



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 Thomas Pogge and Alberto Cimadamore

The CROP Prize 2014 has recently been awarded to two young scholars who submitted excellent manuscripts on topics that our programme has been promoting for many years. "An Analysis of Changes in Child Poverty in the Developing World" by Shailen Nandy and "Towards an Heterodox Economic Theory of Poverty Production" by Barbara Schaller were jointly selected for the prize by a committee representing CROP and Zed Books. We are convinced that these original contributions will result in two salient books in the CROP-Zed Books international series and we will celebrate this good news by preparing the call for the CROP Prize 2015. Look out for the new call that will be launched during the coming months!

The CROP Fellows initiative is a way to integrate researchers from different backgrounds and geographic regions into the programme's global activities. This is the first time that an open call has been used to reach out and invite applicants from all over the world to join us as CROP ambassadors. The response exceeded our expectations. We received almost 60 applications and the selection process is already well underway. The ISSC will appoint the CROP Fellows for the period 2014-2018 and we look forward to working with those selected in the near future!

As the editing of this newsletter was coming to an end, we received news from the ISSC that Heide Hackmann

will be stepping down from her role as Executive Director at the end of February 2015 in order to become the new Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU). We congratulate her on this new and exciting position and are sure that she will rise to the challenge with her usual professionalism and grace. We have to confess, however, that we will be sad to see her go and will miss her creative flair for working together for a better world. We feel confident that *Future Earth*, the research framework she has helped to create, will provide an arena within which to continue working on "Transformations to Sustainability" that our world so desperately needs.

Finally, we would like to share with all our readers and network members our best wishes for a better 2015. A way to make this happen is to work together towards the approval and materialisation of proposed Sustainable Development Goal 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere".



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Urban transitions to sustainability: ecology, human rights, urban networks and equal distribution of environmental risks to build sustainable futures

Opinion piece by Débora Swistun and Peter Elias, WSS Fellows 2014

Economic, financial, social and environmental changes from the Global North to the Global South are having increasing impacts on urbanization trends, patterns and scale in different countries. What are the consequences of transitions to sustainability with respect to social inequality, regional imbalances or more holistic interpretations of sustainable urbanization? And what are the opportunities to create multidimensional and interdisciplinary approaches for planning as a tool to guide the transitions? These were the main issues that were addressed at the 2nd World Social Science Fellows meeting on Sustainable Urbanization held at Academia Sinica, Taipei (Taiwan) supported by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) during the first week of November and as a prelude to the 2nd International Urbanization

and Global Environmental Change (UGEC) conference.

Twenty young social science researchers/scholars from different regions of the world joined with senior scholars to discuss and elaborate ideas towards a better understanding of these phenomena and suggest alternative ways to build our urban future in more sustainable ways.

The implications of urbanization for social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable human settlements were examined. The seminar also deliberated on the need for the development of contextualized definitions and methodologies of sustainability. The integration of ecological, social, economic and political dimensions into the concept of sustainability was reviewed. These postulations led to a reflection on the dilemma of “sustainability vs. poverty”, a concern shared by those

coming from the Global South. The meeting recognized that we cannot reach sustainability in the sense of a more “green” urban development without a more balanced consensus between exploitation of natural resources, environmental pollution and poverty. In the Global South urbanization processes occur with increasing incidents of negative externalities such as human displacements, environmental pollution and suffering, despite the huge economic growth.

The causes of the unequal distribution of environmental and technological risks were also identified and analysed; historical neo-colonial economic relationships and the concentration of transnational polluted industrial activities. There is a need to ensure a minimum level of quality of life to urban dwellers in a way that integrates new paradigms of smart economic growth and traditional ways of living. This implies new strategies for pursuing what the Millennium Development Goals seeks to achieve as exemplified in some of the Cities Alliances programmes. Sustainability must guide development in urban areas, striving to conquer the present ecological crisis and promote environmental equality and social justice. However, this can only happen if we change our thinking about urban issues and problems, recognise the values and limits of various approaches, encourage new insights through interdisciplinary methods, enhance policy formulations, and enrich action plans for sustainable urbanization.



