

#02/2017



Comparative Research  
Programme on Poverty



## A world without poverty

A programme of the International Social Science Council hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway.

The fundamental mission of CROP is to work in collaboration with knowledge networks, institutions and scholars to build independent, alternative and critical knowledge and education on poverty, and to help shape policies for preventing and eradicating poverty.



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## FOREWORD

*By CROP Scientific Director  
Alberto Cimadamore*

This semester has witnessed a major event in world science that will have a positive impact on the future of CROP: the merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). A joint general assembly in Taipei at the end of October approved the merger that will result in the forging of a new organisation—the International Science Council (ISC)—to advance the relevance of science worldwide.

The new Council brings together the current members of the ISSC and ICSU, including 40 international scientific unions and associations and more than 140 national and regional organisations (such as academies and research councils). CROP will be integrated into this new international body whose global voice of science will have a powerful presence in all regions of the world and representation across the natural and social sciences.

The strategy drafted by the merging institutions highlights how the importance of scientific understanding for society has never been greater, as humanity grapples with the problems of living sustainably and equitably on our planet. Poverty and related issues are expected to be as relevant for the ISC agenda as they currently are in the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Together, these agendas will set the scene for CROP's work plans from 2018 onwards.

The current agreement between the ISSC and the University of Bergen (UiB) regarding the hosting of CROP will be re-negotiated during 2018 and should be positively affected by

the results of the merger process. The new Council intends to open discussions with all its programmes (including CROP) in order to assess their needs and the best way in which to integrate them into its portfolio. At the same time, the University of Bergen is evaluating how to integrate the CROP Secretariat into its academic structure and more specifically, into its strategic area of Global Challenges. The impact of CROP's integration processes (into both UiB and ISC) will become clearer in the course of 2018.

Internal collaboration between CROP and other UiB units has increased over the last semester, in particular as part of the ongoing *UTFORSK project* (Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies) that is bringing UiB, UKZN, and CODESRIA (a key ISC regional partner) closer in educational and research terms. More information about project activities can be found in this newsletter and on the project website.

Another example of the pivotal role CROP can play between UiB and the international science community was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) earlier this semester between CROP and the UNESCO Chair at UiB. This agreement aims at facilitating a series of activities, starting with a joint workshop on sustainability science to take place in the spring semester 2018. The workshop will continue the exploration of the theoretical and methodological possibilities offered by this unique scientific approach to respond to the major global challenges faced by the world today.

## EVENTS

### “Politics of Inclusion” workshop in Paris (6-7 July)

**An international workshop on social inclusion was organised by CROP and UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 6-7 July 2017.**

This workshop focused on examining how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets aimed at social and economic inclusion are conditioned by poverty, inequality and power relations. It also looked at the types of social transformations that may be capable of changing the dynamics that keep people disadvantaged. The workshop was divided into four sessions; “Poverty and inequality as social constructions”; “Struggling with the concepts of inclusion, exclusion and adverse incorporation”; “Which social transformations are needed in order to ‘leave no one behind?’”; and a final session on “Collaborative research: the way forward”

In addition to the workshop discussions, an open public session entitled “From knowledge to action: initiatives for inclusive policies” was organised on the second day of the event. The public session started with panel

presentations by experts who discussed UNESCO’s initiatives on inclusion in Southeast Asia. Representatives from the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO from Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei and Cambodia, were invited to comment.

The two-day workshop assembled more than 30 scholars from around the world. In addition to the wide range of countries and regions represented,

there was also a good variety in terms of academic background. There were experts from UNESCO as well as academics from a number of different universities, which provided a constructive basis for interesting and fruitful discussions. CROP was also happy to welcome several fellows, Scientific Committee members and network members to the event.

After two days of intensive dialogue and exchange, an editorial committee was appointed to follow up on the initiatives, conclusions and proposals made during the workshop. They will prepare a book on “The Politics of Inclusion”.



© Photo: CROP

### Scientific Committee meeting at the International Social Science Council (5 July)

On 5 July 2017, the annual meeting of CROP’s Scientific Committee was held in the premises of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in Paris. Some of the Scientific Committee members were able to take advantage of the fact that they were participating in the international workshop starting the following day and were able to attend the meeting in person, while others joined us online. In addition to providing input to CROP’s work plan and thematic focus, the main topics of discussion this year were the recent evaluation of CROP conducted by the University of Bergen and the potential consequences for CROP of the planned merger between the ISSC and ICSU (International Council for Science).



