



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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FOREWORD & HIGHLIGHTS

Foreword

In 2017, CROP's Scientific Committee meeting took place at the headquarters of ISSC/UNESCO in Paris with combined online/on-site participation of committee members, ISSC and CROP Secretariat representatives and special invitees. It was a good opportunity to deal with the usual scientific agenda as well as to discuss the long-term opportunities opened by the merger decision between the ISSC and ICSU.

The timing of the Scientific Committee meeting was planned so that it would precede a CROP-UNESCO workshop on the "Politics of inclusion" held at the UNESCO headquarters (see article in this Report). The output from this workshop will include a peer-reviewed book and a series of follow-up activities aiming to impact on society and decision-making processes through the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and CROP's own network (CROPNet). This long-standing collaboration will continue next year with a series of events, including a joint panel at the World Social Science Forum (WSSF) 2018 that will take place in Fukuoka, Japan.

CROP co-organised four workshops in 2017 that will feed into the pipeline of high quality peer-reviewed books to enlarge our collection of free and open access publications and provide substance to our communication strategy. All CROP events contribute to the strategic expansion of our network. A particular example in 2017 was the organisation of a workshop on inequality and poverty in socialist and post-socialist countries. With the valuable collaboration of our late friend and colleague, Bob Deacon, this workshop took place in St Petersburg in June 2017 and will result in a book that reflects the state of the art and extends the frontiers of the debate on this relevant topic.

Our network is growing at a pace that will make it necessary to re-think the possibilities of continuing this level of expansion in the future. We have now surpassed 1600 active researchers in our network (an increase of 28% over the previous year), which increases the pressure on the Secretariat to fulfil the demands and expectations of its global membership while maintaining current activities and future plans.

CROP in numbers 2017



Highlights in 2017

- CROP/UiB launched its 4-year project (2017-2020) with UKZN and CODESRIA, funded by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU).
- CROP/ISSC entered into an agreement to run a joint programme on Poverty and Sustainable Development in cooperation with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET), through its Labour Research and Study Centre (CEIL).
- CROP organised its first event in Russia (St Petersburg) in June 2017.
- CROP's PhD course on "Agenda 2030: Poverty, Climate Change and Sustainability" at the Bergen Summer Research School 2017 attracted 16 students from 12 different countries.
- CROP was co-organiser of an international conference on child poverty in Addis Ababa, October 2017.
- The merger between the ISSC and ICSU that was decided upon at the Extraordinary General Assembly of the ISSC in Taipei in October 2017 opens up an exciting range of future opportunities for CROP.
- Output from CROP activities included 2 books, 3 working papers and 4 poverty briefs.

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 CROP Scientific Committee serves the purpose of advising and formulating the overall scientific goals of the programme. After the previous committee had served for two years from 2015-2016, the International Social Science Council (in agreement with the University of Bergen) appointed a new Scientific Committee at the beginning of 2017, which will remain in place until the end of 2018. The Chair of the new Committee is Etienne Nel, Professor of Geography at the University of Otago, New Zealand, while Elma Montaña, Director of Science Programs at the InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research, Uruguay, has taken on the role of Vice Chair. Both Etienne and Elma have been regular members of the Scientific Committee for a number of years. A full list of committee members is available on the CROP website: <http://www.crop.org/>

The 2017 annual meeting of the Scientific Committee was held in Paris on 5 July 2017 in the premises of the International Social Science Council. Some of the Scientific Committee members were able to attend the meeting in person, while others joined online.



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. There are currently twenty-two CROP Fellows for the period 2014-2018. Worth mentioning in 2017 are contributions by the following:

- Robyn Eversole (Swinburne University Centre for Social Impact, Australia) who wrote an article for the CROP Newsletter in June;
- Babatunde Omilola (UNDP), author of Poverty Brief no. 38 that asks how Agenda 2030 can be implemented at a national level;
- Fortunato Mallimaci (Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina), who has been instrumental in facilitating the CROP-CEIL programme and its activities, including the workshop on Sustainability, Poverty and Development held in Buenos Aires at the end of November;
- Paul Spicker (Robert Gordon University, Scotland) and Enrique Delamonica (UNICEF), who were active participants at the international workshop on The Politics of Inclusion in Paris in June.