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Opening speech by the Norwegian ambassador Mr Sjur Larsen

Workshop on child poverty and youth unemployment

CROP, together with the Democritus University of Thrace and the Institute of Labour in Greece, invited international scholars to present their papers on the topic on child poverty, youth (un)employment and social inclusion during a workshop held in Athens, Greece, from 19-21 November 2014.

Global representations

The 20 scholars who presented their papers during the Athens workshop represented 13 different countries from all corners of the world (with the exception of Oceania). The first day was dedicated to studies as diverse as migrant workers in China, waste pickers in South Africa, post-war Sri Lankan youth and child rights on Caribbean islands, as well as the broader topic of poverty indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean.

“When there is no future, how can there be sin”
(Sex pistols)

The recent financial crisis with its following austerity measures has had serious consequences for many European countries, creating large numbers of “new poor” and leaving almost a generation of youth with little hope of a permanent job, as youth unemployment has increased to around 50% in many countries. This situation brings with it other problems such as poor health, substance abuse, deprivation of basic rights, etc. No European country has been harder hit than Greece, and on this basis there was a strong interest from partners in Greece to organise this workshop in co-operation with CROP. The second part of the workshop was dedicated to the situation in Greece and other European countries, both on the micro level and in terms of policies and indicators.

“Vulnerable Children and Youth in the Era of Austerity”

With such key issues on the agenda, it was important to involve a broader audience in the discussions, and a public meeting was held on 20 November entitled “Vulnerable Children and Youth in the Era of Austerity”. This public round table comprised two sessions; one on child poverty and one on vulnerable youth, with speakers from the Greek General Confederation of Labour, local administration, NGO, UNICEF and the Greek Ombudsman for Children. The Norwegian Ambassador to Greece held the opening speech. Norway, through the EEA/Norway grants provides support to address problems such as child poverty in Greece.

Next steps

Although the workshop is over, the discussions will continue as an editorial team will select the most pertinent articles for a book to be published as part of the *CROP International Studies in Poverty Research* book series.



© Photo: CROP

Poverty as the “greatest global challenge facing the world today” and how this relates to the Bergen Summer Research School 2015

CROP has interviewed Tore Sætersdal, Scientific Director at UiB Global and Rune Nilsen, Scientific Director at the Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS) to learn more about their views on poverty eradication and global development challenges as part of the BSRS’ topics for 2015.

“Why have you chosen “2015: Sustainable Development Goals to meet Global Development Challenges” as the central theme for the BSRS 2015?”

Nilsen emphasised that global development research has been a focus area for UiB for the last 25 years. It was therefore a natural choice to link it to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, while Sætersdal emphasised the long-term involvement that many UiB departments have had in the Global South.

How is this topic of “poverty as the greatest global challenge facing the world today” (as defined by the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals) going to be addressed by the BSRS?

Nilsen explained that although there are no specific courses on poverty, the issue of poverty is a cross-cutting issue through many courses at next year’s summer school. Sætersdal added that the Summer School will address issues such as health, governance and social science that are all important in the fight against poverty.

How will the programme of the BSRS examine the notion of sustainable development proposed by the international community?

Sætersdal and Nilsen both believe that a PhD level education is crucial and that interdisciplinary research represents a unique framework to approach this subject. They also emphasised the importance of the inclusion of the whole world as part of the knowledge society that is needed to combat extreme poverty.



Staff of the BSRS: R. Nilsen, H. Abdelrahman, H. Aasmundsen & T. Sætersdal

© Photo: CROP

To see the full video interview, please go to www.crop.org



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Guest researcher at CROP

By Gibrán Cruz-Martínez, gcruzmartinez@cps.ucm.es

During the months of November and December 2014, I worked as a guest researcher at CROP, University of Bergen. Just before my arrival in Bergen, I submitted my PhD dissertation at the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the Complutense University (Madrid, Spain). My main research area is the emerging welfare state and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. I have also been working with welfare relations and the allocation of social risks in marginalized communities of Puerto Rico.