ISSC Secretariat, CROP Secretariat and CROP members in Paris

© Photo: CROP

## CROP contributions to the 2017 EADI conference (21-23 August)

The CROP Secretariat was an active participant at the EADI Nordic conference in Bergen in August 2017. CROP was responsible for chairing panels, co-convening sessions and providing practical assistance.

In August 2017, EADI (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes) and NFU (Norwegian Association of Development Research) joined forces with the University of Bergen to host a conference on “Globalisation at the Crossroads – Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries”. The three-day conference invited scholars, policymakers and practitioners to focus on new approaches to understanding global challenges and to reflect on the possible way forward.

Within this context, the CROP Secretariat participated in three of the conference events:

1. CROP’s Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore was a discussant at the conference round table on the World Social Science Report 2016, a session entitled “Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World - Implications for Development Studies”. One of the co-editors, John Gaventa (Institute of Development Studies), presented the main findings and recommendations of the report, while Laura Camfield (University of East Anglia) was co-discussant together with Cimadamore.



From left: Laura Camfield, Alberto Cimadamore, Julia Schöneberg & John Gaventa

© Photo: CROP

2. Alberto D. Cimadamore also chaired the second session of the academic panel “Structural Change, Inequality and Inclusive Growth: Tensions and Trade-offs”, organised by the ESRC Global Poverty and Inequality Dynamics Research Network represented by Andy Sumner and Lukas Schlogl (King’s College, London).
3. The CROP Secretariat was co-convenor of the conference session on “From Measurement to Politics: How to Prevent and Respond to Poverty and Inequality”, organised by EADI’s working group on Multidimensional Poverty and Poverty Dynamics.

The CROP Secretariat also contributed to the organisation of the event, with three of its staff members providing practical assistance throughout the three days.

## Breakfast forum on humanitarian aid hosted by CROP (26 September)

How effective is humanitarian aid in alleviating the suffering of the poor and maintaining their rights? Diana Skelton (ATD Fourth World) and Arne Strand (CMI) discussed this question with Alberto Cimadamore (CROP) at a breakfast forum in September.

Humanitarian aid and development programmes share the common objective of tackling suffering generated by poverty, as well as human and natural catastrophes: the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda is a fundamental step in this direction, aiming to end poverty and the suffering it causes. Humanitarian aid is the material

assistance provided to alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity in adverse and extreme circumstances such as extreme poverty and hunger.

On 26 September 2017, CROP invited Diana Skelton (Head of Mission for the international movement, ATD Fourth World) and Arne Strand Research (Director, CMI) to a breakfast seminar at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development. They used this seminar to discuss with Alberto Cimadamore (Scientific Director at CROP) how they perceive the actions of humanitarian aid, Skelton as a practitioner operating on the front line, and Strand as a researcher. Skelton explained ATD’s frustrations with emergency aid in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake when policies targeted only the most easily accessible areas, while Arne Strand discussed the coordination

of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies, concentrating on the role of media, local civil society groups and human rights.

The question remains though: Is it the role of humanitarian aid to reach the target of ending poverty? Can it ever deal effectively with the suffering that arises from poverty and other tragedies in a way that is functional to the purpose of leaving no one behind?



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## 2017 Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in Taipei - Merger between ISSC and ICSU creates opportunities for CROP



**An Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) took place in Taipei from 24-26 October 2017 as part of a joint meeting of the ISSC and the International Council for Science (ICSU). CROP was represented at the General Assembly by Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore.**

The main task of the meeting in Taipei was to decide on a merger of the two organisations (ISSC and ICSU) to form a new “International Science Council”. The final vote count in favour of the merger was 97.64% for ICSU and 90% for the ISSC. This landmark decision paved the way for an organisation whose vision will be to serve as a global voice for the entire scientific community, including all social and natural sciences. The head office of the new Council will be in Paris, France, and a founding General Assembly will be organised in the second half of 2018.

According to Alberto Martinelli, President of the ISSC: “This vote comes at a crucial moment for science. Now more than ever before, a powerful and credible voice is needed to advocate the value and values of all science to society.”

