



Annual report 2009

CLACSO-CROP Programme on Poverty Studies
in Latin America and the Caribbean



Mobilizing
critical research
for preventing
and eradicating
poverty



Table of contents

Page 3	About the CLACSO-CROP Programme
Page 4	Main activities of the programme
Page 5	Research Projects - 2008-2009 Scholarships
Page 6	Grant competitions for research projects
Page 7	2009-2010 Scholarships
Page 8	Publications
Page 10	Virtual Library
Page 12	Social Observatory on Latin America
Page 14	Workshops and events
Page 18	CLACSO-CROP Chair
Page 19	Other tasks

ABOUT THE CLACSO-CROP PROGRAMME

The goal of the CLACSO-CROP Programme on Poverty Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean is to support high quality and independent social research on poverty issues, creating and facilitating an arena for debating poverty issues, and promoting research contributions to eradicating poverty in Latin American and the Caribbean.

The CLACSO-CROP programme was established in 2002, building on cooperation between the institutions over previous years. A primary focus of the programme is to enhance research capacity and research quality on poverty related issues in the region by providing junior and senior scholars opportunities to carry out social research on poverty issues.

Another focus is to strengthen the regional perspective of poverty research by promoting comparative and collaborative cross-national research on poverty related issues on the region with particular focus on the less developed countries and areas in the region. The programme achieves this by (i) providing an organisational setting to facilitate the entrance of junior scholars into poverty research and to keep senior scholars in the field, (ii) by being instrumental in the preparation of joint publications and other means of distributing the results of research, and (iii) by organizing seminars and courses on poverty related issues.

CLACSO (Latin American Council of Social Sciences) is an international non-governmental institution with formal consultative status at UNESCO. It has more than 250 member centers in 25 countries. The Secretariat is located in Buenos Aires.

CROP is a scientific programme of the ISSC (International Social Science Council) working to mobilize critical research on poverty. The institutional host is the University of Bergen, where the Secretariat is located.

The CLACSO-CROP programme:

- produces and disseminates high quality research based publications on poverty
- creates an accessible body of new knowledge about poverty in the LAC
- educates and trains a new generation of regional poverty researchers
- contributes to development of poverty reduction policies
- maintains a regional network of academic poverty specialists
- connects poverty researchers in the region to international networks.

Main activities of the programme

The primary activities in 2009 have principally been directed at organizing the academic events (roundtables, workshops and international seminars) planned and developed between CLACSO and CROP; elaboration of calls for papers; editorial work of publishing the books of the CLACSO-CROP collection; searching for sources of funding in order to diversify financing of the programme; and the activities surrounding the 2009 Fellowships, the CLACSO-CROP Chair 2009 and 2010, and the virtual courses. The coordinators also carried out the supervision of the progress in the work of the Fellows, organized tutorials, academic evaluations and the formal revision of the papers produced in previous phases.

On January 1st, 2009, after the completion of the three year programme 2006-08, the Programme was set to initiate the activities of the four year programme 2009-2012 which had been duly negotiated between CLACSO-CROP and NORAD. For internal reasons in NORAD in the implementation of the new contract, it was decided that the previous contract would be extended one year (2009), applying the new budget developed for the period 2009-2012. This represented an important change, because the new budget implied a significant increase in the activities managed from CLACSO, in financial terms going from an annual sum of NOK 3,500.000 (for the period 2006-08) to NOK 5,200.000 in 2009, an increase of 67%.

Selected CLACSO-CROP Events 2009

Workshop at World Social Science Forum, on poverty and social policy, Bergen, May 2009 - Research papers: 3 Audience: 40

Public Forum on "Poverty, Environment and Climate Change", Buenos Aires, August 2009 - Presentations: 5 Audience: 60

Public Forum on social cohesion in Latin America, Buenos Aires, September 2009. - Presentations: 5 Audience: 110

Seminar on Poverty and alternatives from the South, Buenos Aires, December 2009 - Research Presentations: 18



RESEARCH PROJECTS

2008-2009 Scholarships

The call for proposals for research projects to be conducted between 1 December 2008 and 30 September 2009 was **Strategies against Poverty: Designs from the North and Alternatives from the South**. The call framed the theme in the following way:

“During the last decades, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have taken part in a process of conceptual reorientation of social policy and politics, and the changes in institutional arrangements through which they organize their governance. These processes have been driven to a large extent from the North, by the multilateral credit organizations that since the decade of the 1980s have become centres for thought and action on social policy in general, and in the politics in the struggle against poverty in particular. [...]

