centre	29
26.10.2016	Leaving No one Behind: How Useful is Agenda 2030 in Responding to Challenges of Migration?	HiOA, Oslo	123
18.11.2016	Active Development: Using Social Theory to Improve Policy Practice for Poverty Reduction and Social Empowerment	Harvard, US	52
20.11.2016	Peasant Poverty and Persistence in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	SOAS, London	20

## VISITING PROFESSORS



Sociologist Ronaldo Munck, Head of the Civic Engagement Department at Dublin City University (DCU) and Honor Fagan, Professor of Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, were visiting professors and part of the teaching team for the course co-organised by CROP at the Bergen Summer Research School in June 2016; “Poverty, Climate Change and Water in the Context of SDGs”.

From top left: R. Munck, A. Cimadamore, N. Keenlyside (Bjerknes Centre for Climate Change, UiB), G. Ortiz (HEMIL centre, UiB) & H. Fagan. J. Schmidt (CAU, Kiel), S. Sundby (IMR) & T. Aase (Geography, UiB) were not present when the photo was taken.

# 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 collaborative 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"

The project was launched by CROP in September 2014 with the aim of disseminating poverty research to a wider audience through video interviews published on CROP's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat](http://www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat)). By 1 December 2016, CROP had published a total of 37



interviews, reaching over 5000 views. These interviews have been conducted with researchers belonging to CROP's global network - all applying their own research experience in order to answer standard questions related to poverty. In the course of 2016 the project has produced the following statistics:

- 11 new videos have been added to the playlist, six of which have gained more than 50 views.
- There has been a total number of 2108 views. The most popular video has accumulated 520 views.
- Videos from this playlist have been watched by individuals from 84 different countries.
- Norway, the US and South Africa account for 60% of the visits to the channel.

We are happy with the project's results so far, considering the genre of videos that we are producing, and we intend to explore ways to further increase the numbers through the interplay with other social media.

In addition, CROP also publishes other videos, including presentations of recent CROP books and the working paper series, thus increasing the total viewings of the channel.

## Social media presence

In order to reach a broader range of audiences and to engage in a diversified debate on the nature and depth of poverty, CROP identified the necessity to back up its primary academic output with a diversified selection of communication channels offered by social media.

As a result, CROP set up a YouTube channel in September 2014, a Twitter account in October 2015 and a Facebook account in April 2016. Due to their relatively recent creation, the numbers of followers for these social media are still quite modest, but they are increasing at steady rate: One year after their creation, CROP's Twitter and Facebook accounts have gained 146 and 250 followers respectively.

Having student interns at the Secretariat has been instrumental in setting up these new communication channels: Not only do the students provide CROP with extra assistance, but they also represent a young generation whose relationship with social media allows them to more easily embrace new opportunities.





# COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

## Joint winners of the CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2016

The CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2016, awarded in co-operation with Zed Books, London, is granted annually to outstanding monograph proposals contributing to research on global poverty eradication or prevention. The 2016 CROP prize was jointly awarded to two excellent submissions:



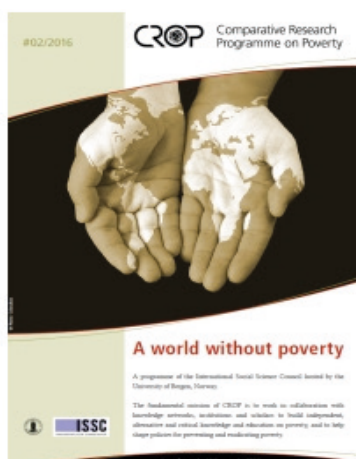
Meera Tiwari  
*Why Some Development Works*

In her winning entry, Meera Tiwari (University of East London) draws attention to success stories in the fight against poverty and focuses on what made them successful. Using a multidimensional understanding of poverty, the book will aim to offer insights into causal, enabling, and impeding factors for progress at macro and micro levels.



