



# Global Research Programme on Inequality

## Newsletter #01

**CROP-GRIP SPECIAL ISSUE / March 2020**

The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) has now transitioned into the Global Research Programme on Inequality (GRIP). This special issue newsletter explains the transition process and what the new research programme is about, as well as providing an overview of CROP's activities during its final year of operation.



International  
Science Council



The Global Research Programme on Inequality (GRIP) is a radically interdisciplinary research programme that views inequality as both a fundamental challenge to human well-being and as an impediment to achieving the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.



# Global Research Programme on Inequality

## GRIP Secretariat

Faculty of Social Sciences | University of Bergen | PO Box 7802 | 5020 Bergen, Norway

[www.gripinequality.org](http://www.gripinequality.org)

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## FOREWORD

By GRIP Executive Director  
Professor Bjørn Enge Bertelsen



## CROP-GRIP Special Issue

As some, perhaps most, of those reading this newsletter will know, the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) was established in 1992 under the direction of Professor Else Øyen. Its secretariat has been hosted by the University of Bergen since 1993. As a highly active and multi-pronged research programme developed under various leaderships, CROP has undoubtedly served not only to shape truly global debates on poverty but also to involve and strengthen key research in the global South. This pioneering and ground-breaking work, initiated by Else Øyen and undertaken by CROP, should be recognised for its many and important contributions. Furthermore, it is imperative to note that its critical approach to poverty has greatly influenced the point of departure for its successor—the Global Research Programme on Inequality (GRIP).

2018 was an important year for both the University of Bergen and the former International Social Science Council (ISSC), CROP's two host organisations. On the one hand, ISSC merged with the International Council for Science (ICSU) to form the International Science

Council (ISC)—an organisation that spans the scientific spectrum from the humanities to the natural sciences. Meanwhile, UiB was involved in its own process of re-thinking its research and outreach strategies. As part of this, the work and direction of CROP was addressed in order to re-align it with UiB's global strategies.

After initial contacts between the newly created ISC and UiB, an exciting process to re-think CROP was initiated—a dynamic process lasting from the end of 2018 until a new contract to establish GRIP was signed on 15 October 2019.

This newsletter describes the processes that led to the establishment of GRIP, its future directions and the key ways in which it will continue the important, critical and original work on poverty, marginalisation and inequality that CROP has been spearheading for many years. With its focus on six dimensions of inequality—social, environmental, economic, political, cultural and knowledge-based—and determined to engage with Agenda 2030, GRIP aims to develop into a key global research programme in the coming years ◀



# RE-THINKING CROP

CONCEPT NOTE – 18 MARCH 2019

Discussions on re-thinking the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) were ongoing within the University of Bergen and with the ISC from late 2018 into 2019.

## University of Bergen Working Group

UiB established a Working Group of scholars to reflect on the focus and goal of a potential new programme. Their mandate was to “re-think” CROP to fit the challenges of today, where international poverty research has evolved towards a broader notion of inequality and there are growing demands for research to contribute to global policy processes such as Agenda 2030. The group (led by Professor Bjørn Bertelsen) met on a regular basis between November 2018 and March 2019 and developed a concept note to provide a basis for further discussions at an international scoping workshop in March 2019 ◀

## Re-thinking the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)

Members of the UiB Working Group, in alphabetical order:

- ▶ Professor **Anne Bang**, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion.
- ▶ Professor **Bjørn E. Bertelsen**, Department of Social Anthropology (leader).
- ▶ Associate Professor **Kerry Chance**, Department of Social Anthropology.
- ▶ Professor **Jan Froestad**, Department of Administration and Organization Theory.
- ▶ Professor **Siri Gloppen**, Department of Comparative Politics.
- ▶ Professor **Christine M. Jacobsen**, Centre for Women’s and Gender Research.
- ▶ Professor **Lise Rakner**, Department of Comparative Politics.
- ▶ Professor **Knut M. Rio**, University Museum, Department of Cultural History.