While the academic literature has documented well the common features of the new model of social policy and politics, and the features associated with its interventions, it has stopped short of looking at how these processes have occurred at the level of individual countries. More importantly, the literature does not emphasize systematic reflection based on empirically grounded comparative studies on the effects of the anti-poverty politics designed from the North, or the alternatives that have been generated in the South from a redefinition of the role of the State and the surge of new social actors.” *[from the call for proposals 2008]*

Grant competitions for research projects

During the second trimester of 2009, applications were accepted for the CLACSO-CROP Grant competition for research projects, on the theme "Poverty, environment and climate change", for the categories of Junior "Starting Researcher" and Senior "Superior Level". The competition had available a maximum of twelve fellowships of "Starting Researcher" and up to three fellowships of "Superior Level" for researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out a projects of ten months duration.

Starting in May, the call for proposals and the relevant information was spread through the electronic distribution lists and the website of CLACSO. Throughout the period, the Programme responded to questions sent to the email address pobreza9@campus.clacso.edu.ar.

The call for proposals and the necessary application forms were available on the CLACSO website until October 19, when the deadline for submitting proposals passed and the period of evaluating applications began.

The projects presented in each competition was evaluated by an International Committee, composed of recognized authorities on the theme and nominated by CLACSO and CROP. The members of the International Committee were Roberto P. Guimarães (Brazil), Elizabeth Jiménez Zamora (Bolivia) and Armando Fernández Soriano (Cuba). The Committee met at the offices of the CLACSO Executive Secretariat between November 18 and 20.

In the Senior category there were received nine proposals – two women and seven men. One proposal was disqualified on technical grounds since it did not meet the formal criteria. The eight (8) proposals examined by the Committee came from Member Centres in the following countries: Argentina (1), Colombia (2), Cuba (1), Mexico (1), Nicaragua (2) and Paraguay (1).

In the Junior category 39 proposals were received – 25 from women and 14 from men. Four proposals were disqualified on technical grounds. The 35 proposals examined by the Committee came from Member Centers in the following countries: Argentina (3), Bolivia (4), Brazil (1), Chile (4), Colombia (3), Cuba (5), Ecuador (1), Honduras (1), México (3), Nicaragua (1), Paraguay (2), Peru (4), The Dominican Republic (2) and Venezuela (1). The programme received applications from five countries (Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Venezuela) that did not present candidates in 2008. This might be due to the more visible geographical focus of the programme, as well as to the impact of the educational course in Central America and the development of a communication network among young Central Americans who participated in our activities.

Junior researchers are assigned a methodology tutor who interacts with them through CLACSO's virtual campus, helping them making their research papers ready for publication. With respect to the gender balance, the distribution of the researchers applying for the 2009 grant was 60% women and 40% men.



2009 - 2010 Scholarships

The call for proposals for research projects to be conducted between 1 December 2009 and 30 September 2010 is titled **Poverty, Environment and Climate Change**. The call framed the theme in the following way:

"The extreme inequality in income distribution, the increasing environmental deterioration and the harmful effects of climate change combine to create an emergency situation that demands structural change. In this workshop, the CLACSO-CROP Programme aims to explore this problematic from multiple perspectives, through empirical and conceptual contributions that allows us to overcome the limitations of existing theories.

The escalating interaction of the concepts of poverty, environment and climate change, and the increasing relevance of the problems they invoke, calls for research to articulate the relationship between society and nature. Special attention should be paid to certain relevant aspects of this complex relation; socioeconomic aspects and politics involved in these, food security, impacts and risks for health, inequality and cultures of consumption, the role of institutions and regulatory systems including legal systems, and the role of values, practices and beliefs in relations to perceptions of risk, as a basis for developing flexible answers to the new challenges.