Secretariat and Internship Programme

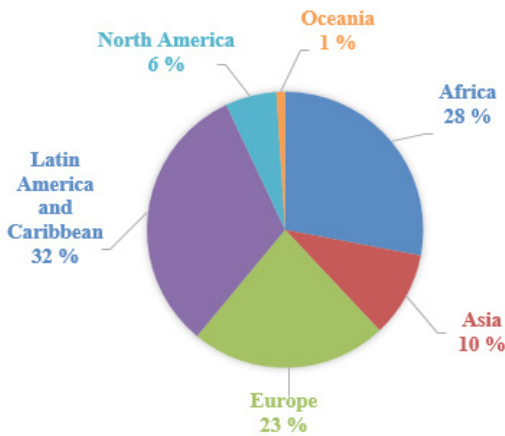
The CROP Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the CROP programme of activities. It is located at the University of Bergen and consists of four permanent members of staff (equal to three full-time positions). The Secretariat also hosts student interns (up to two at a time) who assist with the tasks of the Secretariat while obtaining valuable experience within the field of research administration and dissemination. In 2017, CROP hosted seven Erasmus+ student interns from various European countries.

CROP NETWORK

CROP network development - 2017 overview

The CROP network (CROPNet) 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



CROP's network reached a total of 1616 scholars by the end of 2017 (an increase of 28% compared to the end of 2016).

The regional distribution of the CROP network, as displayed in the figure on the left, shows that the region with the most members is still Latin America and the Caribbean (32%), followed by Africa (28%) and Europe (23%). Only a minority of network members come from Asia (10%), North America (6%) or Oceania (1%).

The gender distribution of the network changed slightly compared to 2016. The distribution is now 44% female and 56% male (compared to 42% female and 58% male at the end of 2016).

CROP network structure by gender



Participation in CROP events and activities in 2017

In 2017, the combined number of submitted proposals and active participants in CROP workshops and events was 456. There were 222 active participants (not all of whom submitted proposals), while CROP received 294 submissions (of which 60 resulted in active participation in a CROP event). 49% of participants in CROP events in 2017 were female and 51% male.

The majority of participants in 2017 came from Africa (37%), followed by Europe (33%) and Asia (15%). The number of participants from North America (8%), Latin America (6%) and Oceania (0.4%) was significantly lower.



Female Male



Africa Asia Europe
Latin America North America Oceania

New CROP network members

356 new CROPNet members were registered in 2017.

CROP INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS



Social Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in post-Socialist Societies

Workshop in St. Petersburg, Russia, 13-15 June 2017

This international workshop was organised in co-operation with the Centre for Research in Comparative and Global Social Policy (CRCG) at the University of York, the Institute of Economics (Zagreb) and the Norwegian University Center in St. Petersburg. It focused in particular on the diverse welfare trajectories of former Eastern bloc societies.

These societies have all undergone fundamental economic, political and social changes, and the aim of the workshop was to provide explanations that could trigger new lines of thought on how to improve well-being in post-socialist countries. It is worth mentioning that this was the first time CROP has organised an event in Russia.

The Politics of Inclusion

Workshop in Paris, France, 6-7 July 2017

CROP co-organised this workshop in collaboration with UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) with the intention of examining how the Sustainable Development Goals and other targets aimed at social and economic inclusion are influenced by inequality, power relations and poverty. There was also a focus on the types of social transformations that might be capable of changing the dynamics that keep people disadvantaged.



Putting Children First

Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23-25 October 2017

CROP was one of the co-organisers of this major event and chaired the introductory session for Theme 1 of the conference: "Setting the Scene: Who and Where are the Poor Children?". Staff from the CROP Secretariat also played a key role in ensuring the smooth running of the conference's full three-day programme of parallel sessions, which offered a framework for discussion to 123 participants from more than 20 countries.



Sustainability, Poverty and Development

Workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 November - 1 December 2017

The last workshop in 2017 was co-hosted by CROP and CEIL-CONICET (Buenos Aires) and was conducted in Spanish. The three-day workshop assembled 20 scholars and leading researchers in the field of poverty and development. Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP's Scientific Director) attended the workshop and presented a paper on "The Science of the Sustainability, Poverty and Agenda 2030" ("Ciencia de la Sustentabilidad, Pobreza y Agenda 2030").

OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

El estado social en México (The Social State in Mexico)

Series and Book Launch in Mexico City, Mexico, 4 March 2017

This event took place at the 38th International Palacio de Minería Book Fair and was organised in co-operation with the publisher, Siglo XXI Editores, the College of the Northern Border (Colef), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the University of Guadalajara. The new book series is called “La cuestión social” (The social question) and the title of the first book in the series is “El estado social en México” (The social state in Mexico), by Gerardo Ordóñez Barba.