© Photo: GRIP

Heide Hackmann (ISC), Annelin Eriksen (UiB-CROP), Bjørn Enge Bertelsen (GRIP) and Matheieu Denis (ISC)

## ISC-UiB meeting in Paris, end January

At the end of January 2019, UiB professors Bjørn Enge Bertelsen and Annelin Eriksen (UiB Vice-Rector for Global Relations and interim leader for CROP), met with ISC CEO Heide Hackmann and ISC Science Director Mathieu Denis in Paris. They agreed to invite a limited group of international experts to a scoping workshop in Bergen to help re-think the purpose, vision and mission of a new ISC-UiB research programme with a focus on inequality ◀

## Input from CROP Scientific Committee

With the expiration of the previous contract between the International Science Council and UiB at the end of 2018, this also meant the end of the period of service for CROP’s *Scientific Committee* (SC) members. However, five of the eight 2017-2018 SC members, including the Committee Chair Etienne Nel, expressed their willingness to stay on for an interim period from January-June 2019.

We are grateful to professors Etienne Nel (University of Otago), Elma Montana (InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research), Maria Petmesidou (Democritus University of Thrace), Betty Mubangizi (University of KwaZulu-Natal), and Alberto Munujin (The New School) for their input to the scoping workshop in March. “*The Achievements and Future Realignment of The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)*” was prepared

in advance of the workshop and presented by Etienne via Skype on the first day of the event. It provides a detailed overview of CROP’s engagement and production during the last 25 years ◀

THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE REALIGNMENT OF THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON POVERTY (CROP)

Etienne Nel, University of Otago  
CHAIR OF CROP SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
On behalf of CROP Scientific Committee  
March 2019





© Photo: GRIP

Solstrand group

## Scoping workshop, 21-24 March 2019

In March 2019, UiB and ISC invited an international group of 25 inequality experts and practitioners to participate in a two-day scoping workshop at Solstrand Hotel outside Bergen. The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform for the re-designing of CROP. Participants were encouraged to draw on their individual perspectives and expertise as they engaged in open, rich, divergent and provocative exchanges in order to highlight what they consider critically important for a research programme on inequality.

The programme started with introductory remarks by both UiB and the ISC, as well as a presentation of CROP's work spanning 25 years from 1993-2018. This was followed by an open discussion on poverty and inequality, before moving on to more the specific topics of "Perspectives on Conceptualising Inequality", "Perspectives on Addressing Inequality Dynamics" and "Establishing global partnerships and making inequality count".

There was broad agreement that a new programme should focus on multiple, intersecting inequalities and aim at developing multi-dimensional understandings. It should also find a balance between empirical and theoretical, qualitative and quantitative, local and comparative/global research. There was consensus among the participants that a new programme should seek to produce actionable, policy-relevant research on how to move towards greater equality ◀



© Photo: GRIP

## NEW UIB-ISC CONTRACT

At the end of 2018, discussions were underway between the University of Bergen (UiB) and the International Science Council (ISC) regarding the renegotiation of a contract on CROP. These discussions continued into 2019.



Sir Peter Gluckman (ISC) and Dag Rune Olsen (UiB)

### Concept development, April-June 2019

The period following the highly successful workshop at Solstrand in March (see above) was devoted to more in-depth discussions of particular recommendations relating to the contours of a new programme. In this work, Bjørn Enge Bertelsen (UiB) and Mathieu Denis (ISC) played a central role in developing the concept note into a more concrete format and design. Specifically, the concept note was re-formulated with an eye to more closely adhering to the strategies of both the ISC and UiB—especially those concerning Agenda 2030, global interconnectedness, science advice and interdisciplinarity. In early June 2019, a revised draft concept note was finalised and it was agreed that Denis and Bertelsen would present the result to their respective institutions—the ISC and the Faculty of Social Sciences at UiB.