"One important line of reflection and research holds that meeting the challenges created by climate change can generate solutions that prove useful for eradicating poverty and promote adaptation to a changing environment. The call for proposals seeks to encourage a focus that postulate ways of confronting the challenges of climate change, including processes of adaptation centered on creative capacities and alternative solutions globally, nationally and locally." *[from the call for proposals 2009]*

Publications



Pobreza: Un glosario internacional

(Poverty: An International Glossary; translation into Spanish of the Glossary originally published in English in 2007)

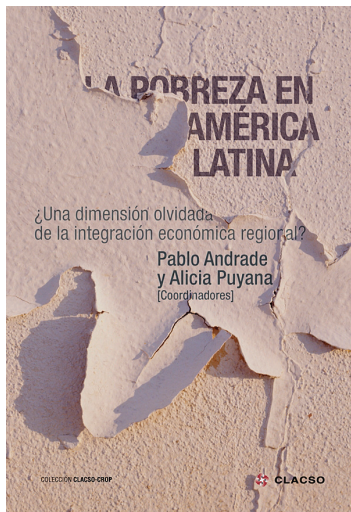
By Spicker, Álvarez Leguizamón and Gordon

La Pobreza del Estado. Reconsiderando el papel del Estado en la lucha contra la pobreza global

(The Poverty of the State: Reconsidering the role of the state in the struggle against global poverty)

By Cimadamore, Dean and Siqueira [Editors]

Translation, only in digital version



La Pobreza en América Latina: Una dimensión olvidada de la integración económica regional?

(The poverty in Latin America: A forgotten dimension of the regional economic integration?)

By Andrade and Puyana [Editors]

Ser joven excluido es algo relativo: Dimensiones cuantitativas y cualitativas de la heterogeneidad de los jóvenes pobres urbanos peruanos

(Youth exclusion is something relative: Quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the heterogeneity of Peruvian poor urban youth)

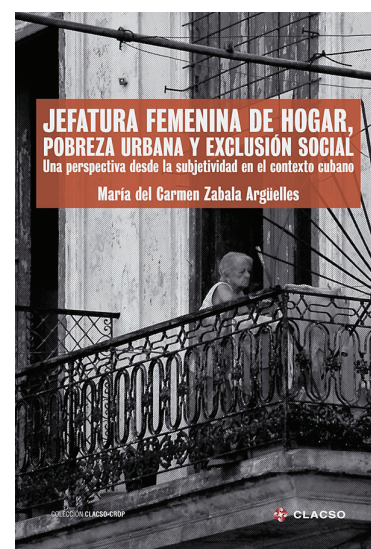
By Benavides, Ríos, Rodríguez, and Zuñiga



Jefatura femenina de hogar, pobreza urbana y exclusión social: una perspectiva desde la subjetividad en el contexto cubano

(Female headed households, poverty and social exclusion: A perspective from the subjectivity of the Cuban context)

By *María del Carmen Zabala*



In addition to completing the publication of the five books above, the programme worked on the evaluation and publication of the following books, which are forthcoming: **Las relaciones internacionales de la pobreza** (The International relations of poverty), *compilation by Young Fellows*, **Pobreza, ciudadanía y democracia** (Poverty, citizenship and democracy), by *Carlos Sojo (Editor)*, **Pobreza y desigualdad en ALC** (Poverty and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean), *compilation of Young Fellows*, **Pobreza, dolarización y crisis en el Ecuador** (Poverty, dollarization and the crisis in Ecuador), *edited by Ana María Larrea*, **Pobreza urbana y exclusión social en América Latina y el Caribe** (Urban poverty and social exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean), *compilation of Young Fellows*, **Las representaciones sociales y la reproducción de la pobreza en Nicaragua** (Social representations and the reproduction of poverty in Nicaragua), by *Luis Serra*, **A face feminina da pobreza em meio à riqueza do agronegócio** (The feminine face of poverty amidst the wealth of agrobusiness), by *Christiane Soares Campos*, **La política de la desigualdad en Centroamérica: el sistema político como campo de producción y reproducción de pobreza y desigualdades en Nicaragua, El Salvador y Guatemala (1994-2006)** (The politics of inequality in Central America: the political system as arena for the production and reproduction of poverty and inequality in Nicaragua), by *Ricardo Sáenz de Tejada*, **Producción de pobreza en ALC** (Production of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean), *compilation of Young Fellows*, and **Reproducción de la pobreza en América Latina. Relaciones sociales, poder y estructuras económicas** (Reproduction of poverty in Latin America: Social relations, power and economic structures), *edited by Arzate, Gutiérrez y Huamán, from seminar in Lima, Peru.*

Work on publications also included new activities, like the production of "Investigación y Políticas", a series of short documents (policy briefs) which summarize the results of studies of the Young Fellows and make them available to a broader audience, including policy makers and stakeholders. These will during the first part of 2010 be published in an electronic format under the CLACSO-CROP Programme. The Policy Briefs will initially be published in Spanish, but there are also plans to translate them into English.