There are three main points on my research agenda that were developed during my stay at CROP. First, I met with researchers/professors from UiB to present the main results of my dissertation. I received valuable feedback on the methods, operationalization of variables and theoretical framework. Second, I was able to supplement my data on non-income poverty indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean for further research on the incidence of welfare state development on poverty reduction in the region. Third, I dedicated time to polishing some of my working papers in order to submit them for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

On Wednesday 3rd December, I gave a seminar at the Bergen Resource Centre entitled **Welfare, Social Risks and Poverty in Puerto Rico**.

I am very grateful to the CROP team for their hospitality and support, as well as the Spanish Ministry of Education for the financial support.

For more details on my research agenda and publications, please visit: <https://ucm.academia.edu/cruzmartinez>

PROJECTS

Poverty, Language and Media in Latin America

“Poverty, Language and Media” (POLAME) is a joint project between CROP and the Department of Foreign Languages (UiB). It is funded by the Research Council of Norway.

Seminar in Brazil

From 2-5 September, the project organised a workshop and round table hosted by UNILA (the Federal University for Latin American Integration) in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil. During the workshop, participants discussed the results of the first analysis of the corpus containing articles published by mainstream media in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico between 2000 and 2014. The debate concentrated on the notion of poverty transmitted by the media, unveiling its implications for the public understanding of the social construction of poverty as presented in the newspapers.

Ana Beatriz Chiquito (UiB) and Alberto Cimadamore (CROP/ISSC) were interviewed by the local press and interacted with media specialists during the Brazilian Congress of Communication Sciences. In an interview that Cimadamore made with CBN radio the journalist wanted to know more about the evolution of poverty in Brazil and Latin America; how can different notions of poverty influence debates and policies? The argument put forward was that in many instances poverty is not recognised as a social construction that can be deconstructed.

Among decisions made to define the second phase of the project, the representatives of the consortium decided to publish a book in Spanish containing the results of this first phase. The book will enter into production during 2015.



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Seminar - The Representation of Poverty in Latin American Newspapers

On October 24, POLAME organised a seminar at the Bergen Resource Centre. Presentations by Alberto Cimadamore (CROP/ISSC), Ana Beatriz Chiquito (UiB), Gabriel Quiroz and Juan Felipe Zuluaga (University of

Antioquia, Colombia) showed how media conveyed the notion of poverty based on a representative sample of newspapers in Colombia, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

Quiroz explained the project methodology and the results of two Colombian newspapers; how Colombian press are reflecting an international trend: an increasing use of the word “poverty” instead of “poor”.

Ana B. Chiquito’s analysis showed that there is a high correspondence between the linguistic poverty terms used in newspapers and by international institutions such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Addressing the case of Argentina, Cimadamore explained how certain segments of mainstream media have elaborated the notion that poverty is “manufactured” by inflation and the action (or inaction) of governments.

Finally, Zuluaga described the lexical reduction process in the Colombian newspapers. In addition to the “technification” of the language, there is an extensive use of abbreviations and foreign words - a fact that further complicates the interpretations for a regular reader.

The audience engaged in a debate with the panellists about the reasons behind the strategies pursued by the media in different countries and the way policies are influenced by public debate in contemporary societies in Latin America and elsewhere.



Juan F. Zuluaga, Ana B. Chiquito, Gabriel Quiroz & Alberto D. Cimadamore

© Photo: CROP

Seminar Series on Sustainability Science: A Response to Global Challenges

The CROP Secretariat and the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research are organising a series of three seminars on Sustainability Science at the University of Bergen in 2015. This series is part of a larger project initiative by CROP together with a large and prestigious group of partners representing different disciplines in several parts of the world.



This exploration was initiated with the purpose of identifying theoretical and methodological tools suitable to respond to global challenges such as poverty, climate change and sustainable development for all. One of the common problems we face when we want to address complexity is the lack of comprehensive approaches that allow researchers to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries or beyond the limitations set by their disciplines. The idea behind this seminar series is that the emerging field of sustainability science, combined with a trans-disciplinary approach, has the potential to increase the quality of research on complex global challenges and to respond to our societies' needs in a meaningful way.

After organising two workshops on Sustainability Science, in May 2013 and January 2014, in collaboration with HEMIL and UiB Global, CROP has been seeking to develop this research area by bringing together different disciplines and taking advantage of the research efforts already undertaken at UiB. The planned seminars represent a significant initiative for future collaborative, innovative, and problem-solving projects.