### Approval process, June-September 2019

The revised draft concept note of what was still provisionally called “newCROP” was presented to the Faculty of Social Sciences at UiB on 18 June 2019 and unanimously approved as a point of departure for a new research programme. It was also distributed to key stakeholders and inequality experts through the ISC and

UiB networks in order to further hone its focus, scope and working methods. The ISC approved the revised concept note at the beginning of August and preparations were made for the signing of a new contract between UiB and ISC on what was now called GRIP—Global Research Programme on Inequality.

### Signing ceremony, 15 October 2019

The signing ceremony of the new UiB-ISC contract for the establishment of GRIP coincided fortuitously with UiB’s bestowing of honorary doctorates to distinguished scholars in 2019. One of these scholars was Sir Peter Gluckman, President-elect of the ISC, whose presence in Bergen made it possible to organise a separate formal ceremony at the Rector’s offices on 15 October. Key players at UiB were invited to the ceremony, including CROP founder Professor Emerita Else Øyen, the members of the UiB Working Group and representatives from UiB’s strategic area, Global Challenges. Short speeches were held by ISC President-elect Sir Peter Gluckman, UiB Rector Dag Rune Olsen, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Jan Erik Askildsen, and leader of the UiB Working Group, Professor Bjørn Enge Bertelsen. Around 25 participants attended the ceremony ◀



Sir Peter Gluckman (ISC) speech at signing ceremony

An article about the new GRIP programme is available on the ISC website [\[Link\]](#)



# THE FUTURE OF GRIP

Our global, interconnected present is characterised by new constellations within various realms of knowledge—including culture, policy, economics and society. This calls for more diverse, critical and integrated scientific approaches entailing a re-thinking of relations across domains often approached separately, such as racism/xenophobia and climate change or the emergence of new digital technologies and the exponential growth of knowledge systems at a global level.



GRIP is designed for such re-thinking, both to give the programme greater impact and to provide a more comprehensive grasp of the diversity of scientific research within the field of inequality. Crucially, GRIP will approach research on, with and between the global North and South, thus dealing with inequality on the scale of the global.

Designed as a radically interdisciplinary programme with an anchor in the social sciences, GRIP also seeks to involve health, data, natural and other scientists, in co-designed processes of knowledge construction. Such multiple sites of co-construction of knowledge (disciplinary and regional) open the way for significant contributions towards achieving the transformative shifts of Agenda 2030 through improved understanding of the interconnections between several dimensions of inequality in different contexts, and better knowledge on how to address inequalities and move towards greater equality.

Inequality as perceived by GRIP is conceived broadly to include six interconnected and key dimensions within

global urban contexts, namely economic inequality, social inequality, political inequality, cultural inequality, environmental inequality and knowledge-based inequality.

GRIP aims to engage with these dimensions of inequality in two main ways that complement each other. On the one hand, we will work to understand inequality; that is, GRIP will be centrally guided by questions regarding the fundamental nature, historical legacy and constitution of knowledge about inequality. On the other, GRIP will also need to address inequality; that is, we must understand contestations over inequality, the responses developed by people affected, and the policy tools that aim to redress inequality.

Reflecting its global ambition, GRIP's notion of inequality is kept very broad. In designing a research programme around inequality from a starting point of the social sciences, we aim to tackle issues as wide-ranging as global questions of data sovereignty, health disparities across the world, and questions of citizenship in the world's emerging megacities, to name just a few. This means at least two things:

Firstly, GRIP is a research programme that is truly open to all research programmes, research networks and policymakers that would like to collaborate or develop research initiatives.