CLACSO Virtual library - www.biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar

In CLACSO's network of 253 research and teaching institutions in 21 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, around 500 social science post-graduate programs are offered regularly. In the great majority of cases, these posgraduate programs take place in universities with outdated collections in their libraries, mainly due to budget restrictions. Most libraries can not afford the costs of having an updated coverage of the literature needed for poverty study, teaching and research, much less to cover the costs of inter-library loan and reprint service with other countries of the region due to the costly expense of regular postal services. With support from NORAD and SIDA, CLACSO offers open access to its web-based network of digital libraries with full-text journal articles, working documents, books and papers published by CLACSO member institutes, on topics related to poverty issues.

- In the Reading Room (full-text of working documents, non-peer-review journal articles, collaborative book chapters, books, papers), 688 full-texts are indexed under "poverty"
- In CLACSO- REDALYC Journal Portal (peer-review journal articles from CLACSO's network journals), 2.800 full-text articles are indexed under "poverty"
- The Virtual Library offers an open access collection of 19.439 full-texts in other social science topics also of interest for teachers, students and researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean, and for Latin American and the Caribbean studies in other regions of the world.
- In 2009 digital collections received an average of 800.000 monthly full-text requests, mainly from countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Poverty is always in the list of most requested subjects.
- A mailing list of 3.000 university centers and libraries of the region receive each month the list of new publications (with link to the full-text), thus providing support for students, teachers and researchers who usually have little access to recent academic publications.
- CLACSO sends every month articles and information to a mailing list of 654 librarians and editors from its network in 20 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2009, 126 new members were added to the working group of librarians and editors to help them improve knowledge and capacity on e-publishing and web publishing of research results.

This promotion of the open access concept, and working methodologies for digital libraries and repositories, has contributed to the development of open access journals and open access repositories in CLACSO's network. Today, two-thirds of CLACSO's network journals are open access in the web. Full-text versions of the CLACSO-CROP book collection are published in the digital library, searchable by subject, author, title, ISBN, and within the text itself.

The past year, focus in the service has mainly been on the development of alternative working methodologies to allow more decentralization of input and output, towards a more sustainable network of digital collections. This will allow, in the medium term, significant growth in digital collections, and distributed updating and access to digital contents.



Red de Bibliotecas Virtuales de Ciencias Sociales de América Latina y el Caribe de la Red CLACSO

Usted está aquí: [Inicio](#)

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- ▶ Ingreso de Información

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The Electronic Academic Network of CLACSO (RAEC)

The programme team continued working with the RAEC in the CLACSO-CROP Social Network project on the Internet. This project has created an active online space, where participants (academics, students, fellows and others interested in research on poverty) are the producers of the content. At the same time this space opens for new experiences with practices of communication; experimenting; changing and adjusting work in response to feedback; working as part of a network; and creating communities of practice. It also opens a space to share opinions and a foster a debate of ideas which in turn shows the way to create new spaces for the dissemination of knowledge on poverty.

The system of electronic registration for scholarship applications implemented in 2007 continues working with satisfactory results. By way of this system, the project application process is significantly easier, not only with respect to registration, but also in terms of monitoring and evaluating the processes and projects.

Free software development and open access are keys in this project, aimed at the construction of virtual social environments for poverty researchers worldwide.



Social observatory of Latin America

OSAL Activities in 2009

During 2009 OSAL continued its focal studies on conflict and social movements in the region. In addition to this, the Observatory fostered the exchange of ideas between researchers and leaders of social organizations in Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) through the following activities:

- publication of two issues of the OSAL Journal;
- development and improvement of data-base;
- elaboration of chronologies and reports about social protest and conjunctures in 19 LAC countries;
- development of the area of co-organized training with social movements.