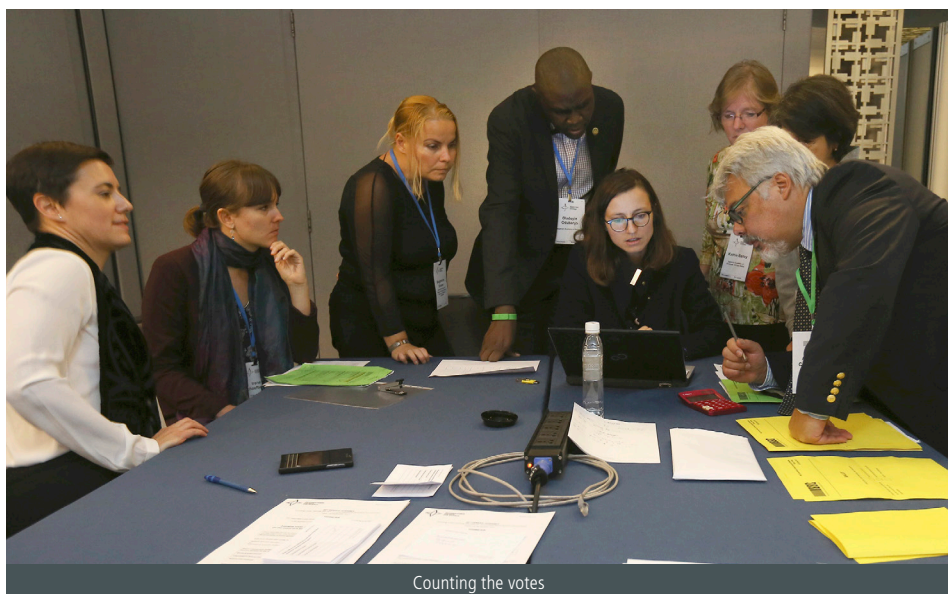
The decision to create the International Science Council follows the joint meeting between the ISSC and ICSU in Oslo, in October 2016, at which members of both

organisations voted in favour of an in-principle decision to merge the two councils, and formed working groups to draft a strategy and statutes for the new organisation.

This merger between ISSC and ICSU is expected to bring new opportunities for CROP as it will become part of the largest scientific organisation in the world. The

International Science Council will bring together current programmes, projects and members of both institutions, including 40 international scientific unions and associations, as well as more than 140 national and regional organisations. This will provide CROP with an extended platform from which to access potential future network partners and collaborators to address the most salient global challenges of poverty, inequality and sustainability.

***[Report on the merger from the ISSC](#)***  
***[Report on the merger from ICSU](#)***



Counting the votes

## International conference “Putting Children First” co-organised by CROP in Addis Ababa

This conference was co-hosted by the Ethiopian Centre for Child Research, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), the ESRC DFID Impact Initiative for International Development Research and the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, including the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Save the Children, UNICEF and Young Lives.



© Photo: African Child Forum

The event was attended by researchers, NGOs, policymakers and funders, who came together to discuss solutions for combating child poverty and inequality in Africa. The overarching themes of the conference included child sensitive social protection, the support of a secure transition into adulthood, and access to basic services for the most marginalised children.

Child poverty persists relentlessly and widespread, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite major endeavours to combat it during the past two decades. The objective of the conference was to build a platform that can be used to bridge

divides between disciplines and policy, practice and research, and to offer a space for sharing knowledge and experience. It brought together policymakers, practitioners, civil society and researchers, aiming at making “evidence matter” for the most marginalised children, in order to inspire action and mobilisation in African societies.

Several members of the CROP network participated in the event. Alberto Minujin from The New School in New York and member of CROP’s Scientific Committee presented his research, “Children and Adolescents in Urban Settings: Poverty and Inequality

in Nigerian cities”, co-written with CROP Fellow Enrique Delamonica from UNICEF Nigeria. Minujin also took on the role of session rapporteur for the closing panel. Delamonica, on the other hand, was one of the keynote speakers in the opening session, “Setting the Scene: Who and Where are the Poor Children?” Another CROP Fellow, Julian May, was a conference participant and presented the paper, “How many malnourished children are there in South Africa? What can be done?” together with colleague Stephen Devereux, both from the Centre of Excellence for Food Security at the University of the Western Cape (UWC),

In addition to contributing to the overall organisation of the conference, CROP Secretariat’s Administrative Coordinator Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs also chaired the opening plenary session, “Setting the Scene: Who and Where are the Poor Children?” and participated in the closing panel of the conference.

Output from the conference will include publication of the best and most informative conference contributions. The CROP Secretariat will use its extensive publishing experience from similar events to take responsibility for this task.