Secondly, it also means that GRIP – reflecting a shared position of both ISC and UiB – is hardwired to work to “advance science as a global public good”. GRIP will therefore work systematically to generate original research on inequality that will be communicated in various forums and domains—thereby making research on rising inequality count ◀



## CROP EVENTS 2019

### Literary Salon with Andrew M. Fischer and Bjørn Enge Bertelsen at Bergen Global (14 May)



Andrew Fischer (author) and Bjørn Enge Bertelsen (GRIP)

**Winner of the International Studies in Poverty Prize awarded by CROP and Zed Books, Andrew Fischer, was invited to Bergen to present and discuss his book on *Poverty as Ideology: Rescuing Social Justice from Global Development Agendas*. The discussion was led by UiB professor, Bjørn Enge Bertelsen.**

Andrew M. Fischer is Associate Professor of Social Policy and Development Studies at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS). Bjørn Enge Bertelsen is professor at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen (UiB). Fischer offers a radical new approach to understanding poverty based on a comprehensive and accessible critique of key concepts and research methods ◀

A video of the event livestream has been uploaded to YouTube [\[Link\]](#) and the book itself is available via open access [\[Link\]](#)

### Book Launch in Dubrovnik (5 September)



Maria Sollohub (CROP), Naomi Lendvai Bainton (contributing author), Paul Stubbs (editor), Natalia Gregorieva (contributing author), and Tatiana Chubarova (editor)

**The edited volume, *Social Policy, Poverty, and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*, is output from an international workshop held in June 2017 in St. Petersburg.**

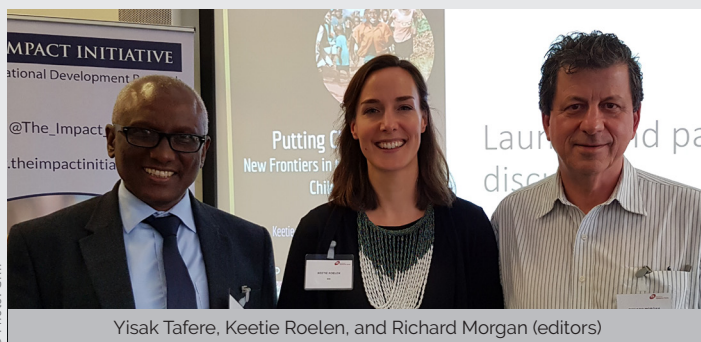


Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik

The launch took place in the final parallel session of “The Breakthrough of the Social” Conference 2019 at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik and was led by editors Paul Stubbs and Tatiana Chubarova together with contributing authors Natalia Gregorieva and Noemi Lendvai Bainton. A minute of silence was held at the beginning of the session in tribute to editors Bob Deacon and Sofia An who were unable to see the fruits of their work ◀

Editors’ presentations are available on YouTube: [\[Link\]](#) (Paul Stubbs) / [\[Link\]](#) (Tatiana Chubarova)

### Book Launch in Brighton (18 October)



Yisak Tafere, Keetie Roelen, and Richard Morgan (editors)

**The edited volume, *Putting Children First: New Frontiers in the Fight Against Child Poverty in Africa*, is output from an international workshop held in October 2017 in Addis Ababa.**

The launch took place within the context of a workshop event at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex in Brighton. All three editors, Keetie Roelen, Richard Morgan, and Yisak Tafere, took part in the workshop and book launch, both of which focused on applied research from across the African continent on manifestations of child poverty, child-sensitive social protection, and transitions from childhood to adulthood ◀



**TODAY** UNRISD

**The Politics of Social Inclusion From Knowledge to Action**

Library Events Room (B.135) Palais des Nations, Building B, 1st Floor

A discussion with **Gabriele Köhler** (Co-Editorial Board, *Journal of Modern African Studies*) and **Fadia Kiwan** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of the Western Cape) moderated by **Katja Hujo** (Senior Research Coordinator at UNRISD)

**Juan Telleria** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of the Western Cape) and **Fadia Kiwan** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of the Western Cape)

Attendees without a UN badge should register at <http://reg.unog.ch/SocialInclusion> and bring a valid ID plus a copy of the invitation to the Phlego Gate, located at 8-14 Avenue de la Paix.