David Barkin  
*Food Sovereignty as a Strategy for Confronting Poverty and Inequality*

In the other winning book proposal, David Barkin (Professor of Economics at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in México City) challenges current approaches to alleviating poverty by focusing on the direct action of communities to organise themselves in order to satisfy their own basic food needs and those of their region with self-help development strategies.



## CROP Newsletter

The CROP Newsletter is distributed as an interactive document 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](http://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 many CROP publications (books, briefs, newsletters, etc.).

From 1 January to 31 December 2016, the traffic on the website produced the following statistics:

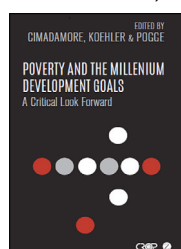
- 23 217 visits to the website with a total of 70 547 page views. This gives an average of 3 pages per session.
- We had 16 869 unique users, which means that 72% of the users were new visitors.
- The average session duration has increased from 2:23 minutes in 2015 to 2:28 minutes in 2016.
- Our users came from 180 different countries. US, Norway, UK and India were by far the largest (accounting for 37%), but 9 countries had more than 400 unique users and another 40 had more than 100.
- The most visited page in the website was CROP Publications, followed by CROP Workshops and Events and CROP Newsletter and Reports.

Country	Sessions	% Sessions
United States	3043	13,1 %
Norway	2381	10,3 %
United Kingdom	1634	7 %
India	1533	6,6 %
Nigeria	788	3,4 %
Germany	732	3,1 %
Brazil	641	2,8 %
South Africa	595	2,6 %
Argentina	550	2,4 %
Canada	494	2,1 %

# PUBLICATIONS

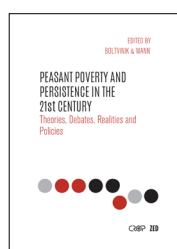
## CROP books

Four books in the CROP International Studies in Poverty Research series were published during 2016 by ZED Books, London.



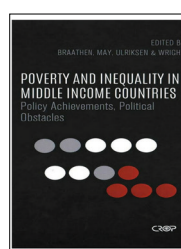
### Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals: A Critical Look Forward

Edited by Alberto D. Cimadamore, Gabriele Kohler and Thomas Pogge



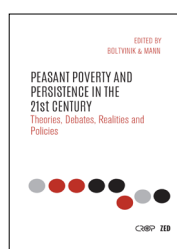
### Development and Sustainability: The Challenge of Social Change

Edited by Alberto D. Cimadamore, Maurice Mittelmark, Gro Th. Lie and Fungisai Ottemöller



### Poverty and Inequality in Middle-Income Countries: Policy Achievements, Political Obstacles

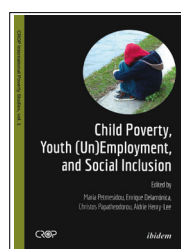
Edited by Einar Braathen, Julian May, Gemma Wright and Marianne Ulriksen



### Peasant Poverty and Persistence in the 21st Century

Edited by Julio Boltvinik and Susan Archer Mann

One more book was published as the first one in the new CROP International Poverty Studies series with Ibidem Verlag, Stuttgart.



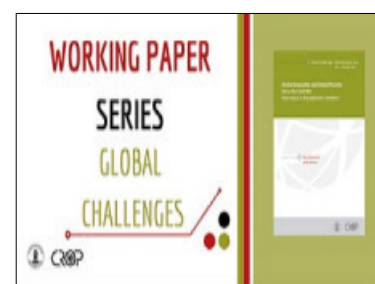
### Child Poverty, Youth (Un)Employment and Social Inclusion

Edited by Maria Petmesidou, Enrique Delamonica, Aldrie Henry-Lee and Christos Papatheodorou

Furthermore, a book in Spanish, *Lo esencial no puede ser invisible a los ojos: Pobreza e Infancia en América Latina* was published by UNAM Press, Mexico, in May 2016.