Sustainable Development in Africa: Issues and Challenges

Seminar and Round Table in Bergen, Norway, 20 March 2017

Visiting professors Betty Mubangizi (University of KwaZulu-Natal - UKZN) and Francisco Sozinho Matsinhe (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa - CODESRIA) took part in a round table discussion moderated by Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP) to explore challenges faced by knowledge communities in Africa when addressing the issue of sustainable development.



Agenda 2030: Poverty, Climate Change and Sustainability

PhD Course, Bergen, Norway, 12-22 June 2017

This PhD course was organised as part of Bergen Summer Research School 2017 and was led by Professors Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP) and Noel Keenlyside (Geophysical Institute). The main objective of the course was to analyse the challenges of eradicating poverty and addressing climate change within an integrated scientific framework and to provide students with tools to address these and other major global challenges.

The Humanitarian Aid Machinery

Seminar, Bergen, Norway, 26 September 2017

This seminar brought together Diana Skelton (ATD Fourth World), Arne Strand (CMI) and Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP) in a discussion that reflected on how, in a historical perspective, a large proportion of humanity has often been left behind by the international community.



Power, Conflict and Development in Contemporary South Africa

Seminar, Bergen, Norway, 7 November 2017

Visiting researcher Sithembiso Myeni (University of KwaZulu-Natal) examined the dynamics of contemporary post-apartheid South Africa in order to understand the visible manifestations of power and conflict.

PUBLIC EVENTS

	Title	Venue	No. of people
20.01.2017	SDGs and the Rise and Fall of International Solidarity: From the Normative to the Pragmatic	Bergen, Norway	20
04.03.2017	Launch of a new book series on "The Social Question"	Mexico City, Mexico	47
20.03.2017	Sustainable Development in Africa: Issues and Challenges	Bergen, Norway	29
13.06.2017	Social Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in post-Socialist Societies	St. Petersburg, Russia	27
19.06.2017	Agenda 2030: Poverty, Climate Change and Sustainability	Bergen, Norway	93
07.07.2017	The Politics of Inclusion	Paris, France	26
05.09.2017	Poverty and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century: A Critical View	Durban, South Africa	58
26.09.2017	The Humanitarian Aid Machinery	Bergen, Norway	25
07.11.2017	Power, Conflict and Development in Contemporary South Africa	Bergen, Norway	43
30.11.2017	Sustainability, Poverty and Development (in Spanish)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	20

VISITING RESEARCHERS



Professors Betty Mubangizi from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa and Francisco Sozinho Matsinhe from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Senegal were visiting professors that took part in the start-up meeting of the SIU-funded UTFORSK project: "Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies" in March 2017.

UKZN lecturer Dr. Sithembiso Myeni (second from the left on the photo) from the School of Built Environment and Development Studies at UKZN visited UiB during the first full week of November in the framework of the same project. He participated in the seminar on "Power, Conflict and Development in Contemporary South Africa".



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”

The project was launched by CROP in September 2014 with the aim of disseminating poverty research to a wider audience. Video interviews are published on CROP’s [YouTube channel](#).

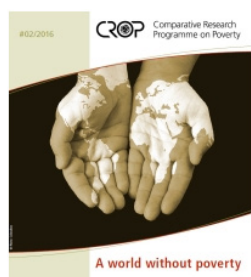


By 31 December 2017, CROP had published a total of 51 videos, reaching over 7500 views. The majority of these videos are interviews with researchers from CROP’s global network. In 2017 the project produced the following statistics:

- 7 new videos were added to the playlist, 3 of which have gained more than 100 views.
- The total number of views was 2153 and the most popular video was seen 167 times.
- Videos from this playlist have been watched by individuals from 93 different countries.
- Norway, the US and South Africa account for 38% of the visits to the channel.

Social Media Presence

CROP set up a YouTube channel in September 2014, a Twitter account in October 2015, and a Facebook account in April 2016. The number of followers has increased at steady rate: Two years after their creation, CROP’s Twitter and Facebook accounts have gained 240 and 474 followers respectively.



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 2360 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 many CROP publications (books, briefs, working papers, etc.).