## Pre-publication book presentation in Geneva (15 November)

The edited volume, *The Politics of Social Inclusion: Bridging Knowledge and Policies Towards Social Change*, is output from an international CROP-UNESCO workshop held in June 2017 in Paris.

The presentation took place at the UN Library in Geneva as part of the UNRISD Seminar Series. Editors Gabriele Köhler and Fadia Kiwan were joined by contributing author Juan Telleria in a discussion about concrete examples of social exclusion, the processes and politics behind them, as well as popular mobilisation and public policies to foster more inclusive societies ◀

## CROP PUBLICATIONS 2019

Five Poverty Briefs and two books in the CROP International Poverty Studies series were published in 2019, while eight book projects are still underway and should be completed in 2020.

Poverty Briefs All CROP poverty briefs can be found at [\[Link\]](#)

**CROP Poverty Brief**

January 2019 (no. 48) Mobilizing critical research for preventing and eradicating poverty

**TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE ENABLEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE WATER ACCESSIBILITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

by Adebunsi Isaac Adeniran

**Introduction**

Climate change has accelerated a re-evaluation of how sustainable human development is to be achieved in Africa. Issues that affect agricultural productivity and incomes of rural farmers, which have implications for the quality of their livelihoods, have made it more difficult for the continent to sustain development and to ensure access to the climate-related development projects across the continent. While research has been conducted, including the approach to food security, limited understanding, change

**Key Points**

- The impact of climate change, increasing desertification and drought, and the resulting water scarcity, are increasing the pressure on the limited water resources available in the Sub-Saharan African region.
- The transnational partnerships between the United States and Nigeria have helped to fund the climate change research in the Sub-Saharan African region.
- China has provided a model for the transnational partnerships in the Sub-Saharan African region.
- The success of the adaptation of the climate-related technologies in the Sub-Saharan African region has been limited by the lack of financial resources and the lack of technical expertise.

**Understanding the Shared Ecological Interface between Nigeria and China**

Nigeria and China share a pre-existing ecological interface that has been shaped by their respective political, economic, and social systems. This interface is a shared space where the two countries meet and interact. It is a space where the two countries have developed a shared ecological interface that is based on mutual respect and cooperation. This interface is a shared space where the two countries have developed a shared ecological interface that is based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Poverty Brief 48 – January 2019

### TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE ENABLEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE WATER ACCESSIBILITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

By Adebunsi Isaac Adeniran (Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), and Development in Africa Monitors (MDAM); Nigeria)

The author argues that the crises of climate change, increasing desertification and an unabated drop in water level have made the Gansu-modelled water conservation scheme in Northern Nigeria a desirable option because it has resulted in improved indigenous farmers' skills, yields and incomes within the study locations. The success has facilitated the Gansu-model replication in other countries with similar desertification challenges in sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Egypt, Ethiopia and the Niger Republic) ◀

**CROP Poverty Brief**

February 2019 (no. 49) Mobilizing critical research for preventing and eradicating poverty

Special Issue Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE STATE, AND THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE**

by Reidar Øygard

**Introduction**

Given the predominant agrarian societies in most of the countries in the global South, as well as the African continent where 60% of the population relies upon subsistence agriculture, the role of agriculture in the development of these countries is a topic that has received significant attention in the academic literature. This special issue of the *CROP Poverty Brief* is a perspective on the role of agriculture in the development of these countries, with a focus on the role of knowledge and the state in this process.

**Key points**

- Agricultural development in the global South is widely seen as central to achieving a number of development goals. However, the role of agriculture in the development of these countries is a topic that has received significant attention in the academic literature.
- The role of knowledge and the state in the development of these countries is a topic that has received significant attention in the academic literature.
- The role of knowledge and the state in the development of these countries is a topic that has received significant attention in the academic literature.

**Contextual models of agricultural development**

The context of agricultural development is a topic that has received significant attention in the academic literature. This special issue of the *CROP Poverty Brief* is a perspective on the role of agriculture in the development of these countries, with a focus on the role of knowledge and the state in this process.