Monitoring Committees

The OSAL team counts on 14 local monitoring committees which are following a total of 19 countries in the region. This network consists of 13 CLACSO member centers with over 40 researchers monitoring the developments in the region. During 2009, the monitoring committees were led by Dr. María Celia Cotarelo, researcher of the Programme for Research on Social Change, Argentina (PIMSA). The committees developed regular reports, and a Bibliographical Guide on Social Movements and Popular Struggles for their respective countries. These reports and the Bibliographical Guide serve as sources of information and analysis for those working on studies or research in these areas.

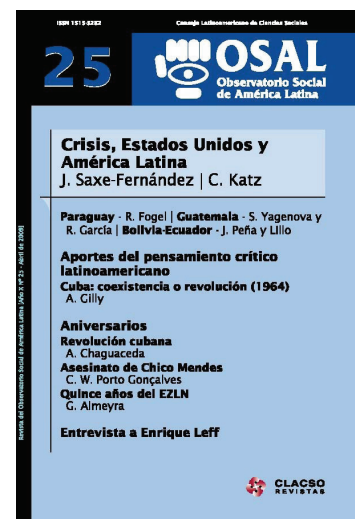
OSAL Journal

The programme prepared and published two issues of the bi-annual Journal 'Social Observatory of Latin America' (N° 25, April 2008; N° 26, November 2008). Following the shift of the journal, started in OSAL N° 22, the thematic dossiers were expanded and strengthened, and case studies and book reviews included. All issues of the OSAL Journal are available in full-text at the CLACSO website.

OSAL N° 25

Crisis, United States and Latin America
Vol. 9, April 2009, 220 pages

This issue focuses on international policies inside the American Continent. It contains contributions from experts in the area.

**OSAL N° 26**

The changes of the last decade
Vol. 9, October 2009, 253 pages

The theme of this issue is new governments in Latin America, with a particular focus on Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina.

Observatory of Social Protest

Daily information was collected from more than 70 newspapers of 19 LAC countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela) monitoring, and providing an overview of, social protest and the major economic and political implications. With this work, OSAL continues to provide an important chronology of social conflict and the main political and economic events that took place in the above mentioned countries.

Reports and documents

OSAL posted 114 bimonthly Informes de Coyuntura (update reports), 12 Guías Bibliográficas (bibliography guides) and 228 monthly working documents in the Serie Cronologías (chronological series) on the OSAL website in 2009. These are prepared by the local follow-up committees created as a result of the process of decentralization in OSAL (see CLACSO-CROP Annual Report 2007 and 2008). OSAL also participated in workshops and roundtables, in Medellín, Mexico City and Buenos Aires and other places, to discuss social movements and conflict in Latin America.

Portal of Observatories

The Portal of Observatories on Public Policies, Social Rights and Citizenship is serves as a platform for virtual access to more than 150 observatories on these issues. It is accessible at the CLACSO website.



CLACSO-CROP Workshops and events 2009

On-site training course on Poverty Studies for Young Researchers from Central America and the Caribbean 2009

Date: 2-6 March, 2009

Place: Managua, Nicaragua

The fourth on-site training course of this kind was organized by the CLACSO-CROP Programme and the Inter-university Centre for Studies of Latin America and the Caribbean (CIELAC).

The objective of the course was to contribute to develop and strengthen skills in social science research in general and in poverty and social policy in particular, between young professionals in the social sciences of countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Eighteen Young Researchers from 9 countries participated (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti), and had been selected from 97 submitted proposals.

During five intensive working days, the participants discussed theoretical concepts, the state of the art of poverty studies, and reviewed the main themes of the problematic. Further, the participants were part of lectures

and debates on both qualitative and quantitative methodologies appropriate for research on poverty. The activity continued with a phase where the participants put into practice the skills they had acquired. It continued as a virtual workshop with the tutoring in methodology by Professor Luis Serra (Nicaragua) during the second trimester of the year.

During the second half of the year, we have disseminated the call for proposals for the 2010 training course, which will take place from the 1st to the 5th of March in Panama. We received 58 proposals, and the Academic Committee formed by Marco Gandásegui (Panama), Asunción St. Clair (Norway) and María Pía Otero (Argentina) selected two candidates from each Central American and Caribbean country represented among these proposals (Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic).

Six participants in the training course went on to receive Fellowships.