From 1 January to 31 December 2017, the traffic on the website produced the following statistics:

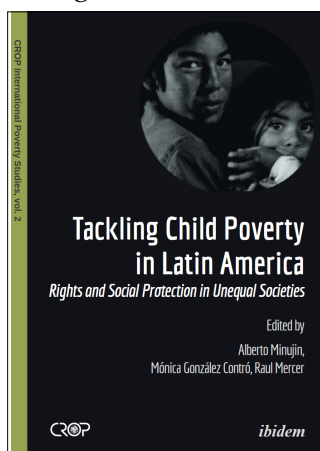
- 23 711 visits to the website with a total of 61 317 page views. This gives an average of 2.59 pages per session.
- 16 743 unique users, i.e. 69.5% of the users were new visitors.
- The average session duration decreased from 2:28 minutes in 2016 to 2:25 minutes in 2017.
- Users came from 187 different countries. As in 2016, the US,
- Norway, UK and India were the largest (accounting for 35.5%), but 11 countries had more than 400 users and another 39 had more than 100.

Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. United States	2,706	11.41%
2. Norway	2,676	11.29%
3. United Kingdom	1,684	7.10%
4. India	1,353	5.71%
5. Nigeria	803	3.39%
6. South Africa	772	3.26%
7. Germany	768	3.24%
8. Italy	640	2.70%
9. Argentina	635	2.68%
10. Mexico	559	2.36%

PUBLICATIONS

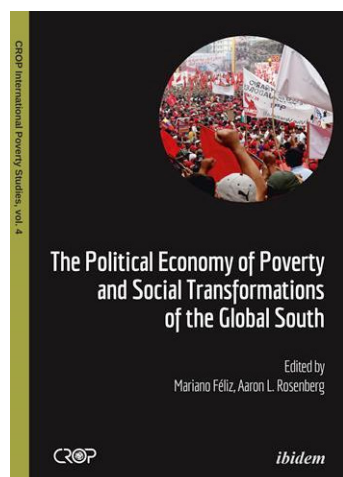
CROP Books

Two books in the CROP International Poverty Studies book series were published by Ibidem Verlag, Stuttgart in 2017:



Tackling Child Poverty in Latin America: Rights and Social Protection in Unequal Societies.

Edited by Alberto Minujin, Mónica González Contró, Raúl Mercer.
March 2017



The Political Economy of Poverty and Social Transformations of the Global South.

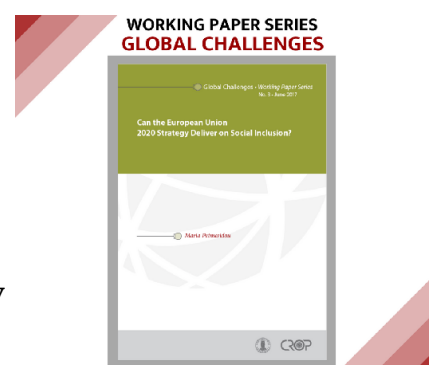
Edited by Mariano Félix and Aaron L. Rosenberg.
September 2017



Working Paper Series on Global Challenges

Three new working papers were published in 2017:

- **Social Connectedness and Poverty Eradication: A South African Perspective** by Kim Samuel (McGill University, Canada) & Jacqueline Bagwiza Uwizeyimana (McGill University, Canada)
- **Can the European Union 2020 Strategy Deliver on Social Inclusion?** by Maria Petmesidou (Democritus University of Thrace, Greece)
- **Approaches to Social Investment and Their Implications for Poverty in Sweden and the European Union** by Axel Cronert (Uppsala University, Sweden) & Joakim Palme (Uppsala University, Sweden)



CROP Poverty Briefs

Four CROP Poverty Briefs were published in 2017:

- **Fiscal Redistribution to Combat Inequality and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries** by Nora Lustig (Tulane University, USA)
- **Social Policy, Inequality and Poverty in Post-Socialist Societies** by Bob Deacon (University of Sheffield/University of York, UK) & Pau Stubbs (Zagreb Institute of Economics, Croatia)
- **Turning an Ambitious Vision into an Achievable Reality: Landing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the National Level** by Babatunde Omilola (UNDP, USA)
- **Myths and Mystifications around Gendered Poverty: Current Conceptual and Policy Concerns** by Sarah Bradshaw (Middlesex University, UK), Sylvia Chant (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) & Brian Linneker (Independent Scholar, UK)

PROJECTS

Applying to national and international funding sources for new scientific projects 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.