Poverty Brief 49 (Special Issue) – February 2019

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE STATE, AND THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE

By Reidar Øygard (University of Bergen, Norway)

Agricultural development in the global South is widely seen as central to achieving a number of development goals. However, the kind of “developed agriculture” to pursue has become a contested issue; between a path favouring large-scale industrial agriculture and one seeking to preserve predominantly small-scale farming systems while at the same time enhancing their productivity and sustainability. Evidence shows that the shift to market-led agricultural research, education and extension does not support agricultural progress to any significant degree ◀





Poverty Brief 50 – May 2019

# HUMAN SECURITY AS A SINE QUA NON FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

By Ojijo Odhiambo and Fatima Umar (UNDP Nigeria Country Office)

Across the globe, many people remain vulnerable and are at risk of sliding back into poverty despite the commendable efforts made by the international community in reducing absolute poverty over the past three decades. The concept of human security, measured by the Human Security Index (HSI) appropriately contextualised at the regional level, will allow for cross-country comparisons and monitoring of progress towards poverty reduction, regional economic integration as well as Agenda 2063 and the SDGs



Poverty Brief 51 – June 2019

# THE SDGS, INEQUALITY AND AID ELIGIBILITY – SHOULD THE CRITERIA BE RE-VISITED?

By Riina Pilke (University of Turku, Finland)

The current aid eligibility criteria must be debated in the light of increasing inequality in countries other than Low Income Countries. The reduction of multiple forms of inequality requires novel, broader definitions of poverty and development. The quest to achieve the SDGs calls for “decentralisation” of development objectives and self-regulation of the rich countries. Decisions to end development co-operation in emerging economies should be accompanied by adequate transition periods and exit strategies from aid to other types of partnerships



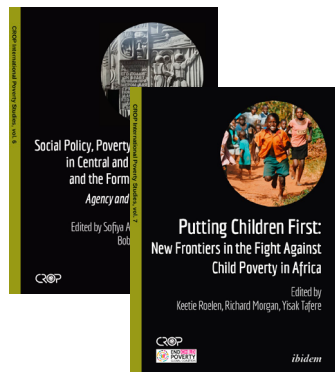
Poverty Brief 52 – October 2019

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT FROM TEN YEARS OF CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER (CCT) PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA? EVIDENCE AND LESSONS FROM TWO INDEPENDENT STUDIES

By Oludiran Akinleye, Olanbani Akinola, Adebanke Akinrimisi, Seyi Shadare, and Gbenga Shadare, (Social Protection and Policy Research Group, University of Lagos, Nigeria)

Based on findings from the studies and the changes implemented since 2016, the authors recommend that CCTs in Nigeria should: (i) increase the eligibility period for beneficiaries and expand coverage for the poor; (ii) integrate CCTs with other cash, in-kind, and skills acquisition/training programmes; and (iii) improve governance mechanisms by promoting transparency and accountability

Book Series in International Poverty Studies  
Two CROP books were published in 2019, while eight projects are still underway and should be completed in 2020.



Published in 2019

- **Social Policy, Poverty and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union**  
Edited by Sofiya An, Tatiana Chubarova, Bob Deacon, Paul Stubbs.
- **Putting Children First: New Frontiers in the Fight Against Child Poverty in Africa**  
Edited by Keetie Roelen, Richard Morgan, Yisak Tafere.



# OPEN ACCESS in 2019 - Bergen Open Research Archive (BORA)

CROP makes its open access publications available via BORA, the institutional online research archive at the University of Bergen. Two books were added in 2019 (*Poverty as Ideology* and *The Political Economy of Poverty and Social Transformations of the Global South*) bringing the total to ten books and four working papers.