## Working Paper Series on Global Challenges

This joint initiative by UiB Global and CROP is conceived as a vehicle for scholars to disseminate their research. The peer-reviewed open access series will be edited by Dr Andy Sumner (King's College, London), together with an editorial team. The first paper in the series, entitled "Global Inequality and Global Poverty since the Cold War: How robust is the optimistic narrative?" was written by Andy Sumner and Peter Edward (Newcastle University).



## CROP Poverty Briefs

During 2016, the following six CROP Poverty Briefs were published:

- 30: *The Great Global Poverty Debate - Is Something Missing?* by Neera Chandhoke (February 2016)
- 31: *Mega-Events and Urban Poverty - Legacy Projects in Rio de Janeiro* by Margit Ystanes (April 2016)
- 32: *Climate Change, Children and Poverty: Engaging Children and Youth in Policy Debate and Action* by Beatrice Mauger, Alberto Minujin and Samantha Cocco-Klein (June 2016)
- 33: *Measuring Poverty in Bangladesh: a Critical Assessment* by Isahaque Ali, Zulkarnain A. Hatta and Azlinda Azman (September 2016)
- 34: *Poverty and Social Inclusion: Towards a 'life-first' understanding?* by Hartley Dean (October 2016)
- 35: *Poverty as a Wicked Problem* by Paul Spicker (November 2016)

# PROJECTS

Applying for funding for new scientific projects, from national and international funding sources, is an important task for the CROP Secretariat. If successful, such projects not only facilitate academic activities, but also provide support for the scientific network upon which to build them. Even unsuccessful applications have a value, in that the preparations needed to develop these proposals demand extensive and intensive co-operation between the involved parties, which leads to stronger partnerships in the long term. However, CROP is conscious of the fact that given its limited administrative resources, it is already approaching its maximum capacity.

## **During 2016, CROP was involved in two major project development processes:**

In May, an application was submitted to the Norwegian Centre for International Co-operation in Education (SIU), UTFORSK programme for collaboration with the BRICS countries. The project has the title "Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies" and is planned for the period

2017-2020. The main partners are the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

In October, CROP received notice that this project would be funded in full, starting in January 2017.

In November 2016 an application for a project on Climate Services (CS) for African Atlantic Waters and Coastal Countries was submitted to JPI Climate – the Joint Programming Initiative "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe" under the leadership of the Geophysical Institute/Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, in collaboration with leading marine and climate institutes across Europe. Unfortunately, this application was not successful, but the partners have decided to develop the idea towards future calls.

In addition to this, CROP applied to several internal UiB funding programmes; Bergen University Fund, Meltzer Fund, SPIRE funds. Unfortunately, none of these applications was successful.

# FINAL REMARKS

With its international workshops as a flagship activity, the CROP Secretariat has been able to focus on how to disseminate the important knowledge produced during these international encounters. This process of dissemination, which is vital for the desired impact of CROP's work, has been strengthened by increasing the level of production through existing channels, by establishing new outlets (e.g. Working Paper Series), and by embracing new media (including social media).

2016 was a year in which we saw the tangible results of many of the initiatives started in 2015: a competitive call resulted in two workshops organised in close collaboration with CROP Fellows; the re-launched book series that produced its first two titles in 2015 saw another four books published in 2016; the internship programme that started with the arrival of one student in 2015 expanded to encompass another four students during 2016 and contributed to an invigoration of production by the Secretariat; CROP's social media presence grew, including the launch of a Facebook page; and most notably, the larger collaboration plans between CROP, UKZN and CODESRIA received a grant that will allow

for the growth and consolidation of an epistemic community focused on African perspectives on sustainable development.

CROP's intellectual production flow has increased, and the infrastructural and institutional pillars for the programme's future expansion have been strengthened. With this scenario, CROP will face a 2017 that presents two main challenges: the ongoing process to merge ICSU and the ISSC (see <http://www.worldsocialscience.org/road-2018/>) with the potential of opening up immense opportunities for our programme; and the renewal of the agreement between UiB and the resulting institution regarding CROP. We are looking forward to facing these challenges together with our CROPNet partners.

CROP's vision:  
"A world without poverty"



Comparative Research  
Programme on Poverty