In 2017, CROP was involved in two major project development processes:

- As part of the **UTFORSK** Programme financed by SIU (Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education), CROP has established a **Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies** between UiB (University of Bergen), UKZN (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa).
- 2017 also marked the start-up of the **CROP-CEIL/CONICET Programme on Poverty and Sustainable Development**.



A kick-off seminar took place in Bergen in the first quarter of 2017, PhD students from UKZN attended the Bergen Summer Research School in June, and academic staff exchanges were facilitated from Bergen to Durban and vice versa. To stay updated on the project updates and activities, a website has been created where all the latest news is published: <https://psdspartnership.b.uib.no/>.



The programme is based on a co-operation agreement between CROP/ISSC and The National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET) through the Argentinian Labour Research and Study Centre (CEIL). An inaugural workshop took place in Buenos Aires in May and was followed up by a second workshop at the end of November. The aim of the programme is to produce high quality research able to create impact in the Argentinean and Latin American societies. A peer-reviewed publication coming out of the November workshop is currently in production.

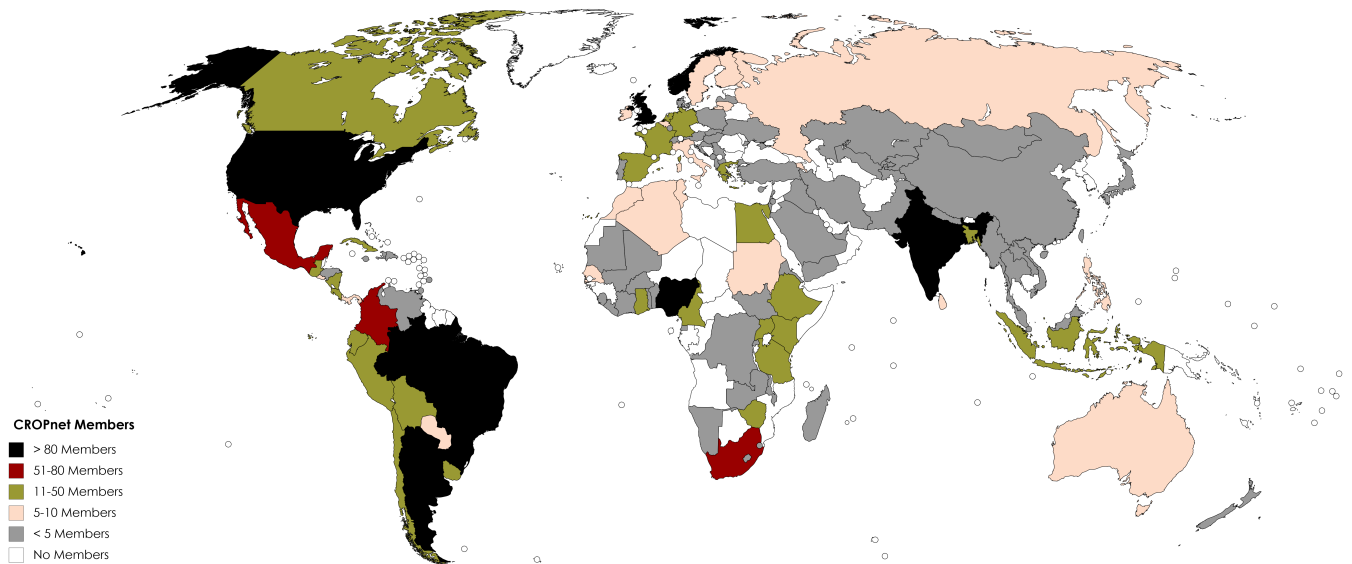
FINAL REMARKS

2017 was a successful year for CROP. The network has been growing in numbers and in the strategic depth of its activities. The consolidation of nodal collaborations in the South through the Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies with UKZN and the Programme on Poverty and Sustainable Development with CEIL/CONICET in Argentina are strong pillars upon which to build high quality collaborative and critical research linking Northern and Southern partners.

2017 can also be seen as a turning point for CROP. The decision of our mother institution, the ISSC, to merge with ICSU and create the largest scientific organisation of the world – the International Science Council/ISC – is bound to have an impact on the future of CROP. Furthermore, the decision of both the ISSC and UiB to re-negotiate the contract on CROP will define the format and framework for CROP from 2018 onwards. The Scientific Committee and CROP Secretariat are looking forward to contributing to this process and accompanying UiB and the ISSC/ISC in shaping the future of CROP.

CROP's vision: "A world without poverty"

CROP NETWORK PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE



Comparative Research
Programme on Poverty