## Scheduled in 2020

- ▶ ***The Politics of Social Inclusion: Bridging Knowledge and Policies Towards Social Change***  
Edited by Fadia Kiwan, Gabriele Koehler, Alberto D. Cimadamore, Pedro Monreal.
- ▶ ***Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America (in Spanish)***  
Edited by Anete Ivo, Carmen Midaglia, Alexandra Barrantes, Alberto D. Cimadamore.
- ▶ ***Child Poverty and Social Protection in Western and Central Africa***  
Edited by Enrique Delamonica, Chinyere Emeka-Anuna, Felix N'Zue, Gustav Nebie.
- ▶ ***Practical Solutions to Protect Developing Country Tax Revenues***  
Edited by Krishen Mehta, Esther Shubert, Erika Dayle Siu.
- ▶ ***Sustainability Science, Rights and Development in the 21st Century (in Spanish)***  
Edited by Anete Ivo, Carmen Midaglia, Alexandra Barrantes, Alberto D. Cimadamore.
- ▶ ***Food Sovereignty as a Strategy for Confronting Poverty and Inequality***  
By David Barkin.
- ▶ ***Why Some Development Works***  
By Meera Tiwari.
- ▶ ***Leaving No Child or Adolescent Behind: A Global Perspective on Addressing Inclusion through the SDGs***  
Edited by Sudeshna Chatterjee, Katie Hodgkinson, Alberto Minujin.
- ▶ ***The Social Question in the 21st Century (in Spanish)***  
Edited by Carlos Barba, Yasodhara Silva, Gerardo Ordóñez.

## DIGITAL MEDIA

CROP's digital media channels have continued to attract a wide audience throughout 2019.

### CROP website

The [CROP website](#) provides news and announcements from CROP and its extended network as well as access to electronic versions of many CROP publications (books, briefs, working papers) via the institutional online research archive at the University of Bergen, BORA (Bergen Open Research Archive). The CROP website and domain will be kept as an archive of CROP's work and achievements.

### Facebook and Twitter

The number of CROPoverty followers on Twitter and Facebook increased again during 2019. At the end of the

year, CROP had 473 Twitter followers and 911 Facebook followers (an increase of 32% for Twitter and 17% for Facebook compared to the end of 2018). These two communication channels have become important outlets for the efficient dissemination of news and announcements.

The highest reaching Facebook post in 2019 (29 shares and 5981 people reached) was a call for papers, while two book-related posts reached more than 1000 people each. The Twitter post with the highest number of impressions (3120) in 2019 was a publication announcement for a CROP Poverty Brief:



CROP's Twitter and Facebook accounts will undergo a gradual transition in 2020 to become social media outlets for GRIP.



## YouTube

The [CROP YouTube Channel](#) contains a video archive divided into the following playlists:

- ▶ Visualising Poverty Research – short interviews with renowned scholars
- ▶ Perspectives on Poverty Research – short interviews with guests, researchers and scholars on various

poverty-related topics

- ▶ Presentations of books and working papers by editors and authors
- ▶ Online lectures
- ▶ Other free-standing videos

Videos added in 2019 include short book presentations of recent CROP publications, a longer livestream recording from a CROP event

(«Literary Salon») in Bergen and a CROP 25th anniversary video.

The CROP YouTube Channel will be kept as is where all videos from CROP can be accessed. GRIP has established a new [GRIP Inequality YouTube Channel](#) for future video recordings ◀

## CROP SECRETARIAT

**2019 was another year of changes for the staff of the CROP Secretariat as CROP transitions into GRIP.**

The following staff members are moving on:



Alberto Cimadamore



Maria Sollohub

- ▶ We wish **Alberto Cimadamore** all the best in his new endeavours in both Argentina and at the University of Bergen. He has left the Secretariat well equipped to take on the task of building the new “GRIP” programme on a solid “CROP” foundation.
- ▶ **Aslaug Aarsæther** was with CROP from September 2018 until July 2019 and her specialist media skills combined with administrative experience were invaluable in preparing for a smooth transition from CROP to GRIP.
- ▶ **Maria Sollohub** has had a key administrative role at the CROP Secretariat in recent years, but will be leaving us at the end of the year to take up a new position as research coordinator at the University’s Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care. We wish her all the best.
- ▶ Student intern **Sophia Hahn** from the University of Constance in Germany, completed her internship at CROP in March 2019.