The main purpose of these seminars that will take place during the first semester of 2015 is two-fold:

- i. to discuss the impact of sustainability science in research and policies addressing global problems; and

- ii. to identify and articulate research efforts at UiB around cutting-edge scientific approaches and methodologies particularly suitable for collaboration in the fields of poverty, development, climate and environmental studies

The dates and themes for the seminars are as follows:

1. 21 January 2015: Bridging natural and social sciences research on global problems: What can sustainability science offer?
2. 11 March 2015: Sustainability science and trans-disciplinary approaches: A good marriage to address complex global challenges?
3. 11 May 2015: Sustainability science at UiB. A way to promote meaningful scientific collaboration on societal challenges?

The initial idea to expand the sustainability science network to promote collaborative research on poverty and other relevant related issues has progressed, and new partners from the Bjerknes Centre, the Geophysical Institute and the Department of Social Anthropology have decided to actively participate in the initiative.

<http://www.crop.org/EventsActivities/Sustainability-Science-a-response-to-global-challenges.aspx>

CROP Poverty Briefs



The CROP Poverty Briefs are a series of short research notes highlighting recent poverty research, policies and strategies related to alleviating poverty, with a goal to provide knowledge and understanding of the themes involved. The brief series is edited by Etienne Nel, with co-editor Enrique Delamónica, and co-ordinated by Inge Tesdal.

Prioritised topics and themes are as stated in the CROP Strategic Plan and represent the core element of CROP's dissemination strategy. In order to increase the output rate of Poverty Briefs, Scientific Committee members and CROP Fellows are encouraged to become more involved in the production process.

During the second semester of 2014, three new poverty briefs were published:

- **Big Holes in the SDG Draft - Six areas that urgently need to be redressed in the next phase of discussions.** By Gabriele Köhler (Independent Researcher), Thomas Pogge (Yale University, USA) and Mitu Sengupta (Ryerson University, Canada).
- **How Moving Beyond GDP may Help Fight Poverty in Africa - Alternative indicators are likely to highlight the important contribution of social cohesion and natural welfare to economic development.** By Lorenzo Fioramonti (United Nations University).
- **Separating and Combining Child and Adult Poverty: Why? How? - Is it possible to arrive at an estimate of child poverty which is part and parcel of the broader (population-wide) measurement of total poverty?** By Enrique Delamónica (UNICEF, Nigeria).

CROP welcomes submissions to the CROP Poverty Brief series, contact us for further details on how to submit proposals.

<http://www.crop.org/Publications/BriefsSeries/default.aspx>

Six new CROP books in the pipeline

The CROP book series *International Studies in Poverty Research*, published by Zed Books London was re-launched during the spring 2014. No books were published in 2014, but six book proposals were approved by Zed's editorial board. The final manuscripts for these will be submitted in late 2014/early 2015 and our aim is to see most of them published during 2015:

1. **Water and Development. Good Governance after Neoliberalism**, edited by Ronaldo Munck et. al.
2. **Protecting the Health of the Poor: Social Movements in the South**, edited by Abraar Karan and Geeta Sodhi
3. **Poverty & Inequality in Middle Income Countries: Policy Achievements, Political Obstacles**, edited by Gemma Wright, Einar Braathen & Julian May
4. **Human Development and Sustainability Science: The Challenge of Transdisciplinary Knowledge for Social Change**, edited by Alberto D. Cimadamore et. al
5. **Poverty & the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A critical assessment and a look forward**, edited by Thomas Pogge, Gabriele Kohler, & Alberto D. Cimadamore
6. **Peasant and Poverty Persistence in the 21st Century**, edited by Julio Boltvinik & Susan Archer Mann

These are all anthologies coming out of CROP workshops over the last few years.