The final communiqué from this conference included a “**Call to Identify Solutions and Take Action to Tackle Child Poverty and Inequality in Africa**” ([link](#)).



From left: Julian May, Enrique Delamonica, Alberto Minujin & Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs

© Photo: CROP

## Academic staff exchange with UKZN, South Africa

The autumn semester 2017 saw two academic teaching exchanges between the University of Bergen (UiB) and the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa. Both exchanges were part of the SIU-funded project, “Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies”.



### August/September 2017

UiB professors Noel Keenlyside (Geophysics Institute and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research) and Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP) visited UKZN in August/September to engage in teaching activities as part of the staff mobility programme of the UiB-UKZN partnership. Two seminars and a public lecture were organised in co-operation with UKZN professor, Oliver Mtapuri:

- Noel Keenlyside conducted a seminar on “Improving climate prediction and development of climate services” at the School of Built Environment and Development Studies.
- Alberto Cimadamore gave a public lecture on “Poverty and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century: A critical view”, hosted by UKZN’s College of Humanities (see [news item in UKZN’s electronic newsletter, NdabaOnline](#)). He also held a seminar on “Global justice, international relations and the

quest for poverty eradication” at the School of Built Environment and Environmental Studies.

### November 2017

UKZN lecturer Dr. Sithembiso Myeni from the School of Built Environment and Development Studies visited UiB during the first full week of November and held two lectures and a seminar during his stay in Bergen:

- On Tuesday 7 November, he gave an open lecture at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development on “Power, Conflict and Development in Contemporary South Africa”. The lecture was well attended and provided an excellent point of departure for the rest of the week’s activities at the University of Bergen.
- Sithembiso Myeni also conducted a seminar on “Development Research in a South African Context – Epistemology and Methodology” at the Department of Health Promotion

and Development (HEMIL) and held a lecture on “The Politics of Gender in a Global Perspective” at the Department of Comparative Politics. Both these teaching activities took place on Wednesday 7 November.

During both visits, additional meetings took place between academic and administrative staff members of UiB and UKZN to discuss and prepare for future collaborative activities, including project tasks such as the development of a virtual reading room and the participation of UiB students and staff at a summer/winter school in Durban in June/July 2018.

See also the partnership website: <https://psdpartnership.w.uib.no/>



## Workshop on sustainability, poverty and development in Buenos Aires (29 November – 1 December)

An international workshop on the topic of sustainability, poverty and development (“*Ciencia de la sustentabilidad, pobreza y desarrollo en el siglo XXI*”) was organised by CROP and CEIL-CONICET (the Labour Research and Study Centre (CEIL) at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET)) in Buenos Aires from 29 November – 1 December 2017. The three-day

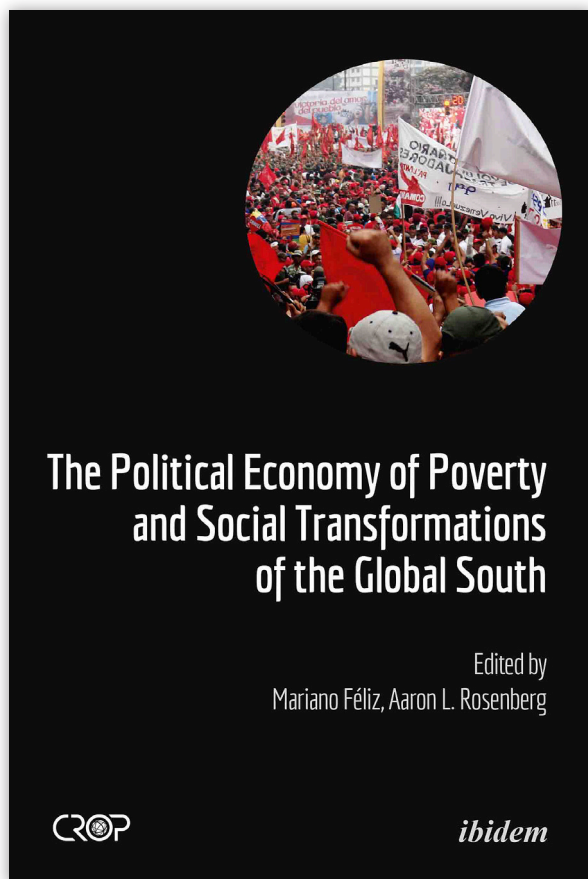
workshop assembled 20 scholars and leading researchers in the field of poverty and development.