## FROM CROP TO GRIP

**As 2019 draws to a close, the transition from CROP to GRIP is making steady progress. The efforts invested in institutionalising and systemising the administration of the CROP Secretariat provide the GRIP Secretariat with a solid point of departure for the future.**

### UiB commitments

The University of Bergen has expressed its commitment to following up all obligations to ongoing CROP book projects. It has also given the GRIP Secretariat a new “home” at the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the physical move from CROP’s previous premises took place at the end of October.

### Project activities

Responsibility for CROP’s UTFORSK Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies with the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa has been transferred to UiB’s Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care. Meanwhile, the GRIP Secretariat will look into ways in which to re-align the joint programme on

Poverty and Sustainable Development between the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET), represented by the Labour Research and Study Centre (CEIL), and the former International Social Science Council (ISSC), represented by CROP, with the new entities of GRIP and the ISC.

### GRIP visual profile and website

A new visual profile for GRIP is in use for the first time in this newsletter and will also be integrated into the design of a new [GRIP website](#).



## GRIP Secretariat staff

The GRIP Secretariat will be led by Executive Director Professor **Bjørn Enge Bertelsen** with the following administrative and technical support staff:

- ▶ Higher Executive Officer **Inge Tesdal**
- ▶ Research Assistant **Idunn Lüllau Holthe**
- ▶ Advisor and Research Coordinator **Maria Dyveke Styve**



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Bjørn Enge Bertelsen

## GRIP IN 2020

Given GRIP's establishment on 15 October 2019 in a signing ceremony between ISC and UiB (see above), 2020 will be its first full year of operation. Several key processes and events are being planned:

Firstly, the GRIP Secretariat hosted by UiB will work to finalise various processes that have already been initiated. Crucially, this includes developing a new graphic profile — a visual identity designed to capture the six dimensions of inequality, GRIP's links to ISC and UiB, and the dynamic ways in which GRIP is conceived to engage with the multiple challenges of inequality. Related to this, already existing social media platforms and channels (generated by former CROP) will be changed to reflect GRIP's new foci. Central to this work will also be the development of a new website for GRIP - [gripinequality.org](http://gripinequality.org).

A second key task for 2020 is the establishment of a GRIP Development Team (DT) of international experts that will serve as an advisory board for the work and long-term plans of the research programme. The DT will be in charge of designing and monitoring a programme of activities, creating a structure for GRIP detailing the roles and contributions of its teams in different parts of the world, and developing a resourcing plan to support the agreed agenda and structure. The DT will also guide scientific and outreach activities, work towards establishing an international network of GRIP researchers, ensure ISC participation in GRIP activities, monitor developments in relevant studies and research and their implications for GRIP, reach out to and seek the involvement of

relevant international organisations, and contribute to fundraising for its activities. The DT should be operative in the first half of 2020.

A third key task in 2020 will be to participate in and organise events that will make GRIP visible to research and policy environments that are central to its six dimensions of inequality. This should lead to the production of tangible and high-quality impactful research that will be communicated to a wide range of audiences. GRIP will also be introduced to people central to ISC and UiB. In concrete terms, GRIP will organise key events in Cape Town and/or Johannesburg in the second half of 2020 addressing fundamental problems of urban inequality. Furthermore, a workshop is planned for the spring of 2020 — organised in close collaboration with the ISC— to demonstrate the relevance of GRIP research and foci to key ISC partners and priorities. In addition, GRIP participation is confirmed for three events in Bergen in 2020: the [SDG conference](#) in February, the [Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation](#) in August and as organiser of a session entitled “Epistemic challenges, intellectual labour and South-North partnerships” at the [SANORD](#) (Southern African – Nordic Centre) Conference in October ◀



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