The series editors and Zed Books are especially interested in future books in the following areas:

- Poverty and human rights
- Poverty and gender disparity
- Poverty and institutional design
- Poverty and policy innovation
- Poverty and global justice

Submitting a proposal

For more information about submitting a manuscript for possible inclusion in the CROP series please contact Kim Walker, kim.walker@zedbooks.net

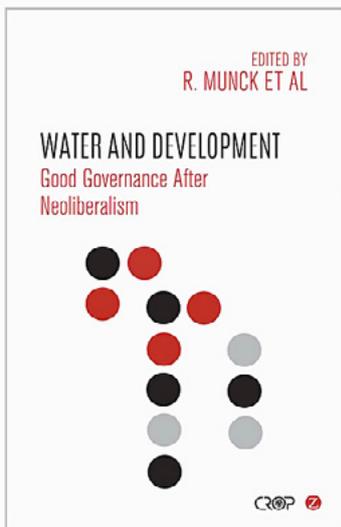
CROP Zed Books

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About CROP
www.crop.org

The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty is a programme of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), hosted by the University of Bergen and devoted to supporting independent, alternative and critical knowledge and learning that can inform policy.



CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2014 announces joint winners

The CROP Secretariat is extremely pleased to announce that the CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2014, organised in co-operation with Zed Books, London, has named two joint winners. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding monographs contributing to research on global poverty eradication or prevention.

The 2014 CROP prize will be shared between two excellent submissions:

In his winning submission, *An Analysis of Changes in Child Poverty in the Developing World*, Shailen Nandy, research fellow at the School for Policy Studies of the University of Bristol looks at how child poverty, measured as deprivation of basic needs/capabilities in the spirit of Amartya Sen, has changed over time. Nandy combines several regional analyses, including Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern and South East Asia, and Latin America.

In the second winning entry *Towards a Heterodox Economic Theory of Poverty Production*, Barbara Schaller



of the University of Birmingham assesses different theoretical approaches to poverty production processes in the capitalist economy. Bringing up to date the work of Thorstein Veblen, Joan Robinson and Michal Kalecki, Schaller develops her own original integrated heterodox account of poverty production in the present era.

Both manuscripts will be published as monographs in the CROP-Zed Books series *International Studies in Poverty Research*. In addition the authors will share the monetary award of 50,000 NOK.

The submission deadline for the 2015 prize is August 2015. The 2015 prize will be open to both book proposals and finished manuscripts.

For more information, see: <http://www.crop.org/EventsActivities/CROP-International-Studies-in-Poverty-Prize-2014.aspx>

NEWS FROM CROP

Visualising Poverty Research

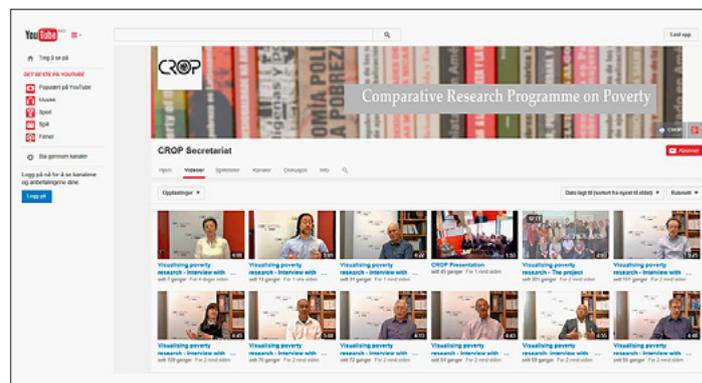
Visualising Poverty Research is a new project by CROP that seeks to disseminate poverty research to a wider audience using video interviews published on CROP's recently launched YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat

We want to learn from the academics and researchers in CROP's network and to do this, we ask them to answer questions that encourage the audience to participate in a debate and to reflect over the issues raised by the researchers.

We ask the experts about:

- the causes and consequences of the persistence of poverty
- policies and actions needed to eradicate poverty
- achievements of initiatives such as the MDGs and the Social Protection Floor

A series of interviews is already available on the YouTube channel and new ones are added regularly. These are



5-minute interviews that provide a brief analysis by researchers from all around the world. We believe that this project could be an important step towards developing a channel of communication between researchers and the general public, enhancing the input for policies against poverty and generating concrete actions towards the eradication of poverty - a main objective for CROP.

We invite everyone in our network to participate by visiting the channel to learn more about this project!