After three days of academic discourse in Buenos Aires, the CEIL-CROP coordination will follow up on the initiatives, conclusions and proposals made and prepare a manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication.

This workshop was an activity of the joint programme on Poverty and

Sustainable Development between CROP and CEIL-CONICET that was set up within the framework of the Master Agreement signed between CONICET and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in order to facilitate the mutual benefit of academic exchange and scientific and technological co-operation between the two Institutions.

## PUBLICATIONS



### New books, autumn 2017

#### *The Political Economy of Poverty and Social Transformations of the Global South*

Edited by Mariano Féliz and

Aaron L. Rosenberg

New CROP book published by

Ibidem Verlag, Stuttgart, September 2017

This book brings forth debate on the production and eradication of poverty from experiences in the Global South. It collects a set of innovative articles that focus on the way in which poverty as a social process has been tackled by popular movements and governments in various states across the globe. Providing new insights into the limitations of traditional strategies to confront poverty, it highlights how social organisations are working to transform the livelihoods of people through a bottom-up struggle and more participatory approaches rather than passively waiting for top-down solutions.

The book launch was held on 5 December 2017 in Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

[More](#)

### CROP/UiB Global Working Paper Series on Global Challenges, autumn 2017

*Issue no. 4, September 2017. Approaches to Social Investment and Their Implications for Poverty in Sweden and the European Union*

Authors: Axel Cronert & Joakim Palme (Department of Government, Uppsala University, Sweden)

This paper argues that distinguishing between the 'Nordic approach' and the 'Third Way approach' to social investment is key both for describing policy developments and for understanding the relationships between social investment policies, employment and poverty. Based on an exploration of recent trends in social investment policies, employment and poverty in Sweden, the paper proposes that the recent noticeable increase in poverty can best be accounted for by changes in social insurance policy and tax policy that represent a shift from the Nordic approach to the Third Way approach. A set of panel data analyses for 24 European countries over the last decade provides preliminary evidence that these mechanisms extend beyond Sweden.

The full paper can be found [here](#)







## Poverty Brief #38: Turning an Ambitious Vision into an Achievable Reality: Landing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the National Level (September 2017)

Written by Babatunde Omilola, CROP Fellow (2014-2018) and Head of Development Planning and Inclusive Growth, UNDP, New York.

This poverty brief focuses on the importance of early mainstreaming activities for positioning countries to achieve an integrated and coherent response in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Drawing on a framework proposed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and country experiences to date, the brief examines what must be done, what has been done, and some of the key challenges for landing the SDGs at the national and sub-national level.

## Poverty Brief #39: MYTHS AND MYSTIFICATIONS AROUND GENDERED POVERTY: CURRENT CONCEPTUAL AND POLICY CONCERNS (December 2017)

Written by Sarah Bradshaw (Middlesex University), Sylvia Chant (London School of Economics and Political Science) and Brian Linneker (Independent Scholar)

This poverty brief debates: What do we think we know, what do we actually know, and what do we need to know about women's poverty, and how does this relate to poverty alleviation programmes? The authors conclude that while a feminised and feminising monetary poverty has been assumed, there is little evidence on which to base this assumption. As such more research is needed on these other dimensions of gendered poverty if anti-poverty programmes are to improve women's wellbeing.



All CROP poverty briefs are available at <http://www.crop.org/Publications/BriefsSeries/>

## NEWS FROM CROP

### Social Media Presence

CROP has established and increased its social media presence during the course of the last three years, and is pleased to register an expanding outreach to its followers. The student interns at the CROP Secretariat play a key role in ensuring a continuous flow of content and activity across several media channels.

#### YouTube

CROP's YouTube channel was established in September 2014 and has an archive of 63 videos. During the second half of 2017, the channel reached more than 6900 views, distributed across various videos. The channel has three main playlists:

- **Visualising Poverty Research** – short interviews with renowned scholars
- **Book presentations** – editors present recent CROP books
- **Working Paper Series** – authors present their contributions to the series

A number of new videos have been uploaded since July 2017, including interviews with Jomo Kwame Sundaram and S. M. Miller, both of whom are important scholars for the Visualising Poverty Research project.

#### Facebook and Twitter

CROP's Facebook account was launched in April 2016 and had reached 424 followers by 1 November 2017. The CROP Twitter account was launched six months earlier (in October 2015) and currently has 217 followers. These two communication channels have become important outlets for news and announcements from CROP as they give us the opportunity to share short messages, photos and videos in an efficient manner. Facebook and Twitter have proven themselves particularly useful in making sure that CROP's Calls for Papers reach a wider audience, and we have seen an increase in the number of paper proposals over the last couple of years.

### Student interns at the CROP Secretariat

The CROP Secretariat continues to offer internships as part of the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme. These internships have attracted applications from well-qualified and highly motivated students since October 2015. Student interns at CROP play an active role in the life of the Secretariat, providing a valuable contribution to our work, while gaining meaningful experience in an international working environment. Through the events and publications produced by CROP and its global network of researchers, the interns acquire an insight into the field of research dissemination and administration at the same time as having the chance to improve their knowledge about poverty and development issues.

During the second half of 2017, the following three students participated in the internship programme at the CROP Secretariat:

- **Felix Agresti de Philippis** (August-December) from Belgium, joined CROP as a full-time intern in August 2017 for a period of four months. He is currently pursuing an MA in Local and Global Development at the University of Bologna, Italy.

- **Bianca Scolamiero** (September-November) from Italy, joined CROP as a full-time intern in September 2017 for a period of three months. She is pursuing a BA in International Development at the University of Bologna, Italy.



Karolina, Bianca & Felix

© Photo: CROP

- **Karolina Półtorak** (November-February) from Poland, is currently a full-time intern at CROP. She started in November 2017 and will be staying for a period of three months. She holds an MA in International Economic Relations from the University of Gdansk, Poland.



© Photo: CROP

## Visit from the South Korean Female Leader Program for “Research on expanding the social welfare system to resolve social polarisation”

The CROP Secretariat was pleased to welcome a group of female assistant directors of local and regional governments of the Republic of Korea on Monday 4 September 2017. The purpose of their visit was to learn about research and policies on resolving poverty.

The meeting began with a short introduction to CROP by its Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore, who gave an overview of the programme’s vision, main activities and achievements. Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs, Administrative Coordinator of CROP, followed up

with a presentation that summarised current poverty and inequality levels in Norway. To conclude the meeting, CROP invited Stein Kuhnle, Professor at the UiB Department of Comparative Politics and an internationally renowned expert on the Nordic welfare state model, to give the group a brief overview of the main characteristics of the Norwegian welfare state model.

## In memory of Bob Deacon

CROP deeply regrets the loss of our friend and colleague Bob Deacon. He generously devoted his time, knowledge and passion for social justice to many collaborative projects aimed at building critical knowledge to contribute to preventing and eradicating poverty.

Bob was a previous member of our Scientific Committee and an active contributor to and organiser of several CROP activities (with subsequent publications) in different parts of the world. The latest in this row was a workshop in St Petersburg on “Social Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in post-Socialist Societies” in June 2017. We do admire such a commitment. It was not easy to convince him to develop and materialize this idea when we first discussed it – and now we know why. Our admiration for his commitment only increases when we realize that he was probably conscious that his terminal illness perhaps would not allow him to enjoy the production and publication of such a new book. Nevertheless, he proceeded with an enthusiasm that was his trademark. We are sure



Bob Deacon surrounded by members of CROP at WSSF 2015 in Durban

© Photo: CROP

that all of those who participated in this event, his last collaboration with CROP, agree the book resulting from the workshop he conceived should be dedicated to his memory and to his permanent search for a more just world.

## Follow us



# CALENDAR

## Selected CROP Events in 2018

**8-9 February 2018**

**PANEL** at “Knowledge for Our Common Future - Norwegian Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals”. Conference organised by the University of Bergen, NORWAY [More](#)

**27-28 February 2018**

**WORKSHOP** “Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State”, in collaboration with the School of Government at the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA [More](#)

**September 2018**

**WORKSHOP** “The Social Question in the 21st Century” (in Spanish) in collaboration with Universidad de Guadalajara, MEXICO

**6-7 September 2018**

**WORKSHOP** “Poverty, Inequality Dynamics, and Economic Development” in collaboration with King’s College London, DSA (Development Studies Association), EADI (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, GPiD (ESRC Global Poverty and Inequality Dynamics Strategic Research Network), London, UK [More](#)

**October 2018**

**CONFERENCE** “Poverty, Equity and Children: Measuring and Monitoring SDG Targets on Inclusion” with Equity for Children, hosted at The New School, NEW YORK, US

*All dates are subject to confirmation*