Results from research on poverty in Latin America: Norwegian and Latin American connections

Date: May 7, 2009

Place: Tromsø, Norway

An event co-organized with the University of Tromsø and the North-South Coalition (Norway). The objective of the seminar was to share a selection of conclusions from research on poverty and related topics with students and lecturers at the University of Tromsø, other research institutions in the region, as well as NGOs. The presentations focused on debates between academics from Latin America, Norway and the general public. They included: Critical consciousness and the poor: Indigenous leaders on the causes of poverty in Guatemala, Georges Midré, University of Tromsø, Norway; Poverty and Inequality in Latin America, Alberto D. Cimadamore, University of Buenos Aires/CLACSO-CROP, Argentina; Scrambling for welfare in Central America: Towards More State, Stronger Markets and Less Family, Juliana Martinez Franzoni, University of Costa Rica; The Ambiguous Role of Religion in Poverty Eradication in Latin America, Hans Egil Offerdal, CROP, Norway.

Poverty: The Role of Social Research and Social Policy, activity at the World Social Science Forum (WSSF)

Date: May 12, 2009

Place: Bergen, Norway

This roundtable at the World Social Science Forum (WSSF) was organized by CROP in collaboration with CLACSO and CODESRIA. The panellists included Jimi O. Adesina, Researcher and Professor at Rhodes University, South Africa; Bob Deacon, Director of the Programme on Globalism and Social Policy (GASPP), University of Sheffield, UK; Juliana Martinez Franzoni, Researcher,

The Social Research Institute, and Professor, University of Costa Rica; Sam Moyo, Executive Director of the African Institute of Agrarian Studies and President of CODESRIA; Carlos Barba Solano, Coordinator of the Working Group GT at CLACSO on "Poverty and Social Politics" and Professor at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. The papers are in the process being published in a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Global Social Policy*, guest edited by Asuncion St.Clair and Håvard Haarstad.

Strategies against poverty: designs from the North and alternatives from the South

Date: June 18-20, 2009

Place: Cape Town, South Africa

The CLACSO-CROP Programme organized the seminar in cooperation with the South-South Programme of CLACSO, the University of Cape Town, and the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS). This was the first seminar of the Programme to take place in an African country.

There were 15 presentations by researchers from 13 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, who discussed and debated for three days. The event was described by those present as an experience that was both uncommon and fruitful for the interchanges between colleagues researching similar themes in different continents. By agreement between the organizing institutions, there was designated an Editorial Committee composed of specialists from Latin America and Africa, in order to work on a compilation of the work presented and publish a book of the results of the events. When the manuscript passes through "peer review", it will be published in Spanish and English.

Poverty, Environment and Climate change

Date: August 5, 2009

Place: Buenos Aires

This closed event brought together specialists from five countries, including the representation of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change of the ISSC (based at the United Nations University in Bonn). The objective was to engage in a multidisciplinary discussion on the document that would serve as the basis of the call for proposals of the international seminar on this theme, which is also the theme for the 2009 CLACSO-CROP Fellowships. This meeting also evaluated the academic and organizational standards for the realization of the international seminar, which aims to be one of the main events organized in the region on the theme of poverty, environment and climate change. Parallel to the workshop there was a public meeting taking place at the University of Buenos Aires. Here the problematics discussed in the closed workshop were presented in public, in order to start the process of communicating the initiative.

Latin America and the challenge of social cohesion

Date: August 31- September 4, 2009

Place: Buenos Aires, Argentina

As part of a continuing relation of cooperation between CLACSO and ALAS (Latin American Sociology Association), CLACSO-CROP organized a workshop with ALAS as part of its XXVII Congress. The theme was on the challenge of social cohesion in the Latin American context. The scientific outcome of the meeting will be published in a book in the CLACSO-CROP series.

Participation, Poverty and Power

Date: 10-12 September, 2009

Place: Lima, Peru

The CLACSO-CROP Programme, together with the Commission for the Study of the History of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean (CEHILA) organized a panel on "Ethics and politics for empowering the poor: Secular and religious foundations" at the campus of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú (PUCP), in Lima, as part of the 2009 Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association. In the panel participated Julio Boltvinik (El Colegio de México, Mexico); Fortunato Mallimaci (University of Buenos Aires/CONICET, Argentina); Imelda Vega-Centeno B., (CEHILA, Centro de Estudios Regionales Andinos, Cuzco, Perú); Enrique Dussel (University Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM)/Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico).