Internship opportunities at the CROP Secretariat

An internship provides valuable input for young professionals. CROP would like to establish an internship scheme that will give young graduates (or soon-to-graduate students) the opportunity to join a professional and academic environment where they can develop their organisational skills, as well as increase their knowledge on current poverty research. This will be achieved through the performing of daily tasks and the participation in activities such as seminars and events organised by the CROP Secretariat.

Maintaining a global network is important for CROP, whose communication strategy relies on online resources such as two websites and a YouTube channel. The

maintenance and better use of these channels is important for information and dissemination purposes, and an intern would play a central role in this endeavour.

During an internship, interns will actively participate in CROP's activities; academic events, research projects, publications, information and dissemination. Close contact with the research environment will increase the value of the internship for those who are particularly interested in this thematic area.

<http://www.crop.org/EventsActivities/CROP-Internships.aspx>

Call for CROP Fellows 2014-2018 attracts attention in the academic community

CROP has received almost 60 applications from all over the world in response to its Call for Fellows 2014-2018.

CROP Fellows are ambassadors of the CROP programme and constitute a core resource group of committed scholars and/or activists who can lend ideas, help promote the CROP network, lead strategic initiatives in thematic working groups and serve on programme committees for CROP workshops and other events.

The first CROP Fellows were appointed for the period 2010-2014 and we are pleased that some of these fellows have applied to serve for a second term of office. At the same time, we are also looking forward to welcoming several new fellows to our extended family. A final announcement of the successful CROP Fellows for 2014-2018 is expected before the end of the year.

CROP Fellows are officially appointed by the ISSC.



© Photo: Colourbox

Launch of the Stein Rokkan Prize 2015

The ISSC, the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and the University of Bergen have now opened the nomination process for the 2015 Stein Rokkan Prize.

Stein Rokkan was a pioneer of comparative political and social science research, renowned among other things for his ground-breaking work on the nation state and democracy. A brilliant researcher and a professor at the University of Bergen where he spent most of his career, Rokkan was also president of the International Social Science

Council (ISSC) and one of the founders of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

Established by the ISSC in 1981, the Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research celebrates his immense legacy by rewarding substantial and original contributions to comparative social science research. The prize includes a \$5000 financial award and is managed by the ECPR, with generous support from the University of Bergen. The prize is open to works in comparative studies from all social science disciplines.

Submissions can be a monograph or collected works published no more than two years before the award year.

The winner receives a diploma and a cash prize, which is awarded during an ISSC Executive Committee/General Assembly meeting, or at the World Social Science Forum 2015.

The submission deadline is **15 February 2015**. Further information can be found [here](#).

Events for 2015

Updates about these activities can be found at: www.crop.org

- January 21** **SEMINAR** “Bridging natural and social sciences research on global problems: What can sustainability science offer?” Part of the seminar series “Sustainability Science: A Response to Global Challenges?” BERGEN, NORWAY.
- February 9–11** **WORKSHOP** on “The democratic developmental state –Southern African and Nordic experiences” at University of the Western Cape, together with School of Government (UWC), SANORD and UiB Global. CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.
- March 5–6** **WORKSHOP** “Rethinking Latin American Inequalities” jointly organised with CMI at the Bergen Resource Centre. BERGEN, NORWAY.
- March 11** **SEMINAR** “Sustainability science and trans-disciplinary approaches: A good marriage to address complex global challenges?” Part of the seminar series “Sustainability Science: A Response to Global Challenges?” BERGEN, NORWAY.
- April** **LAUNCH** of the call for submissions for the “CROP Prize 2015” at the Bergen Resource Centre and online.
- May 11** **SEMINAR** “Sustainability science at UiB. A way to promote meaningful scientific collaboration on societal challenges?” Part of the seminar series “Sustainability Science: A Response to Global Challenges?” BERGEN, NORWAY.
- June 3–5** **WORKSHOP** on “Poverty, Water and Local Development” at UNILA, Brazil, together with the Nile Basin Research Programme, UiB and UNILA. FOZ DE IGUAZU, BRAZIL.
- September 12** **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.
- September 13–16** **SCIENTIFIC PANELS** during the World Social Science Forum 2015; “Transforming Global Relations for a Just World”, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.
- November** Last week of November announcement of the **CROP Prize 2015**.