Strategies against poverty: alternatives from the South

Date: 1-3 December, 2009

Place: CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina

This event was organized together with the Centre for the Study of Population, Employment and Development (CEPED), at the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires. The eighteen participants from nine countries were selected competitively. The 2008 fellows of the CLACSO-CROP Young Fellowship competition were also invited to participate. At the closure of the event, a public conference at the offices of the Workers' Central of Argentina (CTA) was organized on the same theme, in which prominent specialists from the region took part.

The results of the event will be published in a book in the CLACSO-CROP collection. An Editorial Committee was formed during the event, which consists of Ana María Pérez (Corrientes, Argentina), Juliana Martínez Franzoni (Costa Rica) and Nelson Antequera Durán (Bolivia).

Seminars and courses of the CLACSO-CROP Chair

The CLACSO-CROP Chair (Cátedra CLACSO-CROP) was established in connection with the 40th anniversary of CLACSO. Researchers from CLACSO member institutions can apply to be the CLACSO-CROP Chair for one year, during which they implement a post-graduate virtual course with ten sessions under the theme of "Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean".

In the first planning meeting of the year (Bergen, February 2009), the organizations of the Programme agreed to the conditions for the Call for proposals for the Chair of 2009 and 2010. The Call had as one of its general objectives to stimulate the development of new theoretical perspectives for an approach to one of the most pressing problems in Latin American societies: inequality and its social effects. The Jury evaluating the CLACSO-CROP Chair course proposals met at the Executive Secretary of CLACSO in early August to work out an academic proposal for a distance learning course on "Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean".



Four different proposals for courses were submitted from different teams of researchers from Member Centres from four countries (two from Argentina, one from Guatemala and one from Chile). The Jury, consisting of Asunción St. Clair (CROP) and Atilio Boron (CROP Chair, Argentina), selected the course "Inequality in income in Latin America and the Caribbean. Concepts and methodologies for the study of poverty and unequal incomes", led by Julio E. Fabris (Director) and Juan Grigera, based at the Department of Social Science, Quilmes National University, Argentina. In the virtual course 29 researchers from 10 countries participated.

The objective of the course is to build capacity for social researchers in the study of income inequality and the problematic of poverty, with a special emphasis on the use of public statistics and modern information technology to sustain scientific work empirically and technically.

The Call for proposals for the CLACSO-CROP Chair 2010 was open between July and October 2009. Three academic proposals were submitted from teams of researchers from Member Centres in Argentina (2) and Guatemala (1). The Jury met in mid-December at the offices of the Executive Secretary of CLACSO. The winner was the course on "Inequality in LAC" by Prof. Oscar Lopez Rivera, FLACSO, Guatemala.

The first CLACSO-CROP Chair will be on Inequality in the LAC

CLACSO-CROP Planning meetings

The activities of the CLACSO-CROP Programme are established by common agreement by both institutions in meetings taking place annually, based on the plans outlined by the general project and subject to budgetary approval by NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation). The plans are executed in compliance with contracts between, on one hand, CLACSO and CROP, and on the other, between CLACSO and NORAD, as a project with an annual budget approved by NORAD.

As a result of the processes of planning and consultations with the member centres, the annual meeting took place in February in Bergen. Here the institutions discussed the budget outlook and the start of the activities and of the new period (2009-2012). During the meeting, the themes and organizational strategies for the plan of action for 2009 were decided upon. The second planning meeting took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia, at the General Assembly of CLACSO. Benedicte Bull from NorLARNet participated in the General Assembly representing CROP.

Presentation of reports

On March 15 the Annual and Triannual Reports were presented to NORAD, along with both financial reports related to the completion of a triannual period. These were evaluated positively by the financing agency as a step towards the approval for a new period. An external financial audit was also completed and submitted to the financing agency.

Additional financing

Supplementary to the core funding, the CLACSO-CROP Programme has obtained additional funding for academic activities and the dissemination of results. During this period additional funds were raised to cover travel expenses for African and Asian participants at the seminar at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Additional funding was used to cover the Spanish edition of *Poverty: An International Glossary*, edited by Paul Spicker, Sonia Alvarez Leguizamón and David Gordon. Further, CLACSO and CROP are currently cooperating in designing a strategy for obtaining additional funding